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Riverbend School students and Cadets Canada members place poppies on fallen soldiers' headstones Monday at Beechmount Cemetery as part of the 12th No Stone Left Alone ceremony. *GREG SOUTHAM*

'Incredible respect and pride'

REMEMBRANCE FROM **A1**

"Remember that this is not the case in every part of the world," Lakhani said, adding that for generations members of the military "have bravely stepped forward to serve so that young people like you, from around the world, are able to enjoy the blessings of peace, freedom, and human rights."

The ceremony marked the 12th observance of No Stone Left Alone, an annual event organized by a memorial foundation of the same name that aims to help young Canadians learn about the country's military history and form a connection with members of the Forces — namely by placing symbolic poppies at the headstones of those who've served.

The event also follows the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid, when nearly 5,000 Canadian soldiers arrived on a heavily de-

fended French coastline during the Second World War, and more than 3,350 Canadians lost their lives, according to Veteran Affairs Canada.

Retired Global Edmonton broadcaster Gord Steinke MCed the event and said 13,000 Canadian students will lay 70,000 poppies at 150 locations across the country by Friday. Figures from the No Stone Left Alone website indicate 7,702 students from 88 communities placed 67,171 poppies in 131 ceremonies across Canada in 2021.

However, Steinke added, the weather did not permit two Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 Hornets from 4 Wing Cold Lake to perform a flyby at the 11 a.m. mark in support.

Brig.-Gen. Steve Graham, commander of about 12,000 3rd Canadian Division members of the country's Forces, stood among

several dignitaries at the event who placed wreaths at the cenotaph, which saw representatives from Indigenous communities, multiple levels of government and military as well as police groups take part.

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial recognizes the names of more than 118,000 people who died in service. The number of lives lost can be difficult to comprehend, but observers would still do well to recognize that the dead lost the opportunity to enjoy the rest of their lives, and left behind loved ones in mourning, Graham said.

"It's normal to feel a profound sense of loss, and yet we should also feel incredible respect and pride for what they did for our country," Graham said.

"They sacrificed their own hopes and dreams for us, and that's what we must remember."

More cancelled WestJet flights expected after weekend outage

CALGARY Flight cancellations continued Monday after WestJet's system-wide outage on Sunday led to halted flights, long customer service wait times and other disruptions.

The Calgary-based airline says another 31 flights were cancelled Monday due to the effects of the

system outage combined with winter weather affecting Alberta and parts of Western Canada.

Over the weekend, a system-wide outage led to the cancellation of over 200 WestJet, Swoop and Sunwing flights that have left many travellers still stranded and seeking compensation.

WestJet customer Gemini Clarke says she was stuck in Calgary, exhausted and wanting answers but has no word if she will be placed on a flight back to Kelowna.

Clarke said she has been unable to receive a response over the phone or email as lines remain congested with customers in similar circumstances.

WestJet said an additional 10 flights were scheduled Monday for passengers still waiting for flights.

The Canadian Press

Snow, frigid air, driving wind continue to batter parts of B.C.

VANCOUVER Repair crews have made progress restoring electricity to the hundreds of thousands of B.C. homes blacked out during powerful weekend storms, but Environment Canada said Monday snow and wind remained factors.

Snowfall, Arctic outflow and wind warnings remained up Monday for large parts of the southern Interior, north and central coasts, and eastern Vancouver Island.

Kamloops and the north Okana-

gan, which were blanketed by snow Sunday, braced for up to 15 centimetres Monday, and the weather office issued snowfall warnings of up to 30 centimetres of snow for most Interior mountain passes.

Environment Canada's snowfall warning for the Malahat Highway on Vancouver Island says conditions there aren't likely to ease until early Tuesday as a further 10 centimetres is forecast near the summit

Strong winds continued to buffet parts of coastal B.C. and the central Interior, packing gusts of at least 110 kilometres per hour along the north and central coasts, pushing wind chill factors in Terrace and elsewhere to -20C or lower.

B.C. Hydro said pockets of customers from Manning Park to the Sunshine Coast and Gulf Islands were still without power Monday following the weekend windstorm, while hundreds more homes and businesses in northern and central B.C. were awaiting service after downed trees or other issues cut off electricity to start the work week.

The Canadian Press

Savage to lead Alberta delegation at COP27 climate summit in Egypt

LISA JOHNSON

Environment and Protected Areas Minister Sonya Savage will lead an Alberta government delegation of six to the annual COP27 climate summit this week.

Savage is scheduled to arrive in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on Thursday for the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (COP27) in an effort to show off Alberta's work on emissions reductions.

The world's biggest and most significant climate change conference will see political leaders, activists, CEOs, and civil society representatives from around the world talk greenhouse gas emissions and climate change issues, and Alberta will want to be at the forefront of any climate action plans that could affect its energy industry.

The conference began Sunday and runs to Nov. 18.

Savage, the former energy minister sworn into the environment ministry in October, will bring one ministerial staffer, her deputy minister and three department staff from Environment and Protected Areas. Other representatives, including from Alberta industry, academia, investors, non-governmental organizations and municipalities will also be travelling to Egypt.

That includes Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi and Stephanie McCabe, deputy city manager for urban planning and economy, who also plan to attend.

In a Monday news release, Savage said she's proud to represent Alberta at COP27, and hopes to showcase the province's environmental leadership.

"Having a seat at the table among world leaders gives us an opportunity to tell Alberta's exciting story and to ensure our policies continue to attract the investment needed to protect the environment and

bolster the economy," she said.

Miguel Racín, Savage's press secretary, did not immediately provide Postmedia Monday with an estimate of the trip's total cost to taxpayers.

Savage's delegation represents a departure from the UCP government under former Premier Jason Kenney, who didn't send any of his ministers to last year's event in Scotland, dismissing it as a "gabfest."

Premier Danielle Smith said in October she wanted to send an Alberta delegation because she doesn't believe the province is being properly represented by federal Environment Minister Steven



Sonya Savage

Guilbeault.

"He clearly is hostile to our oil and gas sector," Smith said.

The government release noted the delegation will highlight Alberta's work in carbon capture, utilization and storage, investments in hydrogen and critical and rare earth minerals, and efforts to lower methane emissions in the oil and gas sector.

Savage's itinerary includes discussions on innovation and energy transformation, speaking at a lunch session hosted by Emissions Reduction Alberta and Alberta Innovates, and going to bilateral meetings with representatives from other governments, including U.S. state officials, the United Kingdom and Germany.

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UCP seeks input on spending ahead of pre-election budget

LISA JOHNSON

The UCP government has begun gathering public input, including on how the province should spend a potential surplus, ahead of next year's pre-election budget.

It will be the first budget tabled under Premier Danielle Smith, who took over the ruling United Conservatives in early October, and the last before the next provincial general election, expected in May.

In a Monday news release noting a survey and online submission portal is now open, Finance Minister Travis Toews urged Albertans to participate.

"Budget 2023 will put Albertans first by supporting our communities, businesses and families with strategic investments to position us for a prosperous future," said Toews, who will be hosting telephone town halls.

The online survey asks Albertans to rate their priorities among a long list of issues, including affordability supports, health-care funding and economic diversification.

That list of options includes "standing up for Albertans" on equalization or exploring a provincial pension plan, "streamlin-

ing middle management and investing in front-line supports" in health care, and improvements to ambulance services.

The online survey is open until Jan. 15, and the budget is expected to be released in February.

In the province's latest first quarter fiscal update on Aug. 31, the government estimated a \$13.2 billion surplus for 2022-23, in part because of high resource revenues.

With the windfall, the government announced it would reindex personal income taxes to inflation, raising the basic personal tax amount to \$19,814, retroactive to the 2022 tax year. The UCP de-indexed the system in 2019.

The government has estimated resuming indexation will save Albertans \$304 million in 2022-23, \$680 million in 2023-24 and \$980 million in 2024-25.

After repaying \$13.4 billion in debt, taxpayer-supported debt is forecast to be \$79.8 billion on March 31, 2023.

By the end of the fiscal year the net debt-to-GDP ratio is estimated at 10.3 per cent, while the province's real gross domestic product is expected to grow by 4.9 per cent this year.

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