



City ups road-closure fees for builders

Permit price increase designed to ease disruptions, boost revenue: Stevenson

ERIC BOWLING

Construction companies that close roads to complete their builds will be paying more next year for the privilege, which City of Edmonton officials hope will reduce how long motorists are forced to navigate around them.

On Tuesday, the urban planning committee rubber-stamped plans to update the on-street construction and maintenance program to reduce disruptions to traffic from construc-

tion. The permit fee is increasing to \$32 per day from the previous \$25 daily charge. Permits will be handled through a self-service application.

Residential building permits will be streamlined into a single \$185 standard on-street construction and maintenance permit and fee for residential development that will apply to single-detached, semi-detached and row-house projects, with officials following up to ensure projects are being completed on schedule. A \$10 on-

street construction and maintenance permit waste bin daily fee is also being introduced for waste bins using road space, though residential builders permitted through the aforementioned residential development fee structure are exempt from the extra charge. The new fee structure kicks in Jan. 1, 2027.

"This is a program that's been a victim of its own success," said Ward O-day'min councillor and committee chairwoman Anne Stevenson.

"We used to generate a lot more revenue off lane closures because they were closed for longer. While the revenue was nice, that meant more impact to road users. What we really want to see is people minimizing the amount of

disruption they're creating with lane closures.

"By increasing the fees, we significantly dropped the number of days that roads were closed, but that did mean a drop in budget, so this is helping to re-calibrate some of that. It's not all the way there, but for me the revenue is less important than the impacts to people using our roads."

These changes are expected to bring in \$5.6 million per year by 2030, which will resolve a \$4.5-million structural budget variance. Fees will now be tied to inflation.

Fines under the city's traffic bylaw are also being re-examined.

SEE ON-STREET CONSTRUCTION ON **A4**



DAVID BLOOM

A SAFE FIRST DAY BACK

Student patrol volunteers guard a crosswalk Tuesday during the first day of classes at Belmead School on 182 Street NW. Tuesday was the first day back for around 122,000 students at over 200 public schools in the Edmonton Public Schools district.

Smith asks Ottawa for 'latitude' on dual-practice doctors

CINDY TRAN

Premier Danielle Smith has asked the federal government for "latitude" to implement the dual-practice health-care model, saying it will not hurt the public health-care system.

Smith told reporters at an unrelated press conference on Tuesday the province is currently working with the federal government to demonstrate that the new model does not contra-

vene the Canada Health Act.

"It's not illegal to opt out of the health system and treat private patients; we've seen that in Quebec," Smith said.

"It's an active discussion, as always, with the federal government on the terms under which they will fund our health care, but we've asked them to give us some latitude to implement this model."

Formerly Bill 11, the Health Statutes Amendment Act 2025 allows special-

ized physicians to provide both private and public services, but excludes family doctors. The legislation passed last fall and took effect Tuesday.

Smith said 400 physicians have already expressed an interest in the dual-practice model. She said there will be "rigorous oversight and reporting" when it comes to the new model.

"I'll be making sure that there's no hospital that does fewer surgeries next year than they did last year, and that's

the way that we hold it to account," Smith said.

"Any doctor who wants to participate in dual practice has to continue providing us the same service that they currently do — they can't reduce it."

The first surgeries are expected this fall. Officials said in June there is no maximum number of hours a physician approved for dual practice can work in the private sector.

SEE DUAL PRACTICE ON **A4**



0 55829 00050 2

ENERGY

Refineries see record margins on diesel **A2**

VARCOE

U.S.-Venezuela deal could hit oilsands, experts say **A5**

FEDERICO

Canada needs to standardize police education **A6**

G20 MEETING

Russian official's presence caused 'discomfort' **NP2**