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8-1-1 Health Link (24-Hour)

Health advice (including dementia advice) from a registered nurse.

3-1-1 City of Calgary (24-Hour)

Information on all City of Calgary services. www.calgary.ca.

2-1-1 Community Resources (24-Hour)

Information and referrals for community and social services. www.ab.211.ca.

403-SENIORS (403-736-4677) The Way In

Information, advice, and help accessing programs and benefits for older adults.

403-266-HELP (403-266-4357) Distress Centre and SeniorConnect (24-Hour)

Crisis support and urgent social work response (including if you are concerned about a senior at risk in the community).

403-943-1500 Access Mental Health

Non-urgent advice on navigating the addiction and mental health system.

403-705-3250 Elder Abuse Resource Line (24-Hour)

Confidential information and support, or to report a suspected case of elder abuse.

Telephone language interpretation service available on all lines.

GRANDPARENT SCAM ALERT

WHAT IS THE SCAM?

Scammers are calling seniors claiming to be family members in need of immediate money for bail or hospital expenses.

The scammer will often send someone to the door to pick up payment.

BAIL FACTS:

- **Police, lawyers, judges or jails do not call people to get money.**
- **Bail/ fines are typically paid at a courthouse, police station or jail.**
- **Bail in Alberta is typically $10-$500.**
- **Bail can't be paid using gift cards.**

"Court appointed" couriers don't exist. If someone asks to come to your home to pick up payment, it's a scam.

If it has to be now, it has to be no. Using fear or high-pressure tactics are usually a red flag.

Always ask for proof of identification and call-back numbers. Talk to family, friends or other people you trust to help verify claims or requests.

CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

If you have lost money or the scam is in progress, contact the Calgary Police Service at 403-266-1234

To report a scam in general, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501

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After Divorce: Who Pays for University

by Christopher Bungay, Divorce Lawyer



In Alberta, someone who is 18 years old is normally considered to be an adult. An 18-year-old can vote, buy real estate in their own personal name, and make their own personal medical choices. However, if an 18-year-old is pursuing post high-school education, he or she may also qualify as an "adult dependent child." What does this mean?

An "adult dependent child" is an adult who, based on their personal life circumstances, must continue to rely upon their parents for financial support. This does not include a child who can function well and just chooses to stay home and do nothing. However, it does include the following:

- A young adult who attends post-secondary education immediately after high school, and
- Who cannot pay for their own education without the financial support of their parents.

Many parents believe (mistakenly) that if they are separated or divorced before a child is 18, they are no longer required to pay for the child's future education. This belief is often incorrect. Even after a divorce, many parents will have ongoing obligation to support adult dependent children who attend university (or some other post-high school training program). Whether a parent must pay, and how much, often depends upon a) how much a parent earns, and b) how much the adult child can reasonably be expected to fund on their own.

For example, if one of the parents earns a substantial income, it is very likely this high-earning parent will be required to assist their child financially with post-secondary education. While there are kids who can go to university on a full scholarship, most adult children cannot attend university or college without some help from their parents. In cases where an adult child/student clearly needs financial help, parents will often have a legal obligation to assist with paying for education. In many cases, this will apply even if the parents were divorced or separated prior to the time the adult child started university/college.

This does not mean that adult children have no responsibility to pay their own way. The law recognizes that adult children must make some effort to fund their own education and training. For example, if an adult child has a summer job during university break, they would be expected to try and use their earnings to help cover some of their tuition costs. Further, if Mom and Dad have very low earnings, it would be reasonable to expect their child to apply for student loans to help fund post-secondary costs.

In some cases, a parent will be required to help fund education even if their child did not live with them prior to university. Let's say a couple separated in July 2025, shortly before their child entered grade 12 in September 2025. For the grade 12 year, the child decided to live with Mom, while Dad lived in his own residence alone. In this case, Dad earned a high-income and Mom's earnings were very low. If this adult child went to university in September 2026 (after high school graduation) it is very likely Dad would still be required to help pay university costs, even though the child did not live with Dad in the prior year.

Double Baked Sweet Potato Casserole

by S. Law



As fall approaches, I find myself spending more and more time in the kitchen. As such, there are always a few new recipes I end up trying before winter hits. The most recent would be this recipe for a double baked sweet potato casserole requested to me by a friend. Full of warm spices and the perfect balance between sweet and savoury, this dish is sure to be a crowd pleaser at your next family gathering.

Ingredients

- 5 to 7 medium sweet potatoes
- 1/4 cup butter, cut into small cubes
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tbsp cinnamon
- ½ tbsp nutmeg
- 3 tbsps maple syrup
- ½ tbsp ground cloves
- ½ tbsp ground ginger
- Salt to taste
- 2 cups mini marshmallows (optional)

Directions

1. Begin by peeling and roughly chopping your sweet potatoes. Boil them in a large pot until they are soft enough to mash.
2. Drain the chunks and add them into a glass casserole dish with your butter and egg.
3. Mash the chucks while evenly incorporating the other ingredients. You want everything to be mixed in with no large clumps.
4. Add all your spices and incorporate fully.
5. Put the dish in a 450° F oven and cook for about 35 minutes, or until the top begins to brown slightly.
6. In the last 15 minutes, if you would like to cover the top in mini marshmallows, and place the entire thing back in the over, it does add a little extra sweetness, but it isn't required.
7. Once it's cooked, serve warm and enjoy with family and friends.

RSV Season is Here: What Parents Need to Know



Every fall and winter, respiratory viruses begin to spread in our communities—but one virus in particular poses a high risk to babies.

In Canada, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the leading cause of hospitalization for babies under 12 months of age with lung infections. While most children will get RSV before the age of two, babies under six months are at higher risk for serious illness.

What is RSV?
RSV is a common virus that affects the lungs and airways. For many people, it causes mild cold symptoms, but in babies, it can be more serious, causing severe respiratory illness and pneumonia.

"A lot of people think RSV is just another cold, but it can be very serious for babies," says Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Pediatrician and Public Health Leader. "Some end up in the hospital needing oxygen to help them breathe, and even after they recover, it can lead to long term issues like asthma."

What are Your Options for Protection?
In Canada, families have options to help protect babies during their first RSV season:

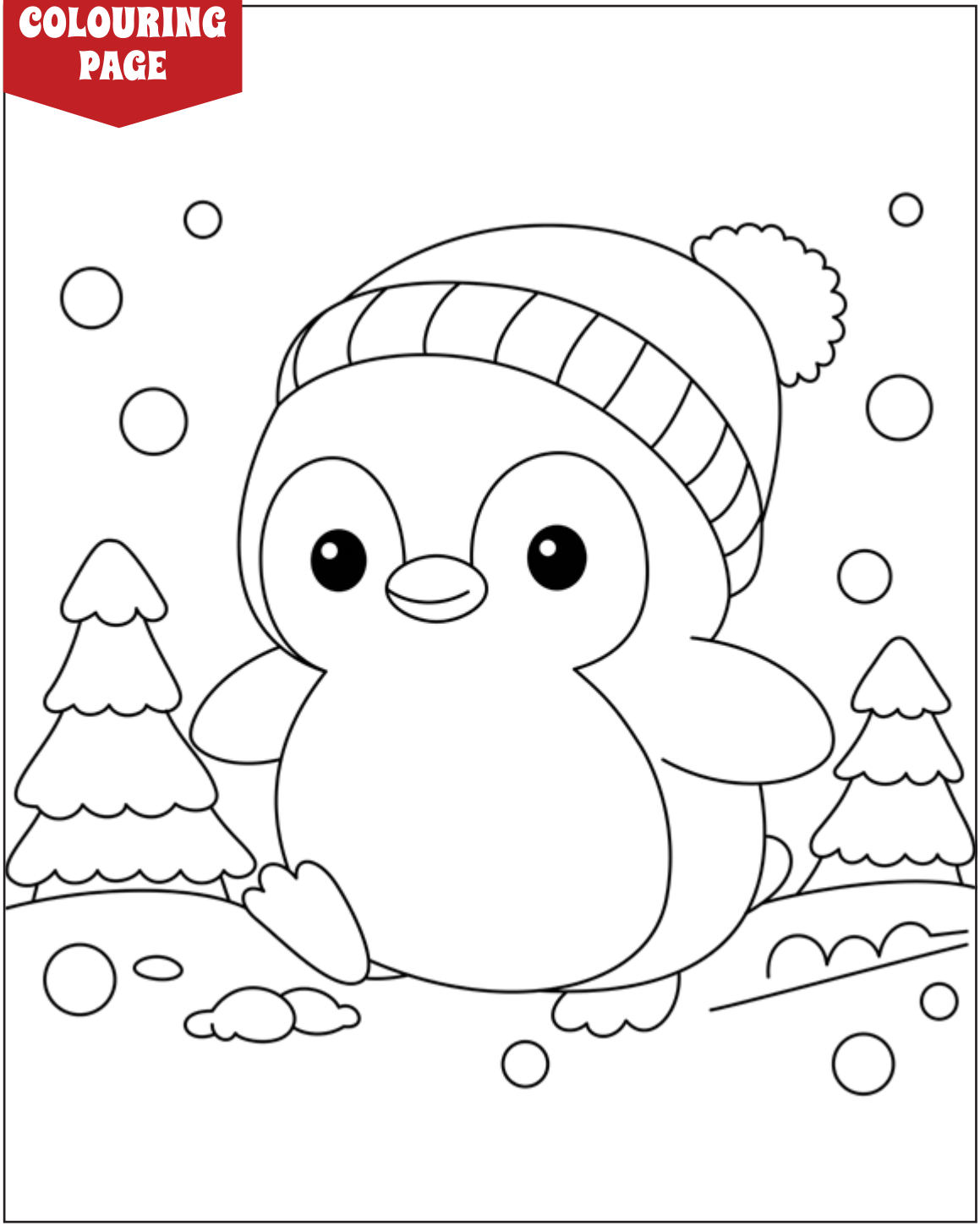
1. RSV Vaccine for Pregnant People: During RSV season, pregnant people can receive the RSV vaccine between 32 and 36 weeks of pregnancy.

2. RSV Immunizations for Babies: Depending on when they are born, babies can receive an RSV immunization either shortly after birth or at the start of RSV season.

This year, families in Alberta will have access to publicly funded RSV immunization for their infants, following new guidance from Alberta Health. The program will cover infants born from November through April.

Talk to a Healthcare Provider
If you're pregnant or have a new baby, having a conversation about RSV with your healthcare provider can help you stay informed and prepared.

COLOURING PAGE



Healthy Conflict: Why Children Need to See Us Work Through Our Differences

by Nancy Bergeron, R.Psych | info@nancybergeron.ca



Many parents worry about arguing in front of their children. They may believe that being good parents means keeping disagreements private and presenting a picture of a relationship where everyone gets along. However, healthy relationships are not conflict-free relationships.

Children benefit from seeing that two people can disagree, experience difficult emotions, and still remain connected. When handled respectfully, conflict can become an opportunity to teach children some of life's most important relationship skills.

What does healthy conflict look like?

Healthy conflict isn't about never becoming frustrated. It is about learning what we do with that frustration. Healthy conflict might sound like:

"I'm feeling frustrated right now. I need a few minutes before we continue this conversation."

"I see this differently, but I want to understand your perspective."

"I don't agree with you, but I can understand why you feel that way."

"I didn't handle that well. I'm sorry."

"Let's figure out what we can do differently next time."

Children who hear these kinds of conversations learn that disagreement doesn't automatically mean rejection, abandonment, or the end of a relationship.

Children need to see repair

One of the most important things children can witness is what happens after conflict.

Parents sometimes lose their patience. They may misunderstand one another, become defensive, or say something they regret. What matters most is what happens next.

When children see a parent return to the conversation, take responsibility, apologize, listen, and reconnect, they learn that relationships can survive difficult moments.

This is a powerful lesson in resilience. The message becomes:

"We can have a hard moment and find our way back to one another."

Conflict can teach emotional regulation. Children learn emotional regulation partly through observing the adults around them.

When parents demonstrate that strong emotions can be acknowledged without becoming destructive, children are given a model for managing their own feelings.

They learn that being angry doesn't mean they have permission to hurt someone. Being disappointed doesn't mean they have to withdraw completely. And being upset doesn't mean the relationship is no longer safe.

Parents can model that it is possible to pause, calm down, return to a difficult conversation, and work toward understanding.

What children shouldn't have to witness

Healthy conflict is very different from destructive conflict. Children should not be placed in the middle of adult disagreements or exposed to intimidation, threats, humiliation, contempt, physical aggression, or ongoing hostile conflict.

They should not be expected to take sides, carry messages between parents, or become responsible for repairing the relationship.

There are also circumstances where safety must come first. When there is violence, coercive control, or fear within a relationship, the goal is not simply to teach children how to witness conflict differently. The focus needs to be on safety and appropriate professional support.

Your children don't need to see a perfect relationship

When parents demonstrate respectful disagreement and genuine repair, children learn that relationships require communication, accountability, patience, and forgiveness.

They learn that conflict is something we can work through, not something we have to fear.

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Winter Parking Choices Matter Around Schools



As days get shorter and winter conditions arrive, visibility around schools becomes even more important. Snowbanks, early darkness, and icy roads can make it harder to see children crossing streets. Parking rules help reduce these risks by keeping corners, crosswalks, and sidewalks clear. Parking too close to intersections or in prohibited areas can further limit sightlines when visibility is already reduced. Choosing safe, legal parking options and allowing extra time during winter conditions helps protect students and families during the busiest parts of the school day. Learn more: calgaryparking.com/safeschools.

Can You See? Winter Conditions can Make School Areas Harder to Navigate

When visibility is reduced, small parking choices can make a big difference near schools. Shorter days, snow, ice, and changing weather can make it harder for children and drivers to see each other. School areas remain busy during drop-off and pick-up times, with children and families walking, wheeling, cycling, taking the bus, and driving. When vehicles stop or park in the wrong place, they can block sightlines at crosswalks, corners, sidewalks, driveways, bus zones, and school entrances. Even a quick stop can make it harder for children, families and drivers to see one another clearly.

The Calgary Parking School Patrol Program helps support safer school journeys throughout the school year. Parking Safety and Compliance Officers visit school areas where there are recurring parking or stopping concerns. They focus on education, reminders, and visibility. Enforcement may be used when unsafe parking continues or creates a safety or access issue.

Drivers can help by slowing down, leaving extra travel time, and choosing a safe, legal place to stop or park. Sometimes the safest choice is parking a little farther away and walking the remaining distance. Keeping crossings, corners, and travel lanes clear helps everyone move more safely. Before stopping near a school, ask yourself a simple question: Can children and drivers see each other clearly?

Students can help make school journeys safer by entering the Travel Safe Student Video Contest Parking category. Students are encouraged to submit creative video ideas that show how safe parking choices help everyone travel to and from school. Learn more about school-area safety and the Travel Safe Student Video Contest at CalgaryParking.com/SafeSchools.

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SCAN ME

New Abilities

by Michelle Macdonald, Letter Writing and Mail Club Enthusiast.

If you could wake up tomorrow with the ability to do something new, what would it be? What if it were a completely far-fetched or magical skill? How would you use it, and where would it take you?

Dear reader,

Considering magically gaining a skill overnight made me think of many potential scenarios. One of the first things that came to me was having unlimited home and car maintenance skills because I would be able to use them frequently to support my family. However, when I thought about it, I realized I would not want to spend my time on those tasks because they are messy, time-consuming, and often done alone.

I would want a skill that is more social and homes in on my interests. So, I thought about what I've been attracted to learning in the past. One skill I've worked on for many years is speaking Spanish. It's been an on-and-off process since my twenties, and I'm still at the intermediate level. This gets me by when I'm traveling, but I've always felt frustrated not being fluent because it holds me back from fully expressing myself or truly understanding the people I meet. Wouldn't it be wonderful to communicate effortlessly in another language and just say what's on your mind?

Since we're considering magically gained abilities, I'd take it a step further than fluency in Spanish; I'd wake up ready to communicate in any language. Imagine the opportunities it would open up! I could use multilingualism to immerse myself entirely in any place and culture.

I absolutely love to travel. I find it's the best way to learn and gain new perspectives. The more different the destination from my home, the more it opens my mind. Being able to speak the local language would vastly improve my understanding of things I'm curious about: history, politics, geography, regional customs, and culture. Reading about these things in books or watching videos online can never match the insights gained by speaking directly with people who have lived the history and experience its culture every day.

My magical language skills could be used for a greater purpose: recording endangered languages before they disappear, deciphering ancient manuscripts or petroglyphs, and even collecting valuable international intelligence. The possibilities feel endless!

Your turn! If you could wake up tomorrow with a new skill, what would it be? Write in your journal or to your pen pal.

Happy writing,

Michelle

Now it's your turn to write it forward. Write a friend, neighbour, or family about our monthly reflection.

Write It Forward

Now it's your turn to write it forward. Write a friend, neighbour, or family member about our monthly reflection.

November Crossword

Visit bit.ly/mycalgaryanswers or scan the QR code for the answers



Across

6. Directed by Guillermo del Toro, this retelling of a famous novel was released November 7, 2025.

7. This warm yellow gemstone is said to prevent injury and bring strength. It is also November's birthstone.

8. Born November 10, 1989, this actor is most recently known for his role as Dr. Frank Langdon on *The Pitt*.

10. As a treat during the fall, this fruit is typically dipped in melted chocolate or caramel and then covered with various toppings.

11. In Greek mythology this man is cursed to push a boulder up a mountain for all eternity.

12. Born November 7, 1913, Albert ____ was the French philosopher who wrote *The Stranger* in1942.

Down

1. Good for tea and relaxation, these spidery flowers are the birth flower of November.

2. Remembrance Day is celebrated in Canada on what day of November?

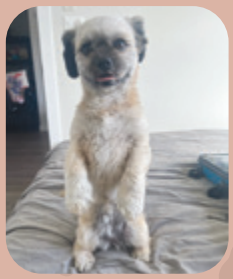
3. Watch your French fries! Despite their oceanic nickname, these white and gray birds are found inmany parts of Alberta, including Calgary parking lots.

4. This Indian celebration known as the "Festival of Lights" happens between mid to late-October and mid-November.

5. Toni _____, born November 1, 1972, is an Australian actress who has been in an impressive collection of movies including, *"The Sixth Sense, Little Miss Sunshine, and Knives Out"*.

9. These small brown nuts come from oak trees and have a distinct cup shape.

Cats, Canines, & Critters of Calgary



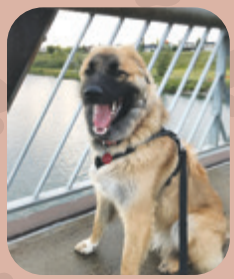
Bean, *Seton*



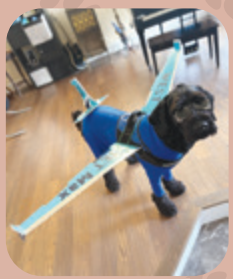
Coco, *New Brighton*



Ember, *Seton*



Kato, *McKenzie Lake*



Max, *Signal Hill*



Teasha, *Huntington Hills*



Whiskers, *Oakridge*



Zeke, *Seton*

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Did you know? Chrysanthemums are November's birth flower—but some varieties are more than decorative! Certain chrysanthemum flowers and leaves are edible, and chrysanthemum tea, made by steeping the dried flowers, is a traditional beverage enjoyed across parts of East Asia.



Your pee shouldn't be red either.

SEE RED?

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