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## Ripudaman Singh Maliik, acquitted in 1985 Air India bombing, shot dead in hroad daylight in Surrey's 128 street plaza

## By Link News Network

- ihit has released Malik's identity and pictures of the suspect vehicle and is asking any witnesses or anyone traveling in the 8200 block of 128 Street
-While people are speculating the motive behind his murder, IHIT has requested everyone not to estimate any theories as investigation is in very early stage and it is a highprofile international case
- A suspect vehicle was located in the 12200 block of 82 Avenue fully engulfed in fire
- Malik was shot multiple times after he arrived in his Red Tesla -There is no celebration here. His murder has reinvoked wounds of those who lost their loved ones in the Air India tragedy - Kaash Heed


SURREY: Ripudaman Singh Malik, the high profile Canadian Sikh businessman acquitted in Air India bombing, was shot dead in broad daylight around 9 in morning at 8236128 Street, Surrey, BC, outside his work place.
The news of his shooting spread like a wildfire in Surrey even before the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) confirmed

his identity officially later during the day. On July 14, 2022 at 9:26 a.m., the Surrey RCMP responded to a report of a shooting at 8236128 Street, Surrey, BC. Surrey RCMP first responders attended the location and found the male victim, identified as 75 yearold Ripudaman Singh Malik, having sustained fatal injuries, IHIT said in a release.

Continued on page 08

## Interim report on injustices against South Asian Canadians asks Vancouver City to commit support in present projects before public apology for past

## By Surbhi Gogia

 Various forms of discrimination and racism are deeply rooted in the history of Vancouver and other communities across Canada. As part of the City's broader South Asian community redress work, in July 2019, Vancouver City Council put forward a motion to address historic discrimination against South Asian Canadian communities by directing its staff to work with community and develop a report with
#### Abstract

recommendations on how city can acknowledge and address racism against the South Asian community. The city has now received an interim report called Historical Discrimination against Peo ple of South Asian Descent in Vancouver that was prepared in consultation with a Community Advisory Group consisting of 15 various well known South Asian community members. A formal apology for the historical wrongdoings is always seen as one of the main steps


towards redressing discrimination. The advisory group however has agreed that it is important for the City to show its commitment by making financial investments in current South Asian projects, hiring diverse staff and providing grants to organizations before making any formal public apology for the historical wrongdoings.
Dr Satwinder Bains, Director South Asian Studies Institute at University of Fraser Valley, is

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# Canada's Premiers call federal government to increase its share of health care costs from 22\% to 35\% 

## What hegan as a $50-50$ split has dwindled to ottawa covering just $22 \%$ of health care cost


#### Abstract

VICTORIA, BC: Canada's Premiers came together in Victoria for their first in-person meeting in over two years, to emphasize the urgent need for a new, sustainable health care funding partnership for Canadians. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has intensified the pre-existing fractures in our health systems' foundations, we are at a critical point for the sustainability of our health care services. Canadians cannot wait any longer. Canadians should be able to receive the tests, procedures and health services they need when they need them. Premiers reiterated their unanimous call for the federal government to increase its share of provincial-territorial health care costs from $22 \%$ to $35 \%$ through the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and to maintain it at this level over time. "People need more doctors, nurses and care aides. The health care system across Canada is near crisis. What began as a $50-50$ split has dwindled to Ottawa covering just $22 \%$. We need a fair deal and a renewed partnership to deliver the care people need - now," said BC Premier John Horgan, who was Chair of the Council of the Federation, and hosted the 2022 Summer Meeting of Canada's Premiers on July 11 and 12 at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria. Resolving this structural funding shortfall would allow provinces and territories to address their diverse



needs and accelerate progress in de- can only happen through the CHT. livering better access to care for Ca nadians. That's why Premiers have asked repeatedly to meet with the Prime Minister to put health care on a sustainable path. They repeated their urgent call for a First Ministers' Meeting to resolve this issue.
"I know the Prime Minister understands how important health care is to people. It's time for his actions to match his words," Horgan said.
Short-term, one-time targeted funding cannot repair the foundations of our health care systems; but increased, predictable and recurrent federal funding can make a direct and tangible difference in the lives of Canadians. A strong majority of Canadians agrees that federal funding must be sustainable and flexible. This
"There's no greater expression of our shared values than universal public health care. Unlike our cousins to the south, Canadians can access the care they need with a health card, not a credit card. But the system people rely on across the country is in crisis," he added.
The health care workforce is the bedrock of Canada's health care systems. Premiers appreciate health workers' ongoing, critical work. Provinces and territories are working to address immediate challenges facing our health care systems and to achieve lon-ger-term improvements including in areas such as health human resources, long-term care, home care, mental health and substance use, pharmaceuticals, primary care, and digital and
physical infrastructure.
BC Nurses Union President Aman Grewal joined with other nursing union presidents from across the country to take this opportunity to emphasize the dire staffing crisis that all provinces are facing. "We need all levels of government at the table to develop solutions and nurses must be there too. Our provincial and territorial governments cannot fix this problem on their own," said Grewal. "We need the federal government to act swiftly. The system needs a comprehensive health human resources plan to improve supports for the provinces in order to prevent the health-care system from collapsing,"
Canada's Health Coalitions called for a new health accord. "Provincial and territorial governments are right to call on the federal government to reverse Ottawa's declining share of health care spending. At the same time, we have noted with alarm that ideologically driven provincial governments have used the cover of COVID-19 to expand the private provision of health care services including surgical and diagnostic procedures, long-term care and out-patient care. Many of these same provincial governments have said they will refuse to participate in the planned expansion of our national Medicare umbrella to include pharmcare and dental care," it said in a release

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## Surrey Langley Skyirrain receives formal approval of

 \$4-billion provincial fundingSURREY: The B.C. government has and, once completed, the travel time from released the business case for the Langley City Centre to King George Sk-long-awaited Surrey-Langley SkyTrain yTrain Station in Surrey will be approxiextension, and given formal approval of the $\$ 4$-billion project's funding.
The business case estimate for the capital cost of Surrey Langley Sky Train is $\$ 3.94$ billion, including $\$ 2.4$ billion for the Province's share of the project and $\$ 1.3$ billion from the federal government, with the remainder coming from local government.
Work on the project is underway, including utility relocations and road widening. With the business case approved and funding in place, the procurement process for major construction will begin this summer.
The project will provide high-quality and low-cost transportation for tens of thousands of people throughout Surrey and Langley. The project includes eight new stations and three new bus exchanges,


BC transport minister Rob Fleming, while making the announcement (Photo submitted)

City of Langley and the Township of Langley have agreed to collaborate on policies and initiatives to increase density and establish targets for transit-oriented development. This includes commitments by local governments to explore and implement more efficient and effective approval processes for developments along the new corridor.
The development of housing and amenities for the Surrey Langley SkyTrain will also be guided by recent changes to the Transportation Act (Bill 16) that were passed during the spring 2022 legislative session. Bill 16 enables the Province to acquire land to build housing and community amenities that are integrated into transit stations or exchanges.
Supporting residential housing and employment growth along the Fraser Highway corridor will support transit ridership.

Surrey Langley SkyTrain will be built under a community benefits agreement designed to provide opportunities for locals, Indigenous people, women and other underrepresented groups that are interested in starting or furthering careers in construction.
The provincial contribution of $\$ 2.4$ billion is based on the commitment to fund $40 \%$ of the total cost of the Mayors Council's $\$ 6$-billion 2022 Investment Plan. B.C.'s investment covers more than $60 \%$ of the Surrey Langley SkyTrain project.
Transportation Investment Corporation (TI Corp) is leading the delivery of the Surrey Langley SkyTrain project on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. TI Corp will provide the controls, practices and other oversight that are essential for this complex project


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## Aftter Camphell Heights, Mayor Doug McCallum proposes to preserve all of Surrey's agricultural land for future food security <br> SarREY - During Monday's Reguunanimously passed a motion from Mayor Doug McCallum directing city staff to assess all of the City's agricultural land with preservation in mind for future food security purposes. Mayor McCallum's motion also proposed that 220 -acres of high-value farmland located at 192 Street and 36 Avenue be designated as agricultural as part of the Official Community Plan review to take place next year and to work with the federal and provincial governments to move towards bringing these lands into the Agricultural Land Reserve <br> "Protecting high-y ield agricultural land is fundamental to ensuring future food security in the region and the province. <br> In particular, the City hopes to see the 220 acres of exceptionally fertile land in South Surrey be preserved and added to the Agricultural Land Reserve," said Mayor Doug McCallum, "We will work with the federal government and the provincial government to let them know our intent and that we feel our citizens want to see this land protected." <br> McCallum's approved motion states that the 220 acres of farmland located at 192nd Street and 36th Avenue currently zoned Agricultural (A-1) is to be desig- nated as Agricultural as part of the Official Community Plan review process taking place in 2023; that the City is to work with the Federal and Provincial governments to move towards bringing these lands into the Agriculture Land <br>  <br> Reserve; and directs staff to conduct an assessment of all agricultural, food-producing land in Surrey with a view to protecting these lands for the purpose of addressing future food security requirements.

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## Jinny Sims announces 3 new candidates in her team for surrey election

Currey Forward and Mayoral Candidate Jinny Sims announced three new candidates for the upcoming City Council Election on October 15.
"I am delighted to welcome Philip Aguirre, Jody Toor and Arsh Mander to the Surrey Forward team," said Jinny Sims, Mayoral candidate for Surrey Forward. "We are adding expertise in small business, creating a healthy city and building strong communities."
"These three candidates are committed to a more open and transparent city, creating fairness for all the people of Surrey and making Surrey more affordable for families."
Philip Aguirre owns and operates the Old Surrey Restaurant and is the Executive Director of the Newton Business Improvement Association. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the university of Victoria.
"Small businesses in Surrey are simply asking for fair and predictable taxes that reflect the high cost of doing business in Surrey," said Aguirre.
Jody Toor is a complementary health care practitioner who runs her own practice in Cloverdale. "The overall health of our community is a significant issue in Surrey," said Toor, "We can create a prosperous city that also protects the health of our citizens. It saves money and builds a better city for families."
Arsh Mander is very interested in the tran-


Arsh Mander


Jody Toor
sitioning economy and the development of good paying jobs right here in Surrey. He has a bachelor of engineering he earned from BCIT. Born in India, Arsh came to Surrey 14 years ago, where he completed his education, and worked for BC Hydro for six years.
"There is no question that the economy is changing," said Mander. "But this change offers tremendous opportunity for Surrey. We are connected to the world in ways that other cities can only dream of. If we use this unique opportunity, we can build our economic strength and capacity
Philip Aguirre, Jody Toor and Arsh Mander join existing Surrey Forward Council candidates June Liu, Ramon Bandong and Theresa Pidcock
Sims formally announced her run for the post of Mayor in Surrey challeng-

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Philip Aguirre
ing current Mayor Doug McCallum and incumbent Councillor Brenda Locke in June. She is the Mayoral

Surrey Forward
She said that she joined in to fix what she called a "broken," City hall. "There are two factions at City Hall fighting with each other instead of fighting for the people of Surrey," she said.
She said that her election campaign runs on three principles: openness and transparency, fairness, and making Surrey affordable for families. She claimed that her elector organization "will choose policy positions in an open manner on transit roads, recreation facilities, community infrastructure, childcare, education, and so on."

## Surrey Bard of Trade ashs for reinstatementio of business vote in

## municipal dections

 Tntil 1993, a corporate or business vote existed in BC municipal elections. It refers to the ability of businesses in a specific city to vote in local government elections. Businesses contribute substantially to the social and economic development of the city, however, have no say in representation from a business perspective."Businesses bear the burden of taxation, even though they create jobs, give back to their communities, and make significant investments in the city, but they are not allowed to participate in the election process," said Anita Huberman, President \& CEO, Surrey Board of Trade.
Local elected officials should be accountable to business taxpayers through the electoral system.
Some businesses have owners that live in other jurisdictions than where they operate, and so have no ability to exercise their vote to elect leaders that have a business community's interest in mind. We need to

change this. Businesses are an essential part of the community and need to have a voice in the election process.
That is why the Surrey Board of Trade asks the BC Government to re-implement the business vote. Administrative issues, verification systems, and other policy principles can be evaluated. All election processes are a journey but what remains clear is that businesses need a voice through the electoral system.
"We ask BC to be a leader - we need to think differently for the future of our economic strength.


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## Parents asked to register children under 5 for COVID-19 vaccine

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ICTORIA - Approximately 208,000 eligible infants and children in British Columbia between six months and four years of age will soon be able to receive vaccine protection against COVID-19
Following Health Canada's approval of the Moderna vaccine, and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) recommendation on its use, for those aged six months to four years, regional health authorities will start offering this vaccine at clinics throughout the province on Aug. 2, 2022.
Younger children need a smaller dose of the vaccine to get the same protection from COVID-19. The vaccine for infants and children from six months to four years old is a two-dose series, given eight

weeks apart. It will be a smaller dose of the Moderna vaccine used for children. "B.C. has the capacity and experience to deliver this COVID-19 vaccination campaign for this new age group," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. "Since the start of the vaccination campaign in B.C., almost 12 million doses have been administered to eligible people. I encour-
ge parents to register their kids under the age of five, so they are invited to book an appointment, starting on Aug. 2."
The COVID-19 vaccine for the six-month to four-year-olds will be available in all communities through health authority child-friendly clinics.
Parents or guardians seeking vaccinations for their eligible children under the age of five can register them in the provincial Get Vaccinated system now. Once registration is complete, parents or guardians will be invited to book a vaccination at a clinic in their community when the immunization program starts in August. For children who are not yet six months of age, parents or guardians should still register their child and can expect an invitation once the child reaches six months

For children who have already had COVID-19, NACI recommends waiting eight weeks after the start of COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test, before beginning or continuing the primary series. This interval may be shortened to four weeks for children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. "We encourage parents to register their children under five now to get vaccinated so they can get the vaccine as soon as possible when we begin the vaccine rollout on Tuesday, Aug. 2," said Dr. Penny Ballem, executive lead of B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization plan.
Register children through the Get Vaccinated system. Invitations to book an appointment will be sent in August.

## BC rolls out fall hoosters for people at increased risk of severe

illness and those 65 years and older
$\overline{\mathrm{BC} \text { rolls out fall boosters }}$ for people at increased risk of severe illness and those 65 years and older

V
ANCOUVER - People in B.C. can look ahead to their next COVID-19 vaccine dose with the Province announcing a fall booster program as the next step in its COVID-19 immunization plan B.C.'s COVID-19 vaccination strategy has helped keep people protected from the severe illness associated with getting this virus. With the fall and winter respiratory illness season approaching, the Province is offering a booster dose
to protect people 12 years and older and provide them with sustained protection over these difficult months when respiratory infections increase. The Province first rolled out a booster program in October 2021. Since then, many British Columbians have received their booster dose, but approximately 1.3 million individuals still need to do so. Public health advises that everyone should get their first booster dose as soon as possible to strengthen and extend their protection. Since April 2022, a second booster dose has been recommended and available to people living in longterm care facilities, people over 70 , Indigenous people over 55 , and
those of all ages who are immunosuppressed, to ensure this group maintains a high level of protection against poor outcomes from COVID-19.
The most recent recommendation from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) is that people at increased risk of severe illness and those 65 years and older should receive a booster in the fall. For all other individuals between 12 and 64, NACI and the Province also encourage a fall booster. NACI also recommends that all fall booster shots should be done six months or more since the last one. Health Canada and NACI have started evaluating new ver-

Get boosted in the Fall

sions of the COVID-19 vaccines that have been adapted to the Omicron variant. The Province expects these vaccines to be available to people in B.C. in the fall.
Although the number of cases has recently gone down due to high levels of vaccinations, COVID-19
is still circulating in all communities in B.C. Public health is keeping a close eye on how the virus behaves to continue to provide the best advice possible to protect British Columbians, B.C.'s health-care system and communities

Continued on page 11
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# Ripudaman Singh Malik, acquitted in 1985 Air India Bombing, Shot Dead in braod daylight in Surrey’s 128 street Plaza 

A burned vehicle was located nearby in the area of 82 Avenue and 122a Street, Surrey, which is being held by investigators and is believed to be associated.
Various theories around his murder started circulating on social media outlets including his letter of appreciation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, IHIT is requesting everyone not to speculate on theories and motive behind his murder since the investigation is in very early stage. "We are aware of Mr. Malik's background, though at this time we are still working to determine the motive. We can confirm that the shooting appears to be targeted and there is not believed to be any further risk to the public," said Sergeant Timothy Pierotti of IHIT

Having occurred in a residential area, Pierotti said, "we are confident that witnesses exist that could help us further this investigation. We urge them to come forward immediately and without delay.
The police have also released pictures of the suspect vehicle. IHIT is asking that any witnesses or anyone traveling in the 8200 block of 128 Street, Surrey as well as the area of 122 Street and 82 Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with dash cameras or who has any information regarding the homicide of Mr. Malik is asked to contact the IHIT Information Line at 1-877-551-IHIT (4448) or by email at ihitinfo@ remp-gre.gc.ca.
A man who courted controversies during his life time was
well known amongst Punjabi Sikh community of the Lower Mainland. If on one hand he was identified as a businessman and a philanthropist who headed Khalsa Credit Union and Khalsa Schools, on the other hand, internationally and locally he was also known as someone accused of Air India Flight bombing. In 2000, Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri were charged with 329 counts of first-degree murder in connection with a suitcase bomb going off on an Air India jet over the coast of Ireland on June 23, 1985. However, in March 2005, the two men were acquitted after a lengthy trial when the judge questioned the credibility of several Crown witnesses.
His son, however, after his father's death appeared in various
media interviews and took to social media to appeal the public for not associating his father's life with the bombing. Jaspreet Malik confirmed the death in a statement on social media, saying his father came to Canada in 1972 and was committed to his community and family, including his wife, five children and eight grandchildren.
He further said, "My father's commitment was to his community and his family, and his goal was to see the immigrant Sikh community thrive through education and financial security. His legacy lives on through Khalsa Credit Union and Khalsa School,"
"The media will always refer to him as someone charged with the Air India bombing," Malik said.

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"The media and RCMP never seemed to accept the court's decision and I pray today's tragedy is not related."
Malik's son is hoping that this tragedy is not related to Air India bombing trial, however various theories are circulating and people are speculating on the motive behind his murder.
"I just think there's so many potential motives," said retired RCMP deputy commissioner Gary Bass in response to Malik's killing. He was in charge of the terrorism in vestigation into the 1985 Air India bombing.
"I'm not privy to the ongoing investigations on Malik right now, but I can say that from years when I was that he was involved in a number of activities that might bring him into conflict with other people," he was quoted as saying by the Vancouver Sun newspaper. According to media reports, he had also courted recent controversy for his links to printing the Sikh holy book - the Guru Granth Sahib - outside of India in contravention of a religious edict.
Also some media outlets reported that Malik in January in a letter to Indian prime minister Narendra Modi, had expressed his "heartfelt gratitude for the unprecedented positive steps taken by yourself to redress long-reading Sikh demands and grievances." The existence of Malik's letter was revealed in the Hindustan Times. After Malik's acquittal, he resumed his leadership roles at the Khalsa Credit Union and Satnam Education Society which operates several Khalsa schools
Malik may have moved on his life, but Kaash Heed, former Vancouver Cop, said that people who lost their loved ones in Air India bombing never moved on with their lives. And the violent death of Ripudaman Singh Malik, won't bring closure to the families of the attack's victims, according to Heed. Heed who is a strong supporter of preventing gun violence in Lower Mainland, said, "Anytime someone gets killed in such violent nature we get upset. We were all very upset in 1985 when more than 300 passengers were killed."
He said. "Although there was lot of hostility against him, it is sad that Mr Malik was killed this way. There is nothing but sadness around." "The families who lost loved ones, I don't think they are rejoicing. It has brought back those deep wounds. It took 20 years before we could bring Mr Bagri and Malik in front of the court, it was the longest and one of the costliest trials we had in Canada. Then they were acquitted, and they went on with their lives however people who had lost their loved ones did not go on with their lives. There no celebration even now."
Heed said he his heart goes out for relatives of Air India victims who would not have wanted the accountability to be brought this way.

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## Continued from Page 01

## Interim report on injustices against South Asian Canadians asks...

part of the advisory group and has been a voice for the community for a long time. In an interview to LINK newspaper said, "Redressing what happened in past is a long journey. Apology is one way. But a formal apology is just a tip pf the iceberg. The apology needs to come with some sort of action by the City. For example, one important aspect is to invest in Punjabi market like the way city has done in Chinatown.'
Dave Mann, another member of the advisory group said, "An apology for the past is the right thing to do today but it should be understood by the present day politicians and the policymakers that they have a great responsibility to provide a 'level playing field'. We are not asking any special treatment, just a level playing field."
Dr Bains is of the view that supporting heritage projects and educating public in the contributions of South Asian in Vancouver is important. "It is not reflected in various places. For example, not many


The Journey of the Komagata Maru: How a group of 376 British passport holders were rejected by Canada in the summer of 1914 (Photo Courtesy: Descendants of the Komagata Maru Society)
people know that South Asian communities first settlement was in Kitsilano but it does not reflect anywhere. May be naming a park and putting a storyline in that park can help."
Heritage, culture, history, language etc., are mainstays in all our communities and the benefits of doing community placed work by preserving tangible and intangible heritage is critical for us. A sense of belonging can only be harnessed and appreciated when spaces can be claimed as collective responses to that sense in a way that is inclusive, diverse and equitable, she added.
Baltej Singh Dhillon, another member of advisory group too added, "In order to recompense for this loss and afford the community an opportunity to recover these lost treasures, support for South Asian arts, heritage and language projects in the City of Vancouver, will bring far greater value than any empty apology or recognition of wrongs done to the SA community," said

The report mentions areas of interest identified by the advisory group in terms of economic development, human resources, outreach and policing.
When it comes to economic development, the report mentions need for investment in cultural food protection, in creasing availability and supporting existing struggling South Asian Canadian grocery stores, markets, and food programs and capital investments in youth development and international student support initiatives.
The report mentions that efforts in the field of South Asian human resource development are also required by review of Human Resources policies including recruitment, hiring, promotion and training at the City to increase South Asian Canadian and all IBPOC communities representation in staff and leadership roles at the City.
The report also focuses on the importance of including South Asian people from various countries not just focusing on one specific region of the continent. Rizwaan S. Abbas while expressing his gratitude for including him in the community, said, "I welcome the opportunity to sit on the Advisory Board in order to offer a voice not only for my Indo-Fijian community but also for to the other Indian diasporic communities which often get lost within the larger South Asian population of the Lower Mainland."
The areas of interest above are broad and so will require further scoping and prioritization over the next phase of work as well as consideration in light of feedback received through broader community engagement. Feedback from community, such as recommendations regarding policing, are often outside of the jurisdiction of the City. However the City does assist communities by sharing their feedback with the institutions responsible.

## Almost 200 British Columbians lost to illicit drugs in May

TICTORIA - Preliminary reporting released by the BC Coroners Service confirms that toxic illicit drugs claimed the lives of at least 195 British Columbians in May 2022.
By health authority in 2022, the highest number of illicit drug toxicity deaths have
fentanyl and/or its analogues, $73 \%$ have detected at least one stimulant, 19\% have detected at least one other opioid and $44 \%$ have detected at least one benzodiazepine. Additionally, between July 2020 and May 2022, etizolam was found in $40 \%$ of suspected illicit drug toxicity

been in Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities (302 and 263 deaths, respectively), making up $60 \%$ of all such deaths during this period.
"After a catastrophic 2021, I am saddened to report that we are, once again, on pace to lose a record number of our community members in 2022," said Lisa Lapointe, chief coroner, BC Coroners Service. "The illicit drug supply in this province continues to be volatile and inconsistent, and presents a significant risk to anyone who uses drugs. I strongly urge those purchasing illicit substances to take every available precaution to protect yourself. Please start with a small amount of the drug, and make sure someone is present who can provide naloxone and call for emergency assistance if you experience a negative effect. Your life is at risk."
At least 940 lives were lost to toxic drugs in B. C. between January and May, a record number for the first five months of a calendar year. Following two months of a small decline, the 195 recorded deaths in May is the largest number ever recorded in that calendar month and is a $20 \%$ increase over the number of deaths reported in April 2022 (162). The total number of deaths in the month equates to an average of about 6.3 deaths per day.

Expedited toxicological testing further underscores the volatility of the toxic drug supply. Since it was first implemented in July 2020, results from the new expedited testing protocol have found that about $91 \%$ of submitted samples have detected
deaths that have undergone expedited testing. Etizolam is a benzodiazepine analogue and non-opioid sedative that does not respond to naloxone and creates life-saving challenges for first responders.
Illicit drug toxicity is the leading cause of unnatural death in British Columbia. "Every life lost to illicit drugs in our province is a preventable tragedy," Lapointe said. "Panel members from the Coroners Service Death Review Panel into Illicit Drug Toxicity deaths recommended urgent action to address the terrible loss of life our province continues to experience. Recommended actions in their March 2022 report include a provincial framework for the distribution of safer drug supply, the development of a 30/60/90-day action plan with clear goals, targets and deliverable timeframes for reducing the number of drug toxicity deaths, and completing a framework for establishing a substance-use system of care. Responses to these recommendations have not yet been received."
"This is the highest number recorded in May and represents a 20 per cent increase over the number of deaths that occurred in April 2022. People are dying at an alarming rate and it's deeply disheartening to watch the crisis, which was declared a public health emergency more than six years ago, continue to get worse under the NDP government's watch," said Trevor Halford, Official Opposition Critic for Mental Health and Addictions.

## Continued from Page 07

## BC rolls out fall boosters for...

This is why a fall booster is recommended. Although people are advised to wait until the fall to receive their booster, those under 70 who got their last shot six months or more ago and who feel they have unique or special circumstances, can make an appointment for a second booster through the call centre.
Vaccinations for children aged six months to four years are subject to Health Canada approval and are anticipated to be coming soon. Parents are strongly encouraged to register their child now online: www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca
Similar to the vaccine for children five to 11, the vaccine program for children aged six months to four years will draw on a separate supply of vaccine designed for small children and will be delivered in clinics appropriate for that age group.
People who have not had their first booster are not protected enough from severe ill-
ness related to COVID-19 and are not up to date with their protection. Those who have had COVID-19 still need a booster to ensure they are protected.
COVID-19 vaccinations are available in participating pharmacies and health authority clinics throughout the province. People can make appointments through Get Vaccinated BC
All recommended booster doses are mRNA vaccines. Those who received AstraZeneca for the first or second dose are recommended to receive Moderna or Pfizer for the booster.
Vaccine effectiveness data from early April through early May 2022, when Omicron variant activity was very high in Canada, shows that people vaccinated with a complete primary series plus one booster dose, had a risk of being hospitalized approximately five times lower compared to unvaccinated people.


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# Surrey RCIIP reminding public to use imitation weapons only at designated areas or gun ranges 


#### Abstract

Imitation firearms can pose significant problems as it can be difficult for the public and police officers to distinguish the difference between real and imitation until proven otherwise. Gurrey RCMP is reminding the public to be cognizant of carry ing, possessing and using imitation firearms like BB guns, pellet guns, airsoft, after some recent calls for service. Two recent files that came in to B Watch Frontline officers demonstrate the potential dangers of imitation firearms. On June 23, at approximately 6 pm Frontline officers were dispatched to



a Priority I Call, a report of a youth brandishing a handgun and threatening another youth inside a busy shopping mall. Officers responded after members of the public and security guards reported seeing the weapon. Police located the suspect and observed a silver revolver-type firearm that appeared to be loaded. Upon closer inspection the realistic looking firearm, cylinder and car-
tridges turned out to be an imitation firearm. Later in the evening on June 23 , a report came in of a road rage incident where a male had pulled down his car window and pointed a gun at another driver. Police immediately started patrols to attempt to locate the suspect. The suspect driver was located and a traffic stop was initiated by officers. A search of the vehicle located an imitation Glock BB gun within the vehicle. Both investigations remain ongoing, and charges have not yet been laid.
Calls that involve weapons prompt a heightened police response for both public and officer safety, says Inspector Neil Kennedy, B Watch Duty Officer.

Continued on page 24

Man found dead in industrial area of Burnaby, police suspect targeted incident

# $\mathrm{A}_{\text {tion has been launched }}^{\text {homicide }}$ <br> there are early indications 

 after the discovery of a body in an industrial area of BurnabyFirst responders were called to a gravel lot near a vacant building on Norland Avenue near Laurel Street around 9:45 am on Thursday, July 14 after a member of the public found an adult male who was deceased.
The victim had injuries consistent with foul play. Efforts are underway to identify the victim, but
it was a targeted incident. Due to the circumstances, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) has been called in to investigate.
Police are currently in the evidence gathering phase, no further information will be provided at this time. Investigators are looking for dashcam video taken near Norland Avenue and Laurel Street between 9 pm on Wednesday, July 13 and 9:45 am on Thursday, July 14.

## Don't let online romance scams break your heart or your wallet

B"
urnaby RCMP is warning the public about the dangers of sharing personal information online, following a number of recent extortion reports.
In the last month, officers have investigated at least nine reports involving adults sharing personal information such as phone numbers and home addresses through personal dating services who were then blackmailed for money.
Three of these reports involved the fraudsters sending videos that appear to show them driving to the victim's residence with AR-15 style rifles while threatening to kill the victim
and their family after the victim shared their home addresses online. The fraudsters follow up by sending the victims graphic photographs of dead bodies while continuing to demand money.
"We have seen romance scams before, but this one is unique due to the graphic and alarming videos and pictures that are sent to the victims as a scare tactic," said Corporal Alexa Hodgins of the Burnaby RCMP "We want the public to be aware of this scam method to prevent victims from sending money out of fear."
More people than ever are going online to find friendship and
relationships. If you seek companionship online, learn how to protect yourself from scams and fraud by visiting the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
Here are a few tips that may help protect you:
Google them
Do a reverse image search. This is a quick and easy way to see if their photo has been copied from the internet.
Do not sent money
If someone you met online is asking you for money, it's a red flag. Do not send them money. Don't be afraid to say no.
Don't be intimidated by high-pressure communications
from someone online. If you don't feel comfortable, say no. Don't give out personal information.
Beware of unsolicited calls where the caller asks you for personal information, such as:

## Your name

i. Your address
iii. Your birthdate
iv. Your Social Insurance Number (SIN)

Your credit card or banking information
Keep in mind that you may not truly know who you are talking to.


Image used in blackmail attempt showing a person with red bandana over their face

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A five-meter high, Mahatma Gandhi's Astatue that holds significance for York region. Ontario community was vandalized invoking distress in the Indian community both in Canada and in India.
York Regional Police, reported that someone defaced the statue with "graphic words". located at Vishnu Mandir in the area of Yonge Street and Garden Avenue on July 13. Officers were called to the area at about 12:30 p.m.
According to one of the temple staff, Mahatma's statue located at the temple has n attraction for people visiting the temple for the past 30 years since the time it was installed. It was unveiled at the Voice of Vedas grounds on May 15, 1988. The nine foot high bronze statue was made in New Dehli, India
Considered Father of Nation and a promoter of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi has earned respect from various communities across the world. As a young Indian lawyer working in South Africa, Gandhi refused to comply with racial segregation rules

## Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Ontario's temple vandalized invoking anguish in Incian community The one who fought against racism in 1800's called 'rapist'

on a South African train. His historical efforts to fight racism in South Africa earned him special place in the heart of Africans. In fact, according to the temple's staff, the entire cost of approximately $\$ 300,000.00$, for the making and installation of the statue was donated by Mr. Desraj Sennik and Family from Africa. The inscription on the statue reads: "Mr. Desraj Sennik \& Family As a tribute to CANADA for the respect, dignity and honour showered upon the people from different lands, who have made their homes here."
On such land Mahatma's statue was defaced. The incident is still under investigation and police are tracking camera recordngs to see if they could spot individual or any car to give them clue. "We do not want to name anyone or any community for this at the moment," informed the temple staff. Indian community in Canada and in India expressed disappointment at the incident. The Consulate General of India, Toronto, in a tweet, said, "We are distressed at the desecration of Mahatma Gandhi statue at Vishnu temple in Richmond Hill. This criminal, hateful act of vandalism has deeply hurt the sentiments of the Indian community in Canada. We are in contact with Canadian authorities to investigate this hate crime." A statue of Mahatma Gandhi was vandalized at Vishnu Mandir in the area of Yonge Street and Garden Avenue in the Richmond Hill city of Ontario in Canada, said the York Regional Police
The High Commission of India in Ottawa condemned the incident and said that the hate crime has terrorized the Indian community in Canada and has led to increased concern and insecurity among them.

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It also urged the Canadian government to investigate the incident and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly.
"We are deeply anguished by this hate crime that seeks to terrorize the Indian community. It has led to increased concern and insecurity in the Indian community here. We have approached the Canadian government to investigate and
ensure perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly," it said in a tweet
Chandra Arya, local MP, said, "It is hurtful and agonizing to know that Mahatma Gandhi statue at the Hindu Temple is the target of racist, hateful attack. I am confident York regional Police will investigate and bring perpetrators to justice."


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ours after fleeing Sri commercial capital on Wednesday - the same day he was meant to resign after he pledged to step down following huge protests against his rule at the weekend. Singapore confirmed that Rajapaksa had landed and been allowed to enter the country on a "private visit" but had not asked for or been granted asylum Rajapaksa had been in Maldives for one day after fleeing Sri Lanka in the early hours of Wednesday - the same day he had said he would resign
But the absence of a formal resignation letter raised questions about the intentions of an apparently self-exiled leader who appointed the prime minister as acting president after leaving his


## Sri Lanka in Turmoil: President Rajapaksa resigns by email after fleeing to Singapore

## Gotabaya Rajapaksa

ri Lanka plunged into chaos Sand its president fled to Singapore, before emailing his resignation, as questions swirl about the country's future
According to CNN, embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrived in Singapore on a flight from Maldives on Thursday, according to a high-ranking security source in Colombo. He had
sland nation.

Shortly after Rajapaksa left the country, protesters stormed Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office to demand his removal. Wickremesinghe responded by calling a nationwide curfew overnight.
Rajapaksa pledged to quit over the weekend after angry demonstrators broke into his official residence, swam in his pool and demanded the end of his family's ruling dynasty.
Rajapaksa then tendered his resignation in a letter sent by email to parliamentary speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardenena, according to the speaker's office, though the office also cautioned "we cannot accept such an email at face value."
Sri Lanka will kick off the pro-
ess to elect its next President on Saturday after Gotabaya Rajapaksa sent in his resignation from Singapore, while Sri Lanka's Supreme Court barred two of his brothers-former PM Mahinda and former Finance Minister Basil-from leaving the country till July 28.
There are five contenders in the fray and they will have to win the support of both lawmakers and protesters on the streets to achieve a modicum of stability. Leading the race is PM Ranil Wickremesinghe, who had promised to quit, but is now the interim President who has imposed a state of emergency across Sri Lanka soon after protesters occupied his office and briefly took control of the national state broadcaster

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## Singer Daler Mehndi Gets 2-Year Jail In 2003 Human Trafficking Case In Patiala

 two-year prison term in a 2003 case of human trafficking - for taking people abroad by showing them as troupe members - was dismissed by a district court in Patiala today, and he was sent to jail. Originally sentenced in 2018, he was on bail so far.
In the complaints almost two decades ago, Daler Mehndi and his brother Shamsher Singh were accused of collecting "passage money" to take people abroad, mainly to the US and Canada, via the "troupe" route. While they did take some people, there were others who said they took money but did not keep their promise.
The case in September 2003 at Patiala was filed by one such man, named Bakshish Singh. He said the brothers took two troupes to the US in 1998 and 1999, including 10 people for illegal migration. "They took ₹ 13 lakh from me. Neither did they send me abroad, nor did they return my money."
The brothers were arrested a month after the FIR, and got bail within days. Both were charged under Indian Penal Code's sections for human trafficking and conspiracy, and under the Indian Passport Act. After that FIR,


35 other complaints came up too, as per reports.
In 2018, Daler Mehndi got a two-year jail term from a judicial magistrate's court, but was released on bail again. He later filed an appeal.
The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge HS Grewal dismissed that appeal. His petition for bail was rejected, too, and so was a request to be released on probation - that is, a commitment of good behaviour instead of jailtime.
He has the option to approach the Punjab and Haryana High Court now
In 2006, three years after the FIR, the local police had filed petitions claiming that they found nothing on Daler Mehndi. But the court refused to discharge him, saying there was "sufficient evidence" for further investigation. It took another 12 years for the sentencing at first, and now four more years to up-

## Is UK ready for Rishi? Rishi Sunak leading the race to be Britain's prime minister <br> family pictures of his general

Fsormer finance minister Rishi has cemented his lead rals to become Britain's next prime minister in the second round of voting of an increasingly bitter race to replace Boris Johnson.
Sunak, whose exit from the Treasury was one of the first in a cascade of resignations that forced Johnson to quit, has been the frontrunner among Conservative legislators despite being blamed by some for his role in Johnson's downfall.
He faces competition from Penny Mordaunt, a junior trade minister and foreign minister Liz Truss, who launched her official campaign earlier arguing she was the only contender with the experience to take the "tough decisions" needed.
There are now five hopefuls after Brexit supporter Attorney General Suella Braverman was knocked out of the race on Thursday for failing to reach the 30 -vote threshold in the second round. Frontrumner former Chancellor Sunak and Attorney General Suella Braverman, both 42, have much in common as UK-born In-dian-origin politicians who campaigned for Brexit in the 2016 referendum.
Sunak made his pitch to become the first British Prime Minister of Indian-origin with a slick video that referenced the very personal migration story of his rural Afri-


Rishi Sunak
ca based Indian maternal grandmother, Sraksha, boarding a flight from Tanzania to build a better life in the UK in the 1960s.
"This young woman came to Britain where she managed to find a job, but it took her nearly a year to save enough money for her husband and children to follow her. One of those children was my mother aged 15 ," says Sunak, in the video which has been viewed nearly 50,000 since its release last week.
"My mum studied hard to get the qualifications to become a pharmacist. She met my dad, an NHS [National Health Service] GP, and they settled in Southampton. Their story didn't end there, but that is where my story began," he says in the voiceover, alongside
practitioner father Yashvir and mother Usha with him as a young boy with his siblings.
The message to the Tory voters being that he represents the face of modern Britain where values of "hard work and fairness" override factors such as race and background.
The former Goldman Sachs banker who studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University before getting an MBA from Stanford University in the US, may have had an easy ride in the early years of his politcal career as a member of Parliament for Richmond in Yorkshire, but not so in the Cabinet.
While he proved hugely popular during the covid pandemic lockdowns, when as a new Chancellor he unleashed a series of unprecedented measures to save jobs and livelihoods, that honeymoon period ended earlier this year when inflation began to bite and he took some tough tax hike calls.
As the media turned hostile amid reports of discord with his former boss Johnson, Sunak faced very personal onslaughts over the tax affairs of his Indian wife, Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's daughter Akshata Murty. She gave up her legal non-domicile status to pay taxes on her Indian earnings also in the UK to avoid becoming a "distraction"

Continued on page 27

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# Employment in Surrey Sees Impressive 3.8\% Improvement Says Labour Market Report 

poplth Cane, Iaturn Besw Recreation And Technology Sectors Are Leading Surrey's Jobs Recovery

T
The July 2022 Surrey Labour L Market Intelligence Report has been released by the Surrey Board of Trade.
"Tracking labour market trends in an ongoing way is important to ensure our policy framework is focused on developing a suitably skilled workforce, a broad availability of good-quality education as a foundation for future training, and a close matching of skills supply to the needs of enterprises and labour markets. It enables workers and enterprises to adjust to changes in technology and markets, and to anticipate and prepare for the
skills needs of the future," said Anita Huberman, President \& CEO, Surrey Board of Trade. "This will fuel innovation, investment, economic diversification and competitiveness, as well as social and occupational mobility."
Employment in Surrey in June 2022 was an estimated impressive $3.8 \%$, or an over 11,300 jobs, above employment before the pandemic in February 2020, and over 36,000 higher than the lowest job levels in April 2020 for a $13.3 \%$ lift.
In June 2022, the Surrey economic recovery from the

COVID-19 pandemic continued to be driven by knowl-edge-based industries and resource industries, with a lagging continued recovery in the construction and arger service-producing sectors. Health care, natural resources, public administration, infor-mation/culture/recreation and technology sectors are leading the Surrey jobs re-

| North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Employment } \\ \text { February } \\ 2020 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Employment } \\ \text { April } \\ 2020 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Emplovment <br> June <br> 2022 | Change February 2020 to June 2022 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Jobs | \% |
| Total Emploved (all industries) | 296,748 | 271,848 | 308,103 | 11,354 | 3.8\% |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing. Mining, Quarrying, Oil \& Gas | 3.008 | 4.483 | 4,660 | 1.652 | 54.9\% |
| Utilities | 1,687 | 2,230 | 2.024 | 337 | 20.0\% |
| Construction | 32,644 | 29,793 | 28,997 | -3,647 | . $11.2 \%$ |
| Manufacturing | 26,833 | 25,580 | 27,324 | 490 | 1.8\% |
| Wholesale \& Retail Trade | 51,604 | 46,077 | 50,028 | -1,576 | -3.1\% |
| Transportation \& Warehousing | 27,229 | 23,931 | 28,391 | 1.162 | 4.3\% |
| Finance, Insurance, Real Estata | 18,511 | 16,766 | 16,199 | $-2,312$ | -12.5\% |
| Professional, Scientific \& Technical | 19,536 | 19,337 | 22,817 | 3,281 | 16.8\% |
| Business, Building \& Other Support | 14,609 | 14,212 | 15,328 | 719 | 4.9\% |
| Educational Services | 16.380 | 15,489 | 16.945 | 564 | 3.4\% |
| Health Care \& Social <br> Assistance | 34,132 | 32,973 | 40.174 | 6.041 | 17.7\% |
| Info, Culture \& Recreation | 9,496 | 8,164 | 11,098 | 1,602 | 16.9\% |
| Accommodation \& Food Services | 19,052 | 13,845 | 18,700 | 352 | -1.8\% |
| Other Services lexcept public administration) | 13,420 | 11,700 | 11.160 | $-2,260$ | -16.8\% |
| Public Administration | 9.416 | 8.376 | 12,888 | 3,472 | 36.9\% |

edge-based growth is growth in above pre-pandemic employresources, which are over 1,600 ment levels. The single largest growth in terms of occupational categories has been in business, finance and administration positions with an increase of 7,296 jobs.
While Surrey's construction sector has recovered significantly in the last few months, its employment level is still down by 3,647 jobs. The large accommodation and food services sector has finally recovered to almost the February 2020 jobs level. While wholesale and retail trade, and finance, insurance and real estate sectors are still below pre-pandemic employment, the important information, culture and recreation sector is up 1,602 jobs for a $16.9 \%$ increase above February 2020. Sales and service, and trades, transport and equipment operator positions (the latter to a much smaller degree) remain lower than before the pandemic. Sales and service jobs in Surrey are responsible for a large majority of the employment deficit at almost 10,000 .

Continued from Page 12
Surrey RCMP reminding....
Imitation firearms can pose significant problems as it can be difficult for the public and police officers to distinguish the difference between real and imitation until proven otherwise.
High powered air guns are consideredfirearms and are therefore subject to the same license and registration requirements as a conventional firearm, as well as the regulations that govern safe storage, display and transportation. Less powerful air guns are not deemed to be firearms for licensing and registration purposes under the Firearms Act. However, they are considered to be firearms under the Criminal Code if they are used in a criminal or negligent manner.
Imitation firearms should only be used at designated areas, gun ranges, or on private land. They should also be kept out of sight and locked in a secure case to prevent misunderstandings, accidents, or thefts.

# Housing affordability lies at the very heart of inequality 

## Government land-use requations a principal source of this inequality



By Wendell Cox
Canada's housing afford--ability crisis is a matter of considerable concern, especially for young people trying to buy a house. The worst problems are in the Vancouver and Toronto markets with their excessive landuse regulation.
Extensive international research associates stronger land-use regulation with diminished housing affordability. Vancouver and Toronto are experiencing substantial net migration of people to other markets in British Columbia and Ontario, where housing tends to be less costly. But housing affordability is deteriorating in markets subject to similar regulations.
This is illustrated in Demographia Housing Affordability in Canada, a report just released by the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. It rates housing affordability in 46 Canadian markets (census metropolitan areas or CMAs).
Vancouver has a median price to pre-tax household income ratio (median multiple) of 13.3, which has more than tripled over the past half-century. In Toronto, the median multiple is 10.5 , a near tripling since 2000 , Vancouver and Toronto are the third and 10th least affordable among the 92 markets in eight nations: Australia, Canada China, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.
Other B.C. CMAs now rated severely unaffordable (median multiples of 5.1 or more) include Victoria, Nanaimo, Kelowna, the Fraser Valley, Kamloops and Chilliwack.
Besides nearby Toronto, severely unaffordable Ontario markets include Hamilton, Oshawa, Cambridge, Peterborough, Kitchener-Waterloo, Barrie, Guelph, St. Catharines-Niagara, Brantford and London. Further away, Belleville and Kingston are also severely unaffordable.
During the pandemic, severely unaffordable housing has occurred in Montreal, Otta-wa-Gatineau, Halifax, Charlottetown and Whitehorse.
But some markets are much more affordable, especially in the Prairies, Atlantic Canada and Quebec, outside Montreal. Among the larger markets, the most affordable are Edmonton (3.6), Quebec (3.7), Winnipeg (4.0) and Calgary (4.0).

However, only three of the 46 Canadian markets are rated "affordable" (median multiples of 3.0 or less): Fort MacMurray (2.1), Saguenay (2.8) and Moose Jaw (3.0). More are rat ed "moderately unaffordable," with median multiples from 3.1
to 4.0: Cape Breton, Fredericton, Regina, Saskatoon, Medicine Hat, Trois-Rivieres, Saint John, St. John's, Thunder Bay and Moncton.
There's increasing concern about inequality because housing affordability is the very heart of inequality. When house prices triple relative to incomes, homeowners in the escalating markets gain, while those in markets with less escalation lose ground. Younger households, even those already in an expensive market, face greater inequality. Finally, renters - without house equity face the largest losses. The reality is that when house prices rise faster than incomes, inequality inevitably increases.
Governments are a principal
source of this inequality through their land-use regulations associated with diminished housing affordability. A principal example is 'urban containment' policy , which includes strategies like urban growth boundaries, greenbelts and agricultural preserves. These policies are intended to stop urban expansion but have driven up land prices in remaining urban areas where new houses can be built. Before the pandemic, all of the markets rated as severely unaffordable in Demographia International Housing Affordability were subject to urban containment regulations.
The higher land values from urban containment policies are the principal problem. House construction costs don't vary sub-
stantially across the nation. For example, the costs per square foot to build the average detached house in the Vancouver or Toronto markets are no more than 30 per cent higher than in Winnipeg. Yet the higher land values push the average detached house prices to 340 per cent higher in Vancouver and 225 per cent higher in Toronto, compared to Winnipeg.
Moreover, these prohibitive land costs are principally beyond the control of any of the municipalities in larger markets, such as Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. The substantially-elevated land values at the urban periphery and throughout the urban area are largely driven by provincial laws and policies.

Where housing has become severely unaffordable, especially in British Columbia, Ontario and the Montreal CMA, policies should be restructured to reduce peripheral land values so house prices generally rise no faster than incomes.
Perhaps the greatest imperative is to preserve the affordability that already exists in markets where housing affordability has not deteriorated. These markets would include CMAs such as Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Quebec, Moncton and a number of other markets where a modicum of affordability has been retained
Wendell Cox is a senior fellow at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy and a principal at Demographia.com.

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# Kangana Ranaut unveils her Indira Gandhi look from 'Emergency' 



M
umbai: Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, whose last film 'Dhaakad' performed miserably at the box office, unveiled her first look from the movie 'Emergency'. The actress plays the late former prime minister, Indira Gandhi, in the film written and directed by her. 'Emergency', as the title suggests, is all about the state of internal emergency declared by Indira Gandhi on June 25, 1975. It lasted till March 21 , 1977, when the Janata Party was voted to power in a historic election.

The prosthetics, the wardrobe and the demeanour are all reminiscent of the late prime minister But critics were quick to point out that Kangana needs to work on the pronounciation of the word 'Sir' Talking about the film, Kangana said it "reflects one of the most important periods in Indian political history which changed the way we view power and that's why I decid ed to tell this story" She added: "Moreover, playing a public figure
on screen is always a chal had enough ammunition, lenge because one has to get commenced on the film's the look, the characteristics and the persona right. I spent a significant amount of time researching the subject and

shoot.
Kangana has played the late former Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalitha in 'Thalaivi' and Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi in 'Manikarnika' The film dialogues are by Ritesh Shah, who was pre viously associated with cel ebrated films such as ' Ka haani', 'Pink', 'Raid' and 'Airlift

## Taapsee 'disappointed' to find no pictures of women cricketers at Lord's museum

M
umbai, Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu, who is set to portray legendary cricketer Mithali Raj in her upcoming biopic 'Shabaash Mithu', shared that she felt disappointed at not seeing a single picture of any female cricketer at the MCC Museum in Lord's Cricket Ground, London, the place known as the 'Mecca of Cricket'
The makers of 'Shabaash Mithu' have shot certain matches and segments of the film at Lord's Cricket Ground where Taapsee strolled around the museum to gain familiarity about the sport, the game's conduct and history Speaking about her experience shooting at the Home of Cricket Taapsee expressed: "It's beautiful, it's like a cricket muse-

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## Continued from Page 15

# Is UK ready for Rishi? Rishi Sunak Ieading the race to be.... <br> His own decision to hold <br> The mother of two's ma- 

on to his US Green Card for a few months after becoming finance minister also came under the media scanner, casting doubts over his longterm plans to stick it out in British politics.
Meanwhile, former barrister Suella Braverman belong to the harder Brexit wing of the Tory party who wants a clear break from Europe, including taking the UK out of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Inher campaign video, she also references her personal history of her Mauritian mother and Goan-origin father who migrated to the UK from Kenya.
"They loved Britain It gave them hope. It gave them security. This country gave them an opporturity I think my background's really informed by my approach to politics," says the MP for Fareham in south east England.
ternity leave famously brought about an overdue law change last year to al low her to remain aCabinet minister while away to give birth. In a yote am ong the Tory member ship by the Conservative Home website, she came in at fourth - just behind Sunak at third
This would indicate that the nearly 200,000 Tories who will have the ultimate say by postal ballot on the choice of leader and PM between the final two candidates whittled down by MPs are ready to embrace the historic change that the lead ership race has thrown up. Penny Mordaunt and Kemi Badenoch are placed at No. 1 and 2 respectively in that tally of Tory members.
Whatever the outcome of the race, the 2022 Tory leadership battle has etched its place in the history books as being among the most reflec tive of a diverse Britain


# Vaani recalls how 'Shamshera' director's narration helped her slip into the role 

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor is back shera', where she has been paired opposite Ranbir Kapoor, who plays the titular character
White for Ranbir, saying yes to the script wasa "no-brain-
accordingly. And, let me tell you, what you have seen of my character in the film's trailer is just the tip of the iceberg. There's a lot more to her than meets the eye,' sheadded.

Acting is a job that requires artistes to make rapid changes to their personality because of ex", Vaani was particularly bowled over by the nar the varied characters they portray. Karan Malhotra
'Shamshera' is Karan's third film after the Hrithik Roshan-starrer 'Agneepath' (2012) and the 2015 release "Broth ers', which was the official remake of the Hollywood film 'Warriot' The director has the same intensi ty and passion when it comes to narration and it reflects in his creative inputs that pop out during the course of narration, as told by Vaani.
Vaani said, "Karan is one director who is passionately involved in the process of narration. There are background sounds that he makes, he talks about the props, and paints a dreamy picture of a scene." While it may sound funny on the face value, it does help an actor to a great extent in Vaani's opinion. She told media, "This helpsa actor a lot to get a grip on the narrative and the char acters. Because you can envision it so well courtesy his narration, everything comes to life and While some may find it easy to jump from one character to the other, Vaani is still learring to let go of her characters.
She said, "I am still learring to fully discormect from what I have done in the past because your characters are an extension of your personality and they stem from you. It gets difficult to detach becaus hold these characters very close to my heart, having lived with them and nur tured them for solong." Interestingly for her, the scenes which are fairly easy to pull off are the most difficult in hef own words. Whil flashes in front of your $\qquad$ doing complez scenes or sequences come naturally to her, the simplicity of a scene is some thing that she get perplexed with

## Sara, Janhvi Reveal Their NearDeath Travel Misadventures

 umbai: Bollywood actresses Sata Ali Khan and Janhvi Kapoor have opened up about their near-death travel misadventures in an episode of 'Koffee With Karan'Season 7. Bonding over the scenic beauty of Kedarnath, Janhyi and Sara's trip hit a roadblock as they faced two neardeath experiences. When Janhvi chose a hike at Bhairavnath over walking a normal path, the duo were faced with an unexpected twist in their adventure.Sara said: "We decided to go to Bhairavnath and there was a normal path for walking. But we thought ourselves to be better. We chose to hike instead.

There was an 85 incline of being stuck, and they were She said, "I had travelled to just rocks and Janhvi is like rescued with the help of Kedarnath with two ther-
let us just climb this." special forces Though skeptical of climbing the incline, Sara shared that she was afraid of being "bulled a kill" Admitting fear of kicking in, Sara mentioned how at one point, she was sure they would fall off owing to shaky racks.
With no escape in sight, they found solace when they saw a fan coming towards them as they hung off the cliff' Much to their dismay, he was of no help, as he only wanted to take a selfie with them. Eventually, Sara's driver found them after almost 30 minutes of Adding
 three shawls, two track pants, and two sweaters. Karan, I wore every single piece of clothing Ihad owned and was still shiver-

Adding that by the time, Sara retumed to their roomafter meeting her friends, her lips had turned blue and she was shivering! She even added that apart from the absence of a heater in the freezing minus 7 degrees Celcius weather, the bathroom in the hotel was also doubtful, "If I had sat on that pot, it would have shattered," said Janhvi adding to her bad-hotel stay story

os Angeles': Dating reality show 'Love Lis Blind'Season 2 star Jeremy Hartwell filed a lawsuit against Netflix and the series' producers, saying that the cast was mistreated while filming the show.
"They intentionally underpaid the cast members, deprived them of food, water and sleep, plied them with booze and cut off their access to personal contacts and most of the outside world. This made cast members hungry for social connections and altered their emotions and decision-making," Hartwell's attorney, Chantal Payton of Payton Employment Law, PC, of Los Angeles, said in a statement provided to Page Six.
"The contracts required contestants to agree that if they left the show before filming was done, they would be penalised by being required to pay $\$ 50,000$ in liquidated damages."
"With that being 50 times what some of the cast members would earn during the entire time that they worked, this certainly had the potential to instill fear in the cast and enable production to exert even further control." According to Hartwell's legal team, his lawsuit serves as "a proposed class action on behalf of all participants in 'Love Is Blind' and other non-scripted productions" created by Kinetic Content from 2018 to 2022 In court documents obtained by Page Six, Hartwell, 36 , alleged that "the only drinks that (the show) regularly provided to the cast were alcoholic beverages, soft drinks,

## 'Love Is Blind'

energy drinks and mixers."
The Chicago native further claimed that "hydrating drinks such as water were strictly limited to the cast during the day."
Additionally, the docs allege that "Love Is Blind' contributed to "inhumane working conditions and altered mental state for the cast" through a "combination of sleep deprivation, isolation, lack of food and an excess of alcohol all either required, enabled or encouraged" by the production.
Hartwell further claimed in court docs that contestants were unable to contact loved ones during filming - even though that is commonplace for many reality competition series.
"At times, defendants left members of the cast alone for hours at a time with no access to a phone, food, or any other type of contact with the outside world until they were required to return to working on the production," the documents read
"The exploitative working conditions served to control the participants' conduct and elicited irrational behaviour for entertainment value in the final project."
It is also said in the suit that 'Love Is Blind' Season 2 participants earned $\$ 1,000$ per week, up to $\$ 8,000$, for the duration of filming. This amount is allegedly less than minimum wage for the number of hours worked. "Defendants failed and continue to fail to compensate Class Members and Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked, including minimum wage and overtime hours, as a result of maintaining a practice of requiring Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to work up to twenty (20) hour days, seven days per week, while paying them a flat amount of $\$ 1,000,00$ per filming week," the documents state.
"Resultantly, these workers were effectively (paid) as little $\$ 7.14$ per hour which is less than half of the applicable minimum wage rate of $\$ 15.00$ per hour, less than one-third of the minimum overtime rate of $\$ 22.50$ per hour, and less than one-fourth of the min-

## producers accused of depriving cast of 'food, water and sleep' <br> imum double-time rate of $\$ 30.00$ per hour side 29 other singles looking for a potential

pursuant to the applicable Los Angeles City and County minimum wage ordinances." Hartwell appeared on 'Love Is Blind' along-
spouse. He did not get engaged and was not featured on the show past its signature pods phase.

## 

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| :---: | :---: |
| Face Threading.............................................................. $\$ 10$ | Stomach Waxing............................................................. ${ }^{\text {S }} 12$ |
| Face Waxing................................................................. $\$ 12$ | Brazilian Waxing............................................................ $\$ 25$ |
| Full Leg Waxing........................................................... $\$ 27$ | Facial (European)........................................................ ${ }^{\text {S }} 30$ |
| Half Leg Waxing........................................................... $\$ 14$ | Facial (Shahnaz).......................................................... $\$ 27$ |
| Bikni Waxing.............................................................. ${ }^{\text {. }} 07$ | Pedicure................................................................... ${ }^{\text {a }}$ \$ 20 |
| Full Arms Waxing........................................................... ${ }^{\text {\$ }} 15$ | Menicure..................................................................... 20 |
| Half Arms Waxing......................................................... $\$ 10$ | Hair Style............................................................ $\$ 15$ \& Up |

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## LA court orders release of Roman Polanski rape case files after 45 years

I os Angeles: An appellate panel of Lthree judges has ordered the release of a transcript in the Roman Polanski case a day after the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office withdrew its objec-
tiny to the handling of the case. According to Variety, he also testified behind closed doors for three days in 2010, as Polanski's defence lawyers were seeking to have the case dismissed. Gunson has accused Rittenband of acting inappropriately and claimed that his own supervisors prevented him from trying to remove the judge from the case. The D.A.'s office has previously opposed release of the Gunson transcript and has also objected to Polanski's efforts to dismiss the case or to be sentenced in absentia. However, George Gascon, who was elected D.A. in 2020, reversed the office's position on releasing the transcript. Tiffiny Blacknell, a special advisor to Gascon, also told Variety that the office is interested in reviewing the case with "fresh eyes", and will decide its next steps after seeing what the transcript says, In its recent order accessed by Variety, the appeals court took note of the D.A's reversal stating: "We agree with the People that there is no factual or legal basis for the conditional deposition transcript to remain sealed.'
The court also quoted its own ruling from 2009, in which the appeals court urged the lower court to investigate the allegations of misconduct in the Polanski case. At the time, the court wrote, "Fundamental fairness and justice in our criminal justice system are far more important than the conviction and sentence of any one individual. Polanski's allegations urgently require full exploration and then, if indicated, curative action for the abuses alleged here.
Polanski's lawyer, Harland Braun, said that he may renew his efforts to resolve the case once the transcript is released.

## Ana de Armas says she left LA after split from Ben Affleck

T os Angeles: Cuban-Spanish actress Ana de LArmas has said her relationship with Hollywood star Ben Affleck helped her realise that Los Angeles isn't where she belongs. Being the subject of a media storm when she was involved in a year-long romance with the Affleck, the 'Blonde' star admitted that she found the experience "horrible" The 34-year-old actress told Elle magazine: "Yeah, which is good. That's one of the reasons why I left L.A." She continued: "Going through it (myself) confirmed my thoughts about, "This is not the place for me to be,' It became a little bit too much. There's no escape. There's no way out."
de Armas, who now lives with her boyfriend Paul Boukadakis in New York City, went on adding: "It's always the feeling of something that you don't have, something missing. It's a city that keeps you anxious."
The actress split with Ben in January 202 The brunette beauty's former flame moved on by rekindling his romance with his ex Jennifer Lopez, with the pair citing the 49-year-old ac tor's need to focus on his children, 16-year old Violet, 13-year-old Seraphina and 10 -year-old Samuel with his ex Jennifer Garner.
At the time of their split, an insider explained: "Ben and Ana have split up. They had little arguments and bickered like any couple but ultimately the relationship just wasn't working in the way they both wanted it to anymore This was a mutual decision." "They both have a lot of love and respect for each other, but it was time for them to move on," the so-called inside source added. "At the end of the day he chose to be the dad he continues to want to be. Unfortunately they are in different places in their lives.

tion to disclosing the document. Additionally, the prosecutors are reconsidering the director's 45 -year-old rape case with "fresh eyes", reports Variety. Two authors, Sam Wasson and William Rempel, had requested the court to unseal the transcript of a 2010 examination of Roger Gunson, the retired prosecutor who handled the case against Polanski in 1977. Polanski flew to France in 1978, shortly before he was to be sentenced for raping a 13 -year-old girl and has been a fugitive ever since.
Variety further states that Polanski and his supporters have often argued that Judge Laurence Rittenband engaged in serious misconduct and reneged on a promise to sentence him to no more than a 90 -day psychiatric evaluation
Gunson was interviewed for the 2008 documentary 'Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired', which brought greater scru-


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