

[Lethbridge Herald](#)

Keeping busy over summer

BY LETHBRIDGE HERALD OPINION ON AUGUST 11, 2017.

Summer is in full swing and the month of July was a busy one. I was especially honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness, Princess Ayako of Takamado, who was here representing the Imperial family of Japan on an official visit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden and Canada's 150th birthday.

The Princess toured the garden, participated in the official ceremonies and a private tea ceremony. The City of Lethbridge and the Garden are to be congratulated on this wonderful event that celebrated an important milestone for the Garden and the enduring friendship that exists between the people of Canada and Japan (the name Nikka Yuko translated, means "Japan-Canada friendship") that the garden symbolizes.

During the summer I get a chance to stay closer to home as we take a break from the legislature and I have been seizing the opportunity to get out and talk to as many of my constituents as I can. Don't be surprised if I come knocking on your door to chat about issues important to you and what you'd like to see as a priority for our government.

I have also had the opportunity to learn a bit more about the agriculture industry in our area. I had a wonderful day out with the folks at Farming Smarter for their "Wheat-stalk" event. It was a fun and educational day filled with activities, education and great conversation. I gained an even greater appreciation for the work Farming Smarter is doing to assist local producers in their operations, giving them access to the very latest in agricultural research and knowledge to improve local agriculture. Farming Smarter will be hosting a free public event this month as a part of Alberta Open Farm Days, Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and is a great chance for you to learn about the work they do with our local farmers and have a little fun with the entire family. For more information on Alberta Open Farm Days and to RSVP to the Farming Smarter Open Farm Day event, please visit <http://www.albertafarmdays.com>

[/experiences/farming-smarter.](#)

I was able to connect with many of my constituents at the recent Service Alberta Condominium Rules Consultation Open House on Aug. 1 at city hall. The ministry is looking at the rules governing condominium ownership, to ensure that we have clear, modern legislation to govern those communities in a fair and responsible way, respecting and protecting the rights of condo owners. There are many aspects of condominium ownership that are being reviewed. I encourage those interested to get involved. All stakeholders – owners and residents, condo boards, managers and developers – are invited to respond and there were many that did so at the open house. If you did not get a chance to attend, you can still have your say; an online survey will be up on the website soon and Albertans can continue to comment on this important issue. Please go to <http://www.alberta.ca/condominium-consultation.aspx> for up to date information regarding this process.

While I get to spend a little more time over the summer here in Lethbridge, the committee work I am involved with is still in full swing. The Ministerial Child Intervention Panel is now in Phase 2, involving the review of legislation, policies, current practices, literature, relevant data and past recommendations, and seeking feedback from subject matter experts, Albertans with lived experience, and frontline staff. If you would like to learn more about the mandate of the panel and the work we are doing to improve this system and protect children, go to <http://www.alberta.ca/child-intervention-panel.aspx>.

The Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Futures is also working over the summer, and we are in the process of reviewing the many submissions offered by Albertans regarding Bill 203, the Alberta Standard time Act. We will be hosting consultation on this bill in four locations in September, one of which will be here in Lethbridge. Once the actual date is set, I will advise local media, post on my social media and I would encourage you to bring your feedback in person to the session.

If you would like to sign up for my new E-Newsletter to stay up to date with my activities, receive news from the legislature, ensure you are aware of community events or to make an appointment to meet with me, please send me an email at lethbridge.east@assembly.ab.ca. If you prefer regular mail, please let us know by calling 403-320-1011, or send us a letter at The Lethbridge East Constituency Office at 543 13 St. S., Lethbridge, Alta., T1J 2W1.