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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

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POSTMEDIA

NEWS

REAL ESTATE

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CAMPAIGN

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Crews begin work to reinforce the Bears paw South feeder main at a repair site on 16th Avenue at Sarcee Trail N.W. on Monday. *GAVIN YOUNG*

Water restrictions back in effect

Residents asked to reduce usage with feeder main work underway

SCOTT STRASSER

Outdoor watering restrictions are back in effect across Calgary and area — and are expected to remain in effect for the next month, officials said Monday.

The Stage 4 restrictions come amid a preplanned shutdown of the Bears paw South feeder main, which will undergo reinforcement along nine sections that a recent inspection revealed were showing

signs of structural deterioration. Six of the vulnerable sections are under 16th Avenue N.W. near Sarcee Trail, while three are near Point McKay Park.

Until the water transmission line — which transports 60 per cent of Calgary's treated water — is reinforced and back in service, the city is asking residents to cap showers at three minutes, reduce flushes and only use washing machines and dishwashers with full

loads. "This shutdown allows reinforcement work to move forward, and means that we will not be able to move as much water as we normally do through our treatment plants to your taps," Nicole Newton, the city's director of climate and the environment, said at a news conference Monday.

"If you haven't already, now is the time to start saving water." Pumps at the Bears paw Water Treatment Plant have been turned off, valves have been closed to isolate the feeder main and crews are draining the pipe of water. Until the feeder main is back

in service, the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant will operate above its usual capacity to meet daily demand.

Mayor Jeromy Farkas has said the feeder main could rupture again at any time. The Bears paw South feeder main will be turned off again in the fall when a new replacement line is connected to Calgary's water system.

Stage 4 restrictions refer to all outdoor water use. Airdrie, Chestermere, Strathmore and Tsuut'ina Nation are under the same conditions, as they each get their treated water from Calgary. **SEE WATER ON A3**

NP



NEW YORK

Two arrested in chaotic protest **NP3**

Oil price surge unlikely to erase fiscal-year deficit, minister says

MATTHEW BLACK

EDMONTON Alberta's finance minister says suddenly surging oil prices, which reached higher than US\$100 per barrel early Monday, will bolster the province's bottom line, but not by enough to avoid a multibillion-dollar deficit for the fiscal year.

The price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) hit a high of US\$114 to start the week, though that price fell steadily, hitting US\$85 before the end of the day.

Both of those figures are well above the US\$60.50 projected in the provincial budget just two weeks ago, which also indicated

that every US\$1 change in WTI prices resulted in a net impact of \$680 million.

Last month's budget forecasted a deficit of \$9.4 billion for the 2026-27 fiscal year and a \$4.1-billion deficit for the current 2025-26 fiscal year that ends March 31.

Speaking to reporters inside the legislature Monday, Finance Minister Nate Horner said the change in prices from the budget forecast was significant but would still leave Alberta in the red for this fiscal year.

"I just think there's not enough days left in this fiscal year," he said. "We're trending in the right direction, so it could have a material impact, but to get us back to the black,

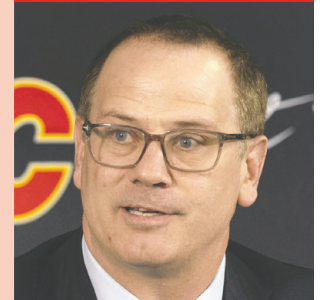
I wouldn't expect it." Oil prices have hit four-year highs in recent weeks amid continued uncertainty as well as production and transportation challenges stemming from continued U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran.

Consumers may also have to reckon with those unexpectedly high prices as businesses pass on higher transportation costs, including at the pumps.

Under a provincial government program, the Alberta fuel tax is suspended whenever WTI prices on average exceed US\$90 with partial reductions when prices are between US\$80 and US\$89.99.

SEE OIL ON A4

SPORTS



FLAMES
Team finally admits it's in a rebuild **NP9**

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