

# THE DIVISION DISPATCH

Year 9 | NUMBER 5 | February 6, 2025



HALL CALL >

## Town Hall 2025 brings community together

Lethbridge School Division hosted the annual Town Hall event on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025.

The purpose of Town Hall was to seek feedback to assist the Board of Trustees and the Division in planning for the future.

Now, Division staff members have an opportunity to provide their feedback in the form of an online survey.

Click on the following link for more details on the survey: [TOWN HALL](#). ■

SHOP HOP >

## WCHS hosts groundbreaking ceremony for weld shop project

On Jan. 30, a project years in the making came one step closer to reality.

Winston Churchill High School hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for an instructional weld shop building, made possible through the support of Southland Trailers, along with its dedicated partners. Learn more here: [WELDING](#). ■

HEALTH/SAFETY >

## Health and Safety Corner

### *Safety First: Building and Infrastructure Hazards in Schools*

From the May, 2023 OHS safety survey, we asked: What do you feel is your biggest safety concern?

Today's topic provides information related to that concern!

Ensuring the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Here are some common building and infrastructure hazards to be aware of in schools, along with tips on how you can help mitigate them:

1. Be Observant: Keep an eye out for any signs of structural damage, such as cracks in walls, ceilings, or floors.

If you notice anything unusual, report it to the schools caretaking team immediately to put in a work ticket to the facility services department.

2. Electrical Safety: Avoid using damaged electrical equipment and report any issues with outlets or wiring. Occasionally check cords for damage before plugging them in. Make sure to unplug devices when they're not in use to prevent overloading circuits.

3. Fire Safety: Familiarize yourself with the location of fire alarms, extinguishers, and evacuation routes. Participate actively in fire drills and ensure that students know



the procedures as well. Ensure that all external exits are free of tripping hazards.

4. Health Hazards: If you suspect the presence of asbestos or ventilation concerns, inform the caretaking team so a work ticket can be put into facility services so they can arrange for a professional inspection and necessary actions.

5. Water Damage and Mold: Be vigilant for any signs of leaks or water damage, especially in areas like bathrooms and kitchens. Report any issues promptly to prevent mold growth, which can pose serious health risks.

6. Playground Safety: Supervise students during recess and ensure they use playground equipment safely. Report any damaged equipment to the facility services department.

7. Security Measures: Follow the school's security protocols, such as checking in visitors and ensuring that doors are properly secured. Stay alert and report any suspicious activity to the administration.

By staying vigilant and addressing these hazards promptly, we can create a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff. ■

SUPT. MESSAGE >

## Superintendent Mike Nightingale

As I am writing this it's -23.

I hope you are staying warm and/or the weather has improved by the time you read this.

As you know, we are over halfway through the school year. It's cliché to say, but time really does fly by. February is the month where we begin to ramp up preparations for the next school year.

One of the most significant factors in our preparations is the budget. My understanding is the Provincial government will make a budget announcement at the end of February, and we will receive detailed information for our school division sometime in March.

Another important milestone in our preparation for next year is our Town Hall event. This year we held the Town Hall on February 4.



MIKE NIGHTINGALE

Despite the cold, we had around 180 people attend the evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together and talk about our Division and education in general.

What struck me as the event progressed was how incredible it was to see so many people engaged and sharing their experiences and perspectives. It is a good reminder that the work we do matters. It has a positive impact on our students and our school communities.

I also wanted to share that one of the themes that consistently emerges from Town Hall is a deep appreciation for the work our staff does. I certainly agree. I think we have exceptional people in Lethbridge School Division and I'm honoured to serve alongside you. ■



ICE BABY >

ICE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP SHOWCASE

**9th annual**

**MARCH 27, 2025**  
Winston Churchill High School

## 2025 ICE Awards Scholarship Showcase set for March 27

Every year, the showcase gives students the opportunity to set up tables to highlight some of the amazing things going on throughout our Division.

The event, which is free to the public, features student displays of innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity.

Learn more here: [SHOWCASE](#). ■

PRIZES!!! >

## Read The Dispatch!



Every month, The Division Dispatch delivers valuable information to Division staff.

If this engaging content isn't enough to make you want to read the monthly newsletter, we have another incentive!

When you read The Dispatch, reach out to us to enter your name in a draw for a prize.

Just click here to enter: [CONTEST](#).

The Division Dispatch contest winner for the month of January was Jami Thompson. ■



Inkblot



## Employee & Family Assistance Plan Services

<https://org.inkblottherapy.com/asebp>

**For contract employees with ASEBP benefits**, each calendar year you will receive an allotment of hours which include four hours each of individual counselling and couples/family counselling.

Some of the services provided include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mental health management</li><li>• Stress reduction and management</li><li>• Relationship and family support</li></ul>	Additional reasons to reach out to Inkblot may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work-related issues</li><li>• Relationship issues</li><li>• Family conflict</li><li>• Work life balance</li><li>• Stress, depression, anxiety</li><li>• Addiction</li><li>• Violence/abuse</li><li>• Loneliness</li><li>• Burn-out</li><li>• Youth therapy</li><li>• Grief/bereavement</li></ul>
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Inkblot EFAP offers you quick and easy access to the mental health supports you need, no matter when or where you need them. And appointments can be booked in 24-72 hours from when you first reach out. **These hours are individual to you. Your dependants (i.e. a spouse or children) will also receive their own allotment of EFAP hours each year.**

One of the many benefits of this EFAP is that once your allotted counselling hours are used, you don't have to stop seeing your chosen practitioner. If you feel that you would benefit from additional sessions, you can continue seeing them and they will simply bill you directly, at a discounted rate (\$110 for in-person session and \$90 for virtual). You can then submit your receipt to ASEBP for reimbursement through your [psychology services benefit](#) and/or [health spending account](#) (if eligible).

Your EFAP offers more than just mental health supports. Through Inkblot's WorkLife Advisory Services, you can also access:

- **Health consultations:** receive advice from a registered nurse or dietitian for things like nutrition support, smoking cessation, etc.
- **Legal advice:** seek advice for things like real estate law, family law, and more.
- **Financial advice:** guidance on managing debt, saving for the future, etc.
- **Career coaching:** get support with making a career change or having difficult discussions with colleagues.
- **Life transitions:** from becoming a new parent to planning for retirement, your EFAP can help with it all.

As a digital-first organization, Inkblot offers the majority of their services online, but phone and in-person services are available too.

ASEBP's dedicated Inkblot web portal also allows you to book appointments (virtual, in-person or over the phone), reach out to your provider between sessions via a secure chat feature, access WorkLife Advisory Services, and read up on the latest wellness news via the Inkblot Wellness .

**Your EFAP is completely confidential, voluntary, and accessible at your own convenience.**