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# Shots fired at Port Kells residence linked to extortions targeting South Asians

One more confirmed case of extortion has emerged in Surrey where a South Asian member of the community was threatened to give money to extortionists. The Surrey RCMP reported that on August 10, 2024 at approximately 3:11 am, shots fired were fired at a residence in the area of 88 Avenue and 192 Street. Evidence consistent with a shooting was located at the scene along with evidence of an attempted arson. The next day the person living at the same address received a demand for money, which, the police said was "consistent with extortions targeting the South Asian community." Surrey RCMP believes this incident may be linked to the extortion series. "Thankfully no one was injured during this incident," says Surrey RCMP Media Relations Officer, Sgt. Tammy Lobb. "The Surrey RCMP Serious Crime Unit has conduct of the investigation and in order to advance the investigation, we are



Police released a photo of the two suspects believed to be involved as well as a photo of the vehicle they allegedly used



releasing a photo of the two suspects we believe are involved as well as a photo of the vehicle they allegedly used in commission of the offence," said Sgt. Lobb.

The vehicle, a Kia Rio 5, was recovered on August 12, 2024 and investigators have determined it was stolen from a business complex in Newton.

*Continued on page 23*

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## RCMP Constable Panch: a journey of courage and advocacy



The story of Constable Pancharatnarajah (Panch) is one of resilience, courage, and determination. As a 2SLGBTQI+ South Asian woman and Tamil immigrant, she pursued her dream of becoming a police officer despite facing numerous challenges both within and outside her community. Panch's unwavering commitment to her goal serves as a beacon of hope for others who dare to follow their dreams against all odds. (Read her interview on Page 13)

## BC Police bust superlab producing illicit synthetic drugs

Charges have recently been approved against 5 BC men in relation to a complex multijurisdictional investigation. Balbinder Johal, Dennis Halstead, Shawn Cappis, Richard Waugh, and Christopher Alves have been charged with multiple offences.



RCMP Federal Policing say that five men have been charged following an investigation that resulted in the dismantling of a large and sophisticated synthetic drug lab. The investigation led to the search of 4 properties which resulted in the locating and dismantling of a large sophisticated synthetic drug lab, and the seizure of 49 kilograms of MDMA (Ecstasy). In the spring of 2022, the RCMP Pacific Region Federal Policing Program began an investigation that led to the identification of multiple

persons and properties believed to be involved in the production, and trafficking of MDMA. On August 17, 2022, the CLEAR team, with the assistance of other RCMP units, executed 4 search warrants on properties located in the cities of Maple Ridge and Coquitlam, BC. As a result, police arrested 5 people on scene and located a large sophisticated economic-based synthetic drug lab that was capable of producing multi-kilograms of MDMA per cycle.

*Continued on page 23*

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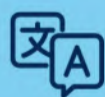
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## Canada boosts programs to attract French-speaking international students and immigrants

CHURCH POINT, NS: Canada has announced plans to redouble its efforts to welcome French-speaking newcomers. Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced that the new Francophone Minority Communities Student Pilot (FMCSPP) program will be launched on August 26, 2024, in partnership with designated French-language and bilingual post-secondary learning institutions (DLIs).

Minister Miller also announced the addition of 10 communities to the Welcoming Francophone Communities (WFC) initiative. There 10 new communities are Nanaimo (British Columbia), Red River (Manitoba), Chéticamp (Nova Scotia), Belle-Baie, Caraquet and Restigouche West Region (New Brunswick), Prince Albert (Saskatchewan) and Cornwall, as well as Cochrane District (Highway 11 corri-



dor) and London (Ontario). The Minister made these announcements on the occasion of the Acadian World Congress, in Nova Scotia.

“Promoting French is of prime importance to us. By welcoming Francophone immigrants and supporting them in their integration process, we contribute to the revitalization of these communities, while meeting their skilled workforce needs. We

are all the more determined to help more Francophone international students come to Canada and build a future in our dynamic Francophone communities, while contributing to the development of the French-speaking world,” he said.

The participants in the FMCSPP program are not bound to provide a provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter with their study permit application. They will have to present a letter of acceptance from a participating post-secondary DLI that confirms they may participate in the pilot program. A maximum of 2,300 applications will be accepted for processing in the first year of the pilot program. The spouses or common-law partners of the principal applicants may also come to Canada under the pilot program and eventually apply for permanent residence.

“Canada recognizes that large pools of

Enhancing the vitality of Francophone communities by welcoming French-speaking international students and immigrants

Canada

French-speaking international students exist in Africa, the Middle East and the Americas, and that the study permit approval rate in these regions has been low in the past. Thanks to the new pilot program, we will make access to Canada’s International Student Program fairer for a wide range of international students,” he said.

The pilot program is a flagship measure of the Policy on Francophone Immigration announced earlier this year and will benefit FMCs by helping them attract and retain international students. To improve the approval rate, students and their families will be exempted from having to demonstrate that they will leave Canada at the end of their temporary stay. In addition, the required financial threshold will

## BC Conservative party demands full audit of Surrey Langley Skytrain project after Province announces updated cost

The members of the BC Conservative Party are demanding immediate accountability and a full audit of the Surrey-Langley Skytrain after Province announced that all three contracts have been awarded for the project and said that the project will now cost almost \$6 billion.

In a release the province mentioned that the cost of the project, now \$5.996 billion, has been updated in response to market conditions, including rising inflation costs and key commodity escalation, supply-chain pressures and labour-market challenges.

According to John Rustad, leader of BC Conservative party that \$6 billion cost is an outrageous 50% increase from the original \$3.94 billion estimate. Worse still, the project’s completion has been delayed to late 2029, a full year beyond the already

delayed timeline. “This \$2 billion blowout is an absolute disgrace. It’s a direct result of this government’s gross incompetence and inability to manage even the most basic aspects of a major infrastructure project. British Columbians should be outraged. The NDP has failed our province on every front—from affordability to accountability.” Major construction on the first rapid-transit project south of the Fraser River in 30 years is expected to begin in 2024, with guideway, stations, and systems and trackwork contractors now in place. Once complete, people in the region will be able to travel between Langley City and Surrey Centre in approximately 22 minutes and between Langley and downtown Vancouver in just more than an hour.

SkyLink Guideway Partners (SLGP) will



design, build and finance the elevated guideway and associated roadworks, utilities and active transportation elements. South Fraser Station Partners (SFSP), which will build the eight new stations and Transit Integrators BC (TIBC), which will design and build the systems and trackwork.

Elenore Sturko, MLA for Surrey South and Conservative Party of British Columbia

candidate for Surrey-Cloverdale, echoed Rustad’s criticism and highlighted the impact on her constituents in Surrey-Cloverdale: “This is not just a mismanagement issue; this is a betrayal of the public’s trust. Residents of Surrey and Langley are being forced to shoulder the burden of this government’s failure. Delays, broken promises, and skyrocketing costs—this is what happens when the NDP is in charge. It’s time for real leadership that will prioritize people over political games.”

Rustad and Sturko are demanding immediate accountability and a full audit of the project. They are calling on the government to explain how it allowed costs to spiral out of control and why British Columbians should continue to foot the bill for its failures.

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# PICS Society Opens New Location in Prince George

Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society has opened its new office in Prince George, BC, located at Unit 203 – 715 Victoria Street. According to PICS this expansion reflects Society’s unwavering commitment to supporting skilled immigrants, seniors, international students, and other community members throughout Northern BC.

The new office offers a comprehensive range of services, including credential navigation pathways, career counseling, job-readiness coaching, mentorship, resume building, and pre-arrival services. By bringing these essential resources closer to the community, PICS Society aims to empower individuals to achieve their professional and personal goals, both be-

fore and after their arrival in Canada.

The grand opening event was attended by over 150 people, including a diverse group of local dignitaries and community leaders including the Mayor of Prince George Simon Yu, Member of Parliament Todd Doherty, and representatives from the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), Work BC



Centre – Prince George, Prince George Chamber of Commerce, local Sikh temple leaders, and numerous local business professionals. Their presence underscored the collaborative spirit of this initiative and highlighted the strong support from the community.

Satbir Cheema, CEO & President of PICS Society, commented on the event: “The successful opening of our Prince George office represents a major milestone in our mission to provide high-quality support to diverse communities across British Columbia. We are deeply grateful for the support of our local partners and leaders, who share our commitment to enhancing the lives of residents in Northern BC.”

The open house provided an opportunity for attendees to tour the new office and learn more about the range of services

available, including the pre-arrival support designed to assist newcomers before they even set foot in Canada. Raj Brar, Director of Career and FCR Services at PICS, shared her enthusiasm: “We are excited to extend our services to Prince George and strengthen our support for the region. The presence of so many esteemed guests and community members at our open house was truly inspiring. We look forward to collaborating with local organizations and individuals to help them navigate their career and educational journeys, both pre-arrival and upon arrival in Canada.”

With this new location, PICS Society continues its legacy of over 30 years of service, reinforcing its dedication to the development and empowerment of diverse communities across British Columbia.

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# Punjabi Music Star AP Dhillon Strikes Deal With Republic Records

Shining as a leader in the Punjabi music scene, acclaimed singer, rapper, and producer AP Dhillon has signed to Republic Records in alliance with Universal Music Canada. He unveiled his new single and video, which marks the first release under this newly minted partnership, "Old Money," out now.

The deal is being described as a "groundbreaking deal" with Republic Records in alliance with Universal Music Canada.

Republic said on Monday (August 5) that the India-born, Canada-based superstar "becomes the first-ever India-born singer-songwriter, rapper and record producer of Punjabi lineage" to join the label's roster.

A recent report on the Canadian streaming market from former Spotify Chief Economist Will Page noted that Punjabi is "the fastest growing musiclanguage in Canada right now, thanks to the success of artists like Ikky, Karan Aujla, and AP Dhillon."

Elsewhere in the market, in August last year, Warner Music Canada and Warner Music India launched 91 NORTH RECORDS, a JV led by artist and producer Ikky (Ikwinder Singh) aimed at supporting artists of South Asian heritage.

Dhillon's first release on Republic will be Old Money, a new single and video that will arrive on August 9, 2024. Two weeks later, on August 23, 2024, a new album, The Brownprint, will follow.

The 31-year-old Dhillon moved to Canada in 2015 for his post-graduation course in Business Administration and Management. According to one report, for about four years, he did odd jobs like working at gas stations and convenience stores, a detail that also features in his 2020 hit "Brown Munde."

Dhillon has co-produced the majority of The Brownprint, with DZL (Future, Central Cee), Luca Mauti (J.Cole, Eminem) and AzizTheShake (BIA, Central Cee) also contributing to the upcoming album.

Reflecting on the deal, Monte Lipman, Founder & Chairman, Republic said: "AP Dhillon is not only an incredible artist who continues to defy gravity in real



Avery Lipman (Founder and Vice Chairman, REPUBLIC), Monte Lipman (Founder and Chairman, REPUBLIC), AP Dhillon, Jeffrey Remedios (Chairman and CEO, Universal Music Canada)

time, but a shrewd visionary with a global reach that has already sparked a cultural revolution."

Added Lipman: "We're thrilled to join forces with Universal Music Canada under the leadership of Chairman and C.E.O. Jeffrey Remedios to further extend AP's impact and music around the world."

AP Dhillon added: "Republic Records always saw the vision. They got and understood who I am from day one. We're all in harmony when it comes to this new music, and now I just can't wait to show everybody what we've been cooking up."

AP Dhillon's long-time business manager Kevin Buttar added: "AP Dhillon is a next-generation artist who continues to redefine the boundaries of music beyond the limitations of geographies and cultures. "This signing marks a pivotal moment for brown representation globally and a huge step forward for Punjabi music.

"We are excited to partner with Republic Records and to be a part of an organization that has such a diverse and iconic catalog."

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# B.C. Announces New Programs And Funding To Support Tree Fruit Growers

PENTICTON, BC: Ever since the BC Tree Fruits Cooperative announced its sudden decision to close its operations, BC fruit growers were left in a lurch. The BC government announced three new or updated financial supports and changes to help stabilize their bottom line and overcome significant challenges posed by extreme weather, market instability and the recent closure of the BC Tree Fruits Cooperative.

The Cooperative is responsible for promoting, picking, transporting, packing and delivering fruits like apples, cherries, pears and apricots. "On July 25, 2024, the Board of Directors determined that due to extremely low estimated fruit volumes and difficult market conditions, the cooperative would not be able to effectively operate the business and provide pool returns to growers," the cooperative said in the letter. The Province is enhancing its AgriStability program to raise the AgriStability compensation rate to 90% and double the compensation cap for all farmers for the



2024 program year. This will provide an estimated \$15 million in immediate relief to farmers in need. This enhancement will help stabilize farm income and help farmers manage the increasing risk due to extreme weather. Late enrolment will also be available for producers not enrolled in the AgriStability program. The new Tree Fruit Climate Resiliency

program will provide \$5 million to help tree-fruit farmers buy equipment and pursue projects that were not eligible under previous programs. This will strengthen farm resilience and preparedness for extreme weather. This program will build on the successful extreme weather preparedness program and recognizes the effect of climate-change events on the tree-fruit sector during the past few years.

"Locally grown fruit is loved across B.C., but for the last few years, farmers and the industry as a whole have faced unprecedented challenges," said Premier David Eby. "From extreme weather driven by climate change to the closure of the processing co-operative, growers need support if they are going to be able to survive and thrive in the future. We're taking action now at the provincial level, and also championing important changes needed from federal government. Farmers need all levels of government to pitch in during this critical moment."

Sukhpaul Bal, president, BC Cherry Association, said: "The BC Cherry Association is pleased with today's announcement by the B.C. government.

Extreme weather events over the past five years have been devastating for agriculture in B.C., and as resilient as farmers are, this support recognizes these sudden changes in climate go far beyond what they can handle. Moving forward, British Columbia can and should be a leader in food production, but we recognize this needs an agricultural strategy that re-examines the entire food system and an unprecedented investment in agriculture. Finally, we would like to thank and acknowledge ministry staff for working tirelessly with industry leaders in providing this immediate support and we look forward to working collaboratively on long-term, sustainable strategies and solutions."

To support the longevity and sustainability of the sector, Premier Eby and Alexis have directed the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to begin developing, in consultation with industry, options for a one-time fund with an emphasis on smaller producers.

"We are appreciative of the Province's actions to support the tree-fruit sector, which has been grappling with significant challenges for the past four years," said Peter Simonsen, president, BC Fruit Growers Association. "The enhancements to the AgriStability program and the introduction of the Tree Fruit Climate Resiliency program are positive steps toward stabilizing our industry, and we are particularly encouraged by the development of a one-time Climate Change Response Fund that can provide immediate relief to our farmers who are on the front lines of climate change. However, we must remember this is just the first step in a long journey. There is much more work to be done to ensure the sustainability and growth of our sector. We look forward to working closely with the Province and all levels of government to ensure the longevity of the B.C. tree fruit sector."

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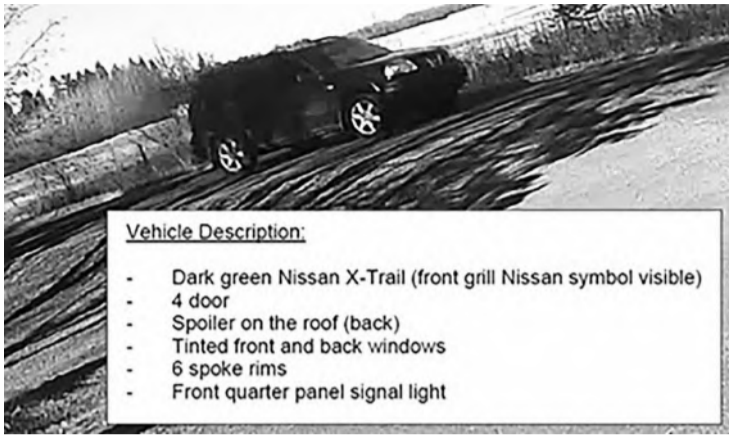
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# Edmonton Police seek assistance locating suspect vehicle in double homicide of Harpreet and Gavin Uppal

Edmonton Police Service (EPS) Homicide detectives are seeking the public's assistance locating a suspect vehicle that is related to the deaths of a father and son at an Ellerslie area business in 2023. Police are actively searching for a green 2005-2007 Nissan X-trail that investigators believe is linked to the November 2023 shooting deaths of Harpreet Uppal, 41, and his son, Gavin Uppal, 11. The vehicle is noted to have distinctive damage along the passenger side, including a horizontal dent along the rear bumper and a distinctive rust spot over the rear passenger tire. Images of the vehicle and damage are included below. Harpreet Uppal and his son Gavin Uppal, father and son,



**Vehicle Description:**

- Dark green Nissan X-Trail (front grill Nissan symbol visible)
- 4 door
- Spoiler on the roof (back)
- Tinted front and back windows
- 6 spoke rims
- Front quarter panel signal light

were shot to death on Nov. 9, 2023 outside of a business in the area of 50 Street and Ellerslie Road. A third vehicle occupant, another 11-year-old boy not related to Uppal or his son, fled the vehicle immediately after the shooting and was not physically

injured. According to media reports, Harpreet Uppal was a "higher-level figure" in Edmonton's organised crime scene. "Mr. Uppal was very well known to us, very high up in the gang drug world," said Edmonton

Police Acting superintendent Colin Derksen at that time. "We had worked very hard over the years to try to warn and give him opportunities to step out of that lifestyle, and keep him and his family safe."

It was reported to police that the suspects arrived in a black BMW SUV. The two then exited their vehicle, ran towards Uppal's white SUV, fired a weapon and fled the scene. Detectives determined that the shooting was targeted, and Mr. Uppal's 11-year-old son was intentionally murdered.

A short time after the shooting, police were notified of a vehicle fire in the area of 34 Street and Township Road 510 (north of Beaumont).

*Continued on page 25*

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# BC United Announce Large Income Tax Break For Middle Class If Elected

VICTORIA, BC: BC United leader Kevin Falcon announced this week that if elected, a BC United Government would eliminate the provincial income tax on the first \$50,000 earned by every British Columbian which he called “largest middle class tax cut in BC’s history.”

“BC United will implement the largest middle class tax cut in B.C.’s history by eliminating the provincial income tax for 60 percent of British Columbians. This historic tax cut will put an average of \$2,050 back into your wallet, helping you afford essentials like food, gas, and kid’s extracurricular programs,” said Falcon.



It’s the biggest policy proposal announced so far by the official Opposition, as B.C. United continues to lag behind the B.C. Conservatives in opinion polls.

For the first time in more than a decade, more people are leaving B.C. than moving to the province. This historic tax cut will put more money back into the pockets of students, families, and seniors. “The tax cut is projected to cost \$5.4 billion annually, about 1 percent of B.C.’s nominal GDP. However, the expected increase in economic activity, consumer spending, and job creation is anticipated to offset a significant amount of the revenue

loss,” Falcon said.

“Completely eliminating income tax for 60 percent of British Columbians in the middle of this NDP affordability crisis will ensure our children, nurses, doctors, and families can actually afford to live in our province again,” added Peter Milobar, BC United Shadow Minister for Finance and MLA for Kamloops North-Thompson.

The first \$50,000 of income will be tax-free by increasing the Basic Personal Exemption. Taxpayers will save up to \$2,050 annually with this change. Over 2.4 million British Columbians will pay no provincial income tax.

# Former Attorney General Wally Oppal Raises Concerns Following Financial Regulator’s Punitive Action

VANCOUVER, BC: BC’s former attorney general is raising concerns about a recent decision by the province’s financial regulator that he believes could have implications across the sector.

Acting as legal representative for Rent It Furnished, Wally Oppal said the BC Financial Services Authority (BCFSA) suspended his client’s licence and froze trust accounts under an unfair urgent order.

The July 25 order itself stated the BCFSA had zero evidence of a public complaint, nor evidence of misappropriation of trust funds. Prior to issuing the order, the BCFSA also didn’t give Rent It Furnished an opportunity to defend itself.

Rent It Furnished is a Vancouver-based company that provides furnished rentals and property management services in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.

The order was rescinded August 9 following an urgent legal hearing that included results from KPMG’s

third-party forensic audit, which Rent It Furnished commissioned to vindicate itself. BCFSA said in a release, “BCFSA varied the Urgent Order suspending RIF’s licence and rescinded the Urgent Order freezing the brokerage’s trust accounts, which allows RIF to resume providing rental property management and real estate services and disperse funds to its clients. An Urgent Order remains in force and requires RIF to provide monthly trust reconciliations to BCFSA until its disciplinary hearing, scheduled for November 12, 2024.”

“The BCFSA has a legitimate role to protect the public, but this suspension didn’t fit the circumstances and caused widespread disruption to the business and members of the public who depend on it,” said Oppal, who served for almost 25 years as a BC Supreme Court & Appeals Court Justice before becoming attorney general. “While Rent It Furnished had some administrative issues, the order was unnecessarily punitive, especially



considering the business is classified an essential service. I am pleased the BCFSA took a second look and rescinded it.”

Founder and CEO Erika Weimer agrees there were issues with how reports were being reconciled and generated on the company’s automated systems, but she and her

staff were working actively with the BCFSA to resolve the issues when the order blindsided them.

“I am still numb from what happened because there was zero evidence of misappropriation of trust funds, which we fought relentlessly to prove,” said Weimer, who started the company 15 years ago. “Though the suspension was brief, thousands of our landlords and tenants were disrupted and had to seek temporary assistance outside of our company to pay and receive rent, and we were forbidden from tending to building maintenance emergencies.”

Rent It Furnished resumed operations and staff is working diligently to process rent transactions between landlords and tenants and tend to maintenance emergencies.

Rent It Furnished still faces a disciplinary hearing scheduled for November 12 to 14, and until then, is required to provide the BCFSA monthly trust reconciliation accounts.



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# 19 Year Old Burnaby Man Charged With Multiple Offences After Sextortion Investigation

A 19-year-old Burnaby man has been charged in relation to the alleged online sextortion of multiple teenage victims after a cross-country investigation led by Burnaby RCMP's Child Abuse and Sexual Offences (CASO) Unit. The investigation began after several victims located in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario reported to police that they were being extorted online after sharing explicit images with someone they met on social media platforms. The suspect then allegedly demanded money under threat of sending images to the victims' social networks. A Burnaby resident was identified as the suspect, and Burnaby RCMP's CASO

Unit began investigating in December 2022. On January 26, 2023 a search warrant was executed at a home in Burnaby. On July 11, 2024, Anwer Jelassi of Burnaby was charged with 23 offences. Jelassi is subject of a number of court-ordered conditions, including not to contact any victims, not to have contact with anyone under the age of 16, and not to access social networking or dating sites, including TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Bumble, and Tinder. Anyone with information to indicate Jelassi is breaching his conditions is asked to call Burnaby RCMP at 604-646-9999 and quote file 22-18157.

The majority of charges relate to victims between the ages of 15 and 18 who reported incidents to police in their jurisdictions. Their identities are protected by a publication ban. We would really like to commend these victims for coming forward and reporting these incidents to police, said Cpl. Max Gagné with Burnaby RCMP's CASO unit. Their bravery in stepping forward and telling someone has allowed us to advance this investigation, which has now resulted in criminal charges. Burnaby RCMP would like to thank the law enforcement partners who assisted in the investigation, including the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Team

(ICE). There continues to be an increase in sextortion cases in Burnaby and across Canada, though they are believed to be widely unreported. Online sexual extortion is a crime that has had tragic outcomes, said Cpl. Gagné. We want to remind victims that they are not alone and that we are here to help them and hold offenders to account. If you have been victimized by this type of crime, please report it to police. For additional resources on keeping kids safe online, Burnaby RCMP encourages families to visit Cybertip.ca. Sextortion victims can report incidents to their local police or through Cybertip.ca.

## Langley Police Officer Struck When Conducting Traffic Enforcement

Langley RCMP said that a police officer was struck by in a motor vehicle collision on August 9, 2024 in the 5000 block of 208 Street in Langley. At approximately 11:20 am, a Langley RCMP officer was conducting traffic enforcement in the 5000 block of 208 Street when the police officer was struck by a vehicle. The suspect vehicle fled the scene heading northbound on 208th Street. The area around 50th Avenue and 208th Street was closed during the investigation. The police officer was transported to hospital with what are believed to be non-life threatening injuries. Investigation led Police to a nearby address where a



22-year-old Langley man was taken into Police custody without incident and the suspect vehicle, a blue Infiniti G35 was recovered. "The Langley RCMP would like to express a huge thanks to the local public and our safety partners that involved themselves in the incident

with our officer this morning. Numerous by-standers stopped to provide both medical assistance or waited to provide witness accounts. The amazing response from on duty and off-duty British Columbia Ambulance Service paramedics and members of the Langley

City Fire department was incredible. Even members of the community who had been stopped in the traffic enforcement campaign graciously did all they could to assist! Given the egregiousness of his injuries, our officer's fate likely could have been far worse if it had not been for the kindness of those who helped. It proved to us once again how lucky we are to live and work in this community," said Officer in Charge of Langley RCMP, Supt. Adrian Marsden. Anyone with more information, including dash cam footage around the area is asked to contact the Langley RCMP at 604-532-3200 and quote file# 24-25379.

## Stabbing At Party In Surrey Leaves 3 Injured

On August 9, 2024, at approximately 12:30 am Surrey RCMP responded to a report of a stabbing at a large party in the 11300 block of Loughren Drive. Upon arrival police located 3 victims who had sustained serious injuries and were transported to hospital. Initial information indicates that there was an altercation between parties which escalated to 3 people being stabbed. Surrey RCMP's General Investigations Unit is currently gathering evidence and working to identify the suspect(s). Anyone who witnessed the incident or has any information is asked to contact Surrey RCMP at 604-599-0502 and quote file 2024-117069.

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# B.C. Residents Face The Highest Rate Of Unaffordable Housing In Canada: Report

B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner launched a report this week that highlights significant inequities and injustices affecting B.C. residents. The report *British Columbia. Rights in Focus: Lived Realities in B.C.* takes a focused look at 10 key systems impacting human rights in BC.

The systems selected for the report are those that most impact B.C. residents' social, economic and political lives. The Rights in focus include housing, adequate standard of living, education, health, fair treatment in public spaces, employment, treatment in criminal justice, treatment in family spheres, treatment by the child welfare system and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

"Across B.C., there are inequalities in the systems we interact with every day or when we are in need of extra support—from schools to workplaces; from hospitals to courthouses," said Commissioner Kasari Govender. "Such inequities impact all of us, but impact



B.C.'s Human Rights Commission

marginalized people and communities in particular. We must ensure that we place human rights considerations at the centre of

key issues concerning housing, climate, child protection, criminal justice and public health because these systems are instrumental in either protecting or undermining our human dignity and rights entitlements."

B.C. residents face the highest rate of unaffordable housing in Canada. As a result, homelessness and encampments are on the rise: the 2023 homeless count identified 31 per cent more people experiencing homelessness when compared with 2020/21.

Everyone has the right to adequate housing: housing that is safe, affordable, accessible, culturally appropriate, legally secure and in good repair. All levels of government are obligated to take steps, to the maximum of their available resources, to realize the right to housing. Yet there remains an alarming, widening gap between this standard and the reality in British Columbia. In fact, B.C. residents face one of the world's most inaccessible housing markets. As a result,

homelessness and encampments are on the rise: the 2023 homeless count identified 31 per cent more people experiencing homelessness when compared with 2020/21. While the housing crisis affects everyone, its impacts are particularly severe for marginalized people.

**The right to an adequate standard of living:** About one in nine B.C. residents lives in poverty. Moreover, after years of decline, the poverty rate rose from 7.6 per cent in 2020 to 11.6 per cent in 2022.

**The right to education:** In B.C., there are large differences between groups in educational outcomes. 92 per cent of all students complete secondary school in six years, but only 78 per cent of students with disabilities, and 75 per cent of Indigenous students.

**The right to fair treatment in employment:** One in 10 respondents to a poll conducted for our Office reported experiencing discrimination based on their identity when applying for a job in B.C. This is consistent with other research that shows that people from marginalized identity groups are less likely to be employed, work in secure jobs or hold managerial roles and they earn less for their work.

**The right to health:** Many people lack access to basic care, including 17 per cent who are without a regular health care provider. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the toxic drug crisis have placed unprecedented additional demands on an already stretched health care system.

**The right to fair treatment in public spaces:** One in five Canadians, including 29 per cent of racialized people, have experienced some form of hate, harassment or violence online. Hate incidents rose dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, and again in response to recent violence in Gaza. This rise is reflected in police-reported hate crimes, but also in the many incidents not reported to police.

**The right to fair treatment in criminal justice:** Indigenous and racialized people, as well as people with mental health or substance use (MHSU) disorders, are at severely increased risk of interactions with the criminal justice system. For example, on any given day in 2023, about 1,829 individuals were in B.C. correctional centres and over one-third (662) of them identified as Indigenous.

**The right to fair treatment in the family sphere:** Regardless of employment status, women spend more time than men on childcare and household chores. This additional domestic burden is compounded by lower pay in the workforce, together increasing economic vulnerability and making it hard to leave abusive relationships.

*Continued on page 11*

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all the truth spoken by pt. ji. His friend did not believe on the predication. Pt. Vijay told his friend that after one and half year there will be hard time for you. It happened true there will be hard time for you. It happened true when Gursharan Singh went for interview at Canadian embassy for appearance to Canada immigration the officer asked him where are your kids. They were in India she immediately asked gursharan Singh that very shortly the will be here. You can apply

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# BC NDP Completes Nominations In Surrey

The BC NDP announced this week that it has completed its nomination process for its slate of candidates in Surrey.

A mix of long-standing veterans and first-time candidates, they are well-placed to tackle the challenges that we know Surrey faces: delivering housing you can afford, healthcare when you need it, and a more affordable day-to-day life.

The BC NDP's candidates in Surrey are: Jinny Sims (Surrey-Panorama) Jagrup Brar (Surrey-Fleetwood) Baltej Singh Dhillon (Surrey-Serpentine River) Mike Starchuk (Surrey-Cloverdale) Jessie Sunner (Surrey-Newton) Amna Shah (Surrey City Centre) Darryl Walker (Surrey-White Rock) Haroon Ghaffar (Surrey South) Garry Begg (Surrey-Guildford) Rachna Singh (Surrey North)

The two most recently nominated candidates, Jessie Sunner and Amna Shah, replace retiring Surrey MLAs Harry Bains and Bruce Ralston. Sunner and Shah are both deeply connected to their communities, fighting for labour rights, serving in community organizations and connecting government to diverse communities.

"Jessie Sunner has spent her career fighting for better working conditions for healthcare workers — for the people who care for us and our loved ones when they are sick," said Harry Bains, the outgoing MLA in Surrey-Newton. "She is a tremendously accomplished legal professional and a pillar of the community, serving on the boards of the South Asian



Haroon Ghaffar, former journalist and public servant, was recently appointed BC NDP candidate in Surrey South.

nutritious food to eat. She will fight for the people of Surrey City Centre every day." Since forming government in July 2017, the BC NDP has taken action on issues that matter to the people of Surrey. It has ended unfair bridge tolls, built and refurbished new hospitals, including a new hospital in Surrey, hired more family doctors and nurses, implemented more protections for gig workers and reduced the red tape associated with new housing construction, creating more housing options for people in their home communities. Election Day is October 19, 2024.

Bar Association, the BC Canadian Bar Association Human Rights Law Section, and the BC College of Social Workers. The people of Surrey-Newton can count on Jessie to be in their corner to fight for them."

"Amna Shah has worked for years to connect diverse communities in Surrey, and across BC, to their government. She knows and understands people's issues, and acts to make things better," added Bruce Ralston, outgoing MLA for Surrey-

Whalley. "As a Director of the Surrey Food Bank, she's also taken action directly to ensure that everyone in Surrey can have

Continued from Page 10

## BC Residents Face The Highest...

**The right to fair treatment by the child welfare system:** The number of children and youth in care (CYIC) has decreased in recent years, but the child welfare system disproportionately affects children from marginalized families, particularly those who are Indigenous, experiencing poverty or living with disabilities. For example, despite making up only 10 per cent of the population, 68 per cent of CYIC are Indigenous.

**All human rights depend on a clean, healthy and sustainable environment:** The harm falls disproportionately on marginalized people, who have contributed least to the crisis and whose rights are already least secure. This was evident in recent years as unprecedented flooding, heat waves, and wildfires destroyed biodiversity, lives and property across the province.

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# RCMP Constable Pancharatnarajah: a journey of courage and advocacy

Richmond RCMP continues to celebrate the 50th anniversary of women in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This milestone represents a significant achievement in the history of diversity and inclusion within the RCMP. As part of this commemoration, we are featuring a series of profiles of RCMP members serving the Richmond detachment, highlighting their diverse ranks, roles, and backgrounds.

Constable Pancharatnarajah (Panch) is a dedicated and compassionate RCMP officer with four-and-a-half years of service. She recently joined the Richmond RCMP Special Victims Unit (SVU), a unit tasked with investigating some of the most sensitive and impactful crimes within the community. The SVU's mandate includes investigating crimes related to physical and sexual abuse of children, child luring, and the possession, making, and distribution of Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CEM). The unit works closely with BC integrated Child Exploitation (BC ICE) and US Homeland Security to ensure thorough investigations and the protection of vulnerable individuals. In her role, Cst. Panch conducts interviews and monitors statements with children under 14 years old, providing critical support and advocacy for the youngest victims in our community.

Cst. Panch is also an appointed director on the board of Out on Patrol, an organization for 2SLGBTQI+ law enforcement officers.

#### What inspired you to join the RCMP?

Growing up, I always dreamed of becoming a police officer. Through my lived experiences as an 2SLGBTQI+ South Asian woman and Tamil immigrant, a police officer was not in the equation growing up. My parents didn't have that dream for me, as being a police officer back home was considered a 'man's job.' Additionally, growing up in a South Asian household in Scarborough, Ontario, police officers were often disliked and viewed as being racist and violent towards our community. It took me a long time to finally decide to pursue my dreams and apply to the RCMP.

I joined the police force to break down barriers within my culture, and within the force itself. I wanted to show Tamil women that they should always follow their dreams, never stop believing, and not allow others to decide their fate. I wanted to show Tamil women that they do not need to sit at an unenjoyable desk job that is expected of them. And importantly, I wanted to show Tamil and South Asian women that even though policing has historically been viewed as a man's job, we can and must break those barriers and achieve anything we put our minds to.

#### What motivates you to continue serving in law enforcement?

What motivates me to continue serving law enforcement is seeing a difference in people's

faces and thought processes when they learn that I am a police officer. Witnessing their joy when they see a South Asian woman in a uniform gives me the motivation to wake up every day and do what I do. Growing up, there was no representation of South Asian women, especially Tamil women, in law enforcement. If I can be the representation or a role model for other South Asian women, then I know I did something right.

#### What challenges have you faced in your career, and how have you overcome them?

My intersectional identity as a woman, lesbian, Tamil, and visible person of colour has produced unique challenges. When meeting new members or coming into a new detachment, there are always challenges in ensuring that people are comfortable with my sexuality or their ability to pronounce my name. Luckily, I've only encountered 1 or 2 instances where I was uncomfortable with comments



addressed to me by fellow members, and I have been able to address this within the workplace. I have also faced some harsh interactions during calls, including comments from fellow racialized people accusing me of betraying people of colour for wearing my uniform, and from men of colour for not being a traditional South Asian woman by being a police officer. Speaking to the South Asian community about why I became a police officer has been rewarding work for me.

#### Can you share a memorable experience from your time with the RCMP?

In 2023, my colleagues informed me of a non-profit organization called Out on Patrol. This organization is made up of 2SLGBTQI+ members of law enforcement, with a focus on community outreach, charitable work, and education. My most memorable experience was being invited to join the Out on Patrol booth at Kelowna Pride during my time with the Kelowna detachment. We set up a tent in Kelowna Park, alongside other vendors, which allowed us to connect with the community. Out on Patrol has had a massive impact on the Kelowna community, garnering significant positive feedback. After moving to Richmond RCMP, I had the privilege of joining Out on Patrol as a board member.

#### What advice would you give to young women considering a career with the RCMP?

Don't let anything or anyone stop you from following your dreams. Not your sexuality, your cultural norms, the colour of your skin, or your gender. Keep going.

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# Sunset Indo-Canadian Seniors' Society elects new leadership



By Zile Singh

The Sunset Indo-Canadian Seniors' Society, a pillar of community support since its establishment in 1977, recently marked a significant milestone. Some salient features of the Society are that it is apolitical, non-profit, non-partisan, multicultural and multireligious.

Financially it is self-sufficient without any grant from the government so far. Its office bearers are chosen unanimously. The members and office bearers are from different professions and backgrounds with varied experience.

Thursday, August 8, 2024, was a significant day in the history of the Society. Keeping in view the changing times and the emergence of new thought and enthusiasm, some major decisions were taken unanimously by all members present in



the meeting.

Since its inception, some office bearers have served for indefinite periods spanning from 5 to 15 years. In some cases, even till death. The Society's Constitution is silent on this subject. However, for some time, ideas were brewing among members to do away with long tenures, and some old Resolutions passed at different times in the past regarding holding of posts in the Executive Committee. Keeping in view the unity, and harmonious relations among

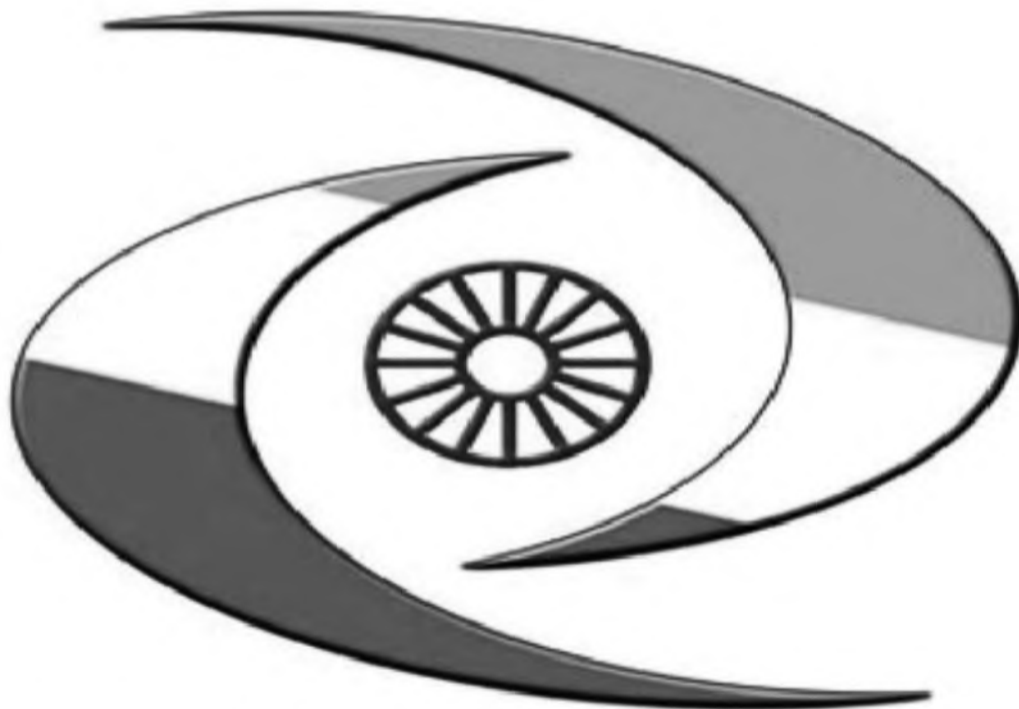
members, the following six office bearers stepped down voluntarily paving the way for the newcomers.

The outgoing office bearers were Mr. Gurpal Singh Pandher, (President); Manjit Singh Dhillon, (Vice President) Amrik Singh Mann, (General Secretary); Jarnail Singh Sahota, (Treasurer), Sucha Singh Claire and Gurcharan Singh Waraich (Directors). The total number of office bearers or the Directors is eleven. The five directors retained from the previous commit-

tee are Mr. Raghbir Singh Uppal, Dinesh Malhotra, Gurdarshan Singh Matharoo, Kuldeep Singh Jagpal and Zile Singh.

To elect the replacements for the outgoing six Directors, an election committee headed by Mr. Rajinder Singh Pandher, with Jaswinder Singh Bajwa and Bhupinder Singh Dhillon as members, was appointed. For six posts, seven nominations came forward. To avoid election, Mr. Sagan Gandhi, one of the nominees, was persuaded to withdraw to facilitate six vacancies to be filled by unanimous vote. He withdrew and was applauded by all.

The new office bearers of the Society are as follows: Dr. Gurbax Singh Sidhu, (President); Mukhtiar Singh Boparai, (Vice President); Surjit Singh Manhas, (General Secretary); Ajant Singh Sandhu, (Assistant Secretary); Dinesh Malhotra, (Treasurer); Kuldeep Singh Jagpal, (Assistant Treasurer), and Zile Singh, (Secretary Public Relations). Raghbir Singh Uppal, Gurdarshan Singh Matharoo, Balkar Singh Lalli and Makhan Singh Sandhu (Directors).



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## Duties on Canada's softwood lumber exports cannot be justified: Bruce Ralston



Bruce Ralston,  
BC Minister of Forests

The United States recently announced an increase in tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber from 8.05 percent to 14.45 percent, which will devastate Canada's forestry sector and the thousands of jobs that depend on it.

In a statement Canada's Minister of Export Promotion Mary Ng said, "Baseless and unfair U.S. duties on softwood lumber unjustifiably harm consumers and producers on both sides of the border. This latest measure will negatively impact workers and their communities. U.S. consumers and businesses that need Canadian lumber will bear the burden of these duties, making housing even less affordable for Americans."

The U.S. Department of Commerce initiated the fifth administrative reviews of its softwood lumber AD and CVD duty orders on March 14, 2023. It issued the preliminary results of these reviews on February 1, 2024. It issued its final results on August 13, 2024. The new combined duty rate that will apply to most softwood lumber exports is 14.54% compared to the previous rate of 8.05% from the fourth administrative reviews.

Continued on page 30



# CEDAR DENTAL CENTRE

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After a temporary absence, Dr. Koonar is back at Cedar Dental Centre, ready to serve the Surrey community with top-notch dental care. Located at Unit 201, 8434 120 Street, Surrey, BC, Cedar Dental Centre is once again buzzing with activity as Dr. Koonar reopens his practice doors to both old and new patients alike.

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In a special note, Dr. Koonar expresses his gratitude to the community for their continued support and loyalty. He emphasizes his commitment to providing the highest standard of care and looks forward to serving the Surrey community for years to come.



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**1837 COQUITLAM AVE**



**FOR SALE \$1,899,900**  
Brand New Beautiful house in very popular area of Port Coquitlam. 6 Bedroom house with 2 bedroom legal suite has great potential. Main Floor features open plan with lovely Kitchen and spice kitchen which is every Chef's dream. Family room and Dining Room with nicely finished ceilings. Upstairs features 4 Bedrooms and 3 Bathrooms. Huge Master bedroom with Ensuite and WIC is amazing. Downstairs 2 Bedroom legal suite is perfect for in-laws or for those ones looking for mortgage helper. Close to all levels of schools, transportation and Shopping.

**12364 53 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$6,199,000**  
This Property is located in the prestigious Panorama Ridge neighbourhood with development potential. 2.92 Acres of LAND! Property is free of creeks, right of ways and easements. Rectangular parcel. Please call for additional information.

**10048 SCOTT ROAD**



**FOR SALE \$2,799,000**  
Centrally located home with DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL! 16,500+ SQ.FT LOT! Currently 3 bed 1 bath home. Good exposure on the busy Scott road. Centrally located. 3 Km from Scott Road Skytrain Station. Great long term holding property.

**13130 69 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$2,329,900**  
Modern executive family home situated in the highly sought-after area of West Newton. This beautifully maintained residence features 10 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms. The home showcases elegant millwork, fresh paint, high-end finishes, and renovations throughout, including two mortgage-helper basement suites (2-bedroom and 1-bedroom). The foyer's high ceilings set a sophisticated tone, leading to a double-height living room and an adjacent dining room.

**13956 56 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$6,099,000**  
TRANSFORM YOUR LIVING EXPERIENCE & ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOR in ELEVATE YOUR LIFESTYLE in PANORAMA RIDGE! Securely nestled within an exclusive gated community, this impressive 2.109-acre estate captivates with stunning OCEANVIEW VIEWS! Boasting over 10,000 sq. ft. of opulent living space, every detail of this residence is a testament to world-class craftsmanship. As you step into the TOWERING FOYER adorned with breathtaking chandeliers and dual staircases, the essence of luxury unfolds. The custom gourmet kitchen, featuring top-grade appliances and a convenient wok kitchen, is a culinary masterpiece. In-floor heating with custom stonework and efficient A/C systems enhance the comfort of this home. With a total of 7 bedrooms, including 5 master suites and 6 ensuites. Call now!

**15185 92 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$2,299,000**  
This transit-oriented development property is located along Fraser Highway, about 385 meters from the upcoming SkyTrain station. It features 5 Bedrooms and 3 Bathrooms. There is also a 2 bedroom mortgage helper. The lot is rectangular and is over 9000 Sq.Ft. Currently designated for Low Rise Residential (2.0 FAR) under the Fleetwood Plan, the property has potential for increased density. Recent Provincial Legislation permits properties within 201-400 meters of a SkyTrain stop to qualify for a 4.0 FAR, allowing construction of up to 12 stories. Verification with the city is recommended.

**9569 124 STREET**



**FOR SALE \$2,099,000**  
This stunning residence in Queen Mary Park features 8 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms with 2 SUITES\*(2+2). Sitting on a MASSIVE 8000+ Sq.Ft Lot! Impeccably kept, this 8 bedroom home features a fantastic layout, generously sized bedrooms. With its great finishes, abundant windows, hot water heating and huge covered patio this home has it all. Walking distance to L.A Matheson Secondary and Cedar Hills Elementary this home is centrally located close to shops/restaurants and major bus routes. Easy access onto 96 avenue and Scott Road which leads to major hi

**14096 113A AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$2,298,000**  
Indulge in luxury living in this magnificent residence with breathtaking mountain views, ideally situated near the city center. The expansive living and dining areas, paired with a cozy family room on the main floor, offer ample space for both relaxation and entertainment. Upstairs, you'll discover five bedrooms and four bathrooms, including an oversized master suite featuring a lavish spa-like ensuite and a spacious walk-in closet. Thoughtfully designed with high-end finishes, this home also includes a double car garage, radiant heating, air conditioning, and more. Additionally, benefit from the potential for rental income with separate suites (1+1). Seize this extraordinary opportunity to own a splendid property, complete with the assurance of a 2-5-10 warranty.

**7893 147A STREET**



**FOR SALE \$2,249,000**  
CUSTOM BUILD! Immaculately maintained, this home feels brand new. Nestled on a 6700+ sq. ft. corner lot in the serene neighbourhood of Chimney Hill, this 5000+sq.ft. residence boasts 8 bedrooms, a rec room, and 9 baths with a spacious floor plan. The grand entryway with high ceilings extends into the living room, while the expansive kitchen offers abundant cabinet space and includes a large spice kitchen with a pantry. The main floor also features a generous family room, a 2-piece powder room, and a bonus master bedroom with a full bath. The top floor comprises 4 sizable bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, including 3 master bedrooms with walk-in closets.

**36 13670 62 AVE**



**FOR SALE \$899,000**  
Panorama South 62 complex! This is a beautiful four bedroom four bath Townhome backyard faces a greenbelt-ULTIMATE PRIVACY! Open concept main floor with 9ft ceiling and lots of natural light-bright and spacious living area and 3 bedroom upstairs. Main floor has beautiful kitchen with stainless steel appliances and bar fridge. Nice open dining room leading to living area which opens to sundeck. Additional bedroom in basement with 3 piece bath. This complex has lots of visitor parking. Close to schools and transit. Great neighbourhood.

**5945 130A STREET**



**FOR SALE \$1,999,900**  
PANORAMA RIDGE CORNER HOME! Features 6 BEDROOMS & 6 WASHROOMS + THEATRE ROOM w/Full Bath + 2 Bedroom Suite! You are welcomed into this custom built beauty with beautiful finishes. Bright and spacious living and dining rooms. Custom built kitchen along with a spice kitchen! Huge family room with big windows to soak in that natural light. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, 3 with their private ensuites and good size closets! In the basement there is a large media room perfect for entertaining with a FULL WASHROOM. There is also a 2 bedroom MORTGAGE HELPER! Fully finished with its own separate entrances. This home truly has it ALL! Perfect for the growing family.

**5559 129 STREET**



**FOR SALE \$2,990,000**  
PANORAMA RIDGE CUSTOM BUILT HOME- on a 13,500 Sq.Ft Lot. Welcome to this beautifully custom built home in the PRESTIGIOUS area of PANORAMA RIDGE. Featuring high end finishes, over sized windows, custom lighting fixtures, top of the line stainless steel appliances. Thoughtfully and tastefully built with an open concept in mind. Main floor features a large den, family/dining/living room, kitchen+spice kitchen, laundry and a massive rec room. There is also a massive patio, 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms and a den upstairs. In the basement you have a gym with half bathroom, a huge bar and theatre room. BONUS 2 bedroom suite, Triple Car Garage+massive driveway. Very large backyard and patio perfect for the summer bbq's.

**8508 GREENALL AVE**



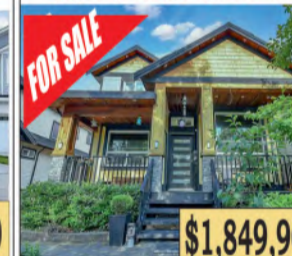
**FOR SALE \$1,749,900**  
Imagine your ideal home on this generous lot of over 7,400 square feet. This cleared and ready-to-build space is perfect for bringing your dream residence to life and even has room for a charming laneway addition. Located in a central area, the property offers easy access to shopping, convenient transit options, and quick routes to Vancouver or the Fraser Valley

**14761 62 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$1,999,000**  
SULLIVAN STATION BRAND NEW HOUSE Features 8 BEDROOMS & 7 WASHROOMS! You are welcomed into this custom built beauty with beautiful finishes. Bright and spacious living and dining rooms. Custom built kitchen along with a spice kitchen! Huge family room with big windows to soak in that natural light. There is also a den/bedroom on the main with a FULL washroom. Glass railings throughout. Modern design and finishes. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, 3 with their private ensuites and good size closets!

**6312 128 STREET**



**FOR SALE \$1,849,900**  
PANORAMA RIDGE! 7 Bed 6 Bath Home with 2 SUITES (2+1)! One of the most desirable areas of Surrey. Freshly painted with new flooring! Top finishing- 4 Bedrooms with 3 full baths upstairs with a MASSIVE sundeck to enjoy family gatherings/parties, quartz countertops, 2 bedroom legal basement suite and 1 bedroom unauthorised suite. The main floor features a living, dining, family, gourmet kitchen, half bath and den. Stainless steel kitchen appliances. Attached double garage with back lane access. A/C & comfort radiant heating, and much more!

**7688 115A STREET**



**FOR SALE \$2,088,000**  
Sited on an expansive 4600+ square foot lot within the highly desirable Scottsdale community, this newly constructed, custom-designed contemporary residence epitomizes opulent living. Boasting over 3500 square feet of living space, this home is tailor-made for a growing family. The main level greets you with an impressive foyer leading to commodious living and dining areas. A seamless integration of the family room and kitchen establishes a central gathering point for daily activities. Upstairs, four bedrooms await, including two lavish master suites featuring walk-in closets and en-suite bathrooms, alongside two additional bedrooms connected by a Jack and Jill bathroom.

**12352 96 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$2,349,999**  
QUEEN MARY PARK BRAND NEW HOME! Beautiful 7 Bed 7 Bath Home with a 2 bedroom suite with an option to have another 1 bedroom suite. This home has stunning finishes and loads of windows to soak in the natural light. As you walk into the home you are welcomed with a large living room and dining room. Huge family room and nook alongside a beautiful custom kitchen with island and BONUS spice kitchen. There is also a full bedroom with ensuite on the main floor with an additional theatre room open to your ideas! Upstairs features 4 large bedrooms ALL with their own PRIVATE ensuites and walk in closets.

**13253 80 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$1,199,000**  
BUILD YOUR 3 LEVEL DREAM HOME. This 5200 SQ.FT Lot is located in the heart of West Newton. Please call for more details.

**9 6089 144 STREET**



**FOR SALE \$799,000**  
Blackberry Walk II: This is a former show home and corner unit in the complex, featuring extra-large windows and a spacious yard. This exceptionally bright unit boasts a 9 ft ceiling and remains more impressive than any new units in the area. The main level includes a contemporary kitchen with shaker cabinets and quartz countertops, as well as a living room, dining room, powder room, and west-facing sundeck. The upper level has two generously sized bedrooms, including a master suite.

**3910 MARINE DRIVE**



**FOR SALE \$1,749,900**  
Imagine your ideal home on this generous lot of over 7,400 square feet. This cleared and ready-to-build space is perfect for bringing your dream residence to life and even has room for a charming laneway addition. Located in a central area, the property offers easy access to shopping, convenient transit options, and quick routes to Vancouver or the Fraser Valley.

**12943 87 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$1,499,000**  
This super clean Rancher home, located in the prime Queen Mary Park area of Surrey, is fully updated. It features approximately 1,600 sq. ft. of covered space on a 7,512 sq. ft. lot with back lane access. The beautiful Rancher offers a large living room, a modern kitchen, and a dining area. It has three good-sized bedrooms, including one master bedroom, two baths, and a laundry area. The home boasts laminate flooring, a 6-year-old roof, and new appliances. Additionally, there is a one-bedroom side suite, perfect as a mortgage helper.

**68 PEACE PARK DRIVE**



**FOR SALE \$1,288,000**  
Imagine your ideal home on this generous lot of over 4,800 square feet. This cleared and ready-to-build space is perfect for bringing your dream residence to life.

**7784 DUNSMUIR STREET**



**FOR SALE \$6,880,000**  
Sale by Court Order: 3.27 acres development opportunity situated in Mission's prime location. The property boasts Urban Residential zoning (R558) and is earmarked for Attached Multi-Unit Residential development. Land value only.

**17351 80 AVENUE**



**FOR SALE \$5,499,000**  
Experience tranquil living on a spacious 10-acre property in Surrey, offering a perfect blend of rural serenity and urban convenience. Nestled within a peaceful farm environment, this flat, square parcel of land is just a short drive away from all essential amenities. The charming 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom Rancher boasts approximately 1700 sq ft of living space, providing a comfortable and inviting retreat. Ideal for multi-generational families, this acreage presents limitless possibilities.

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**2 Unit Warehouse**

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**FOR LEASE**

113 6638 152A STREET



Centrally located in a newer building in Hyland Park. 1510 sq.ft. ground floor unit with lots of exposure, ample parking and ease of accessibility. This is a perfect unit to materialize your ideas. Available August 1, 2024.

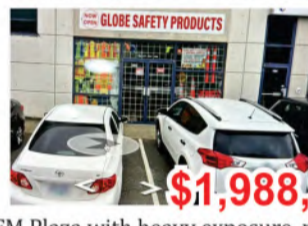
**FOR SALE**

120 30485 CARDINAL STREET  
**\$249,000**

Very nice and clean business with double oven, walk in cooler, walk in freezer, food prep cooler, storage and many many more. Open 3pm and been operating from long time on this location. Great potential for adding food etc to this location and there is lots of extra space for that. 1400 sqft space.

**FOR SALE**

103 8363 128 STREET



**\$1,988,900**  
Red FM Plaza with heavy exposure, popular plaza in front building exposure. Presently tenant occupied however tenants are willing to move any time. Ground floor and double door entry. Assets or share sale. Building can be used for multi-purpose, like schools, offices, etc. High ceiling and beautifully built mezzanine office. Retail style unit. Also have lease option see MLS C8062002.

**FOR LEASE**

103 8363 128 STREET



Red FM Plaza with heavy exposure, popular plaza in front building exposure. Presently tenant occupied however tenants are willing to move any time. Ground floor and double door entry. Assets or share sale. Building can be used for multi-purpose, like schools, offices, etc. High ceiling and beautifully built mezzanine office. Retail style unit. Also have buying option see MLS C8062001.

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Space Scott Road and 84th ave area, 983 Sq FT, Available March 2024, Great Expo... SQ ft plus \$11 additional rent, ideal for Physiotherapy clinic  
**LEASED**

# Unlocking Access: The Crucial Role of Digital IDs in Modern Social Services



By Alex Sangha

Digital IDs are increasingly essential in modern times, particularly for vulnerable populations such as homeless individuals. Here are five reasons why digital IDs are necessary:

**Access to Social Services**

**Streamlined Access:** Digital IDs can help homeless individuals easily access critical social services like housing assistance, food programs, healthcare, and financial aid. Without a permanent address or physical ID, many homeless people struggle to prove their identity, making it difficult for them to receive the support they need.

**Integration of Services:** Digital IDs can integrate various services under one platform, reducing the need for multiple registrations and simplifying the process of obtaining assistance.

**Healthcare Access**

**Medical Records:** Digital IDs allow homeless individuals to maintain and access their medical records, regardless of where they seek treatment. This is crucial for continuity of care, especially when dealing with chronic conditions, mental health issues, or substance abuse problems.

**Emergency Identification:** In emergencies, having a digital ID can help healthcare providers quickly identify

patients and access their medical history, leading to faster and more accurate treatment.

**Financial Inclusion**

**Banking and Financial Services:** Many homeless individuals are excluded from the traditional banking system due to the lack of a physical ID. A digital ID can enable them to open bank accounts, receive payments, and access financial services, helping them to manage their finances more effectively.

**Digital Payments:** In a world increasingly moving towards digital transactions, having a digital ID ensures that homeless people can participate in the economy, whether through receiving wages, benefits, or donations.

**Employment Opportunities**

**Verification of Identity:** A digital ID can provide a verifiable identity that homeless individuals can use when applying for jobs. This can significantly improve their chances of securing employment, as many employers require valid identification before hiring.

**Portable Credentials:** Digital IDs can store and showcase skills, certifications, and work history, helping homeless individuals demonstrate their qualifications to potential employers, even if they do not have physical copies of their credentials.

**Security and Privacy**

**Secure Access to Services:** Digital IDs can be designed with robust security features, ensuring that homeless individuals' personal information is protected. This is particularly important for those who may be at risk of identity theft or exploitation.

*Continued on page 30*

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Well cared 4 bed/2 bath 2185sf House . Large FLAT LOT, Great Location to walk to Uptown or Beach. Open floor plan is perfect for family living. New Paint Bright Kitchen & dining with walk-out to oversized side deck. Hardwood floors throughout. Living upstairs boasts a feature Fireplace. Spacious Kitchen Lower level has 2-Bedroom Suite with separate entry. Large Double garage with storage. Earl Marriott French Immersion Sec & WR Elementary +(Peace Arch) French Immersion Catchment. Large deck 578sqft nice patio 105sqft with double garage. Buyer agent to verify with city for duplex option. VIEWING SATURDAY 6:00pm to 8:00pm AND SUNDAY 1:00PM TO 5:00PM.

**2880 169 ST., SURREY**  
NEW LISTING \$3,599,000 Listing ID: R2584077

Welcome to North Grandview Estate! Immaculate Mansion on quiet serene street on very private one acre lot. All custom designed and extremely high quality construction. Lots of updates made recently inside the house, Garage and in backyard landscaping. Breathtaking garden of Eden. Enter through the 8' high double solid oak doors into the grand foyer, 4 tier "Wiltshire" Gold plated chandelier. 8 zone radiant hot water in all three floor heating. 2 by 6 construction with Truss Joist "silent floor" 12 on centre. The formal living room offers a 20' double trayed ceiling featuring intricate mouldings and woodwork. There is a butler's pantry. Two staircases. Fully finished basement triple garage, plus much more! South ridge School nearby. Showing Saturday and Sunday 2:00Pm to 4:00Pm.

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<p><b>62 15175 62A AVENUE</b> NEW LISTING \$919,000</p> <p>FULLY RENOVATED! Beautiful 3 bed townhouse with TWO entrances 1st entry from 62a ave through backyard with no stairs . All new kitchen high end appl., granite waterfall countertop, backsplash, country sink and faucets. Elegant wide plank vinyl flooring resists kids, pets and spills! New electric fireplace and custom built walnut wall unit perfect for entertainment and storage. Upstairs features 3 good size beds, lush bedroom, and updated washer/dryer.</p>	<p><b>19913 72 AVE LANGLEY</b> NEW LISTING \$1,849,000</p> <p>House with basement suite and a coach home Potential rent \$5000 or more per month (3 separate rental units)</p>	<p><b>UNIT 34 - 1010 EWEN AVE NEW WEST</b> NEW LISTING \$849,000</p> <p>Hot location in New Westminster! Just minutes from Walmart shopping outlet and restaurants, 10 min to Richmond, 10 min to Metrotown. Walking distance to Queen Elizabeth School. Corner unit townhouse w/spacious layout. Spacious 3 bedroom and 2.5 bathroom. Shows beautifully! Living and dining room faces inside of complex and the other side has kitchen, family room and a den With large balcony for family entertainment.</p>
<p><b>217 20696 EASTLEIGH CRESCENT</b> NEW LISTING \$699,000</p> <p>Welcome to The Georgia, . Langley's newest collection of homes centrally located in Langley City close to shops, restaurants, parks, schools and walking distance to the future Skytrain. Modern open concept designs, featuring inviting 9ft ceilings, high-quality laminate flooring, air conditioning in the master bedrooms, and granite stone kitchen countertops. Contact sales for more information! Don't miss out, only a handful of homes remaining!</p>	<p><b>19917 72 AVE LANGLEY</b> NEW LISTING \$1,599,998</p> <p>House with basement suite All rent approx \$3000 per month Open house Sunday 1-4</p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p>	<p><b>11516 PARKWOOD PLACE DELTA</b> NEW LISTING \$1,499,000</p> <p>Check out this well maintained, beautifully updated basement entry home in the Heart of North Delta. Main floor boasts 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, spacious living room/dining room, beautiful kitchen, sundeck. Downstairs features 2 bedroom legal suite with separate entry. Single garage and driveway can fit up to 4 cars. Steps away from Chalmers Elementary and Burnsville Secondary, Sun God Rec Centre, transit, shopping and parks.</p>
<p><b>5105 ABERDEEN ST., VAN</b> \$1,495,000</p> <p>Beautiful Corner House in the most desired area of Collingwood. Upstairs features three bedroom and two bathroom with a good size family room with a fireplace and a full bathroom. Downstairs features a large living room with a fireplace, a dining room, a kitchen with granite countertops, a full bathroom, and a laundry room. Close to all amenities, including schools, parks, and shopping.</p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p>	<p><b>#37-8358 121A ST., SURREY</b> \$699,000</p> <p>Welcome to Kennedy Trails. This house checks all the boxes. Cost effective &amp; environmentally friendly. GEOTHERMAL Heating and Cooling. E-Star windows. Three in heart of Surrey Main level features large dining area, Granite kitchen, bath and DEN/OFFICE. Master Bed walk in closet. 4th bed and comes with a full bath. Full Backyard approx 360 SQ FT Double side by side car garage, additional 1 car parking New Paint. Professionally Cleaned Carpet. Close to all amenities: superstore, restaurants and very easy access to the highway as well. This is a must see.</p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p>	<p><b>9750 128 ST., SURREY</b> \$999,900</p> <p>Solid 6 bed and 2 bath home in the heart of Surrey. A perfect home for home buyers, investors, or those looking for a rental property. Upstairs features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen with granite countertops, laundry room. Freshly painted. Downstairs comes with 3 bed, 1 den, 1 bath and kitchen. Lots of parking at the front and back. Detached garage. Some recent renos include roof, windows, paint.</p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p>
<p><b>#51-7090 180 ST., SURREY</b> \$185,000 over asking</p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p>		

**14379 66A AVENUE**

**OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4 PM**



**6 BED - 4 BATHS - 10,318 SF**

This Beautiful House sits over a 10318 Sq. Feet Lot in prime neighbourhood of East Newton & features with Three Bedrooms & Two Washrooms including extra large master bedroom with ensuite and a Balcony, Huge Living Room, Dining Room & a separate Family Room UPSTAIRS. Downstairs comes with two mortgage helpers (2+1), Fully Renovated with lot of updates like both new Kitchens, Bathrooms, flooring, Lighting, Hot Water tank & Furnace. Enjoy the tranquility & quietness of Cul-de-sac with your morning tea sitting on the Front Patio. Close to all Amenities.

**ASKING 1,599,000**

**5758 131 A STREET SURREY**



**11BED - 11 BATHS - 20,255 SF LOT**

**BEAUTIFUL HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN PRIME NEIGHBOURHOOD OF PANORAMA**

**ASKING 4,000,000**

**9097 BROADWAY STREET**



**3 BED - 1 BATH - 10,019 SF LOT**

Builder's Alert! The Property is sub dividable and has been rezoned R1-C. PLA Application has been submitted to City & is in process. Excellent Heritage style home with three bedrooms and one bathroom . Large Private backyard.

**ASKING 924,000**

**11956 98 AVENUE, SURREY**



**7 BED - 5 BATHS - 6,600 SF**

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This beautiful renovated home at a prime location in a quiet neighbourhood of Royal Heights features with 7 Bedrooms & 5 Washrooms, very spacious open concept kitchen with quartz countertops & stainless steel appliances, Huge Living Room & Family Room, tons of Natural Light, Stone front, Glass Railing, Air Conditioning Upstairs. 2+1 Bedroom Suites as great mortgage helpers. Enjoy your morning tea in the open front deck or the covered sundeck in the backyard. Easy Access to Hwy 17, Scott Rd Skytrain station, Schools and Shopping.

**ASKING 1,699,000**

**7028 142 STREET, SURREY**



**5 BED - 5 BATHS - 7,107 SF**

Welcome to this well-maintained and updated home in the heart of Newton with over 7100 sqft lot with 77 feet front just steps away from school and Bus Stops. Upstairs there are 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms with a living room, dining room and kitchen along with a bonus Family room. There are 2 separate balconies off the Family & Living Room. 2 Mortgage helpers (1 bedroom each) currently rented to Nice tenants. There is one full extra bath Downstairs. This home has lots of options to rent. The home features an updated kitchen (2015) updated washrooms (2017) and has been freshly painted. The roof has been updated as well in 2017. Walking distance to George Vanier Elementary school, daycare and to public transportation. THIS IS A MUST SEE!! Please book your private Showings.

**ASKING 1,699,000**

**10095 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, CHILLIWACK**



**4 BED - 2 BATHS - 9,750 SF LOT**

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This is a well kept home in one of the best & prime neighbourhood of Fairfield Island in Chilliwack. This Beautiful Rancher with Basement house sits on a huge 9750 Sq. Feet Lot with a wide frontage of 75 feet & a Subdivision Potential ( Please confirm with City) features with 3 Bedrooms & 1.5 Washroom on the main floor with a spacious kitchen equipped with Stainless Steel appliances. Downstairs you got a very spacious space, complete with two large Recreation/family rooms plus a bedroom and storage area. Roof was replaced 2-3 years back. Close to all shopping amenities, plenty of schools nearby and more parks within walking distance than any other neighbourhood.

**ASKING 929,000**

**1001 14881 103A AVENUE**



**2 BED - 2 BATHS**

Best Opportunity for the first time home buyers & nature lovers to enjoy the scenic beauty, spectacular north shore & panoramic coastal mountain views. This amazing Corner unit features with 2 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms with a Huge Master Bedroom Ensuite, A Good Size Living Room, Dining Room with fully renovated kitchen with quartz countertops & new kitchen cabinets, New stainless steel appliances & pot lights. All these appliances & renovations were done two years ago. Carpet in the whole unit is one year old. You are minutes walk to Guildford Town Centre, TNT Supermarket, dining, public library and highways. The maintenance fees include gas & hot water, One Storage locker & One Parking. There is also a bike room and lots of outdoor Visitor Parking.

**ASKING 589,000**

**5748 123 Street Surrey**



**SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!**

**7 BED - 8 BATHS - 20,211 SF**

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This Beautiful & Luxurious Architectural Masterpiece on a CORNER HALF ACRE LOT in the most prestigious neighbourhood of Panorama Ridge Features with Elegant Porte- Coucher Hotel Like Entrance with circular driveway, Italian Bricks Exterior, Open Concept Kitchen with Custom Italian Cabinets & Italian Black Marble, High Ceiling, Gorgeous sunken Living Room with oversized windows, which provide excellent Lighting, Circular Cherrywood Staircases, Huge Family Room & Dining Room with Master Ensuite on the Main Floor, High End Wool Carpet, 5 Bed rooms with 3 Washrooms upstairs. Downstairs Open & Bright Basement with Separate entrance with Wet Bar, which could be converted into a suite. Triple Car Garage with Ample Parking , Private Sports Court & Lot more. Must Visit

**ASKING 2,999,000**

**MASSAGE PARLOUR FOR SALE IN SURREY**



**Location! Location Location!** Great opportunity to own a well established & profitable MASSAGE CENTRE in the prime neighborhood of East Newton. The seller is running this centre for last eight years & wish to retire. This unit has three massage chambers with one chamber for tradition Indian Ayurvedic Shirodhara Table & a separate kitchen area & washroom. Lease is expiring in March 2024 but has two renewal options of 5 years each but the seller is getting it renewed by himself. Please contact for more info.

**ASKING 249,999**

**GROCERY STORE FOR SALE IN CLOVERDALE**

**ASKING 500,000**

**MASSAGE PARLOUR FOR SALE IN RICHMOND**  
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# 2024 Hyundai Sant Fe – New Redesigned And Better Than Ever!

Review by Veeno Dewan

Hyundai recently revealed its radically transformed all-new Santa Fe as a fifth-generation midsize SUV. New for 2024, there is an exterior redesign, a longer wheelbase, and a roomier interior with a third-row seating option. The exterior redesign is a slab sided with sharply defined wheel arches. It looks good from any angle. A cool feature is a small locking handle on the C-pillar for getting access to roof racks.

In terms of power-



trains, the entry models are powered by a 1.6L four-cylinder hybrid setup, with 231 hp and 271 lb-ft of torque and six speed transmission. The top the XRT and Ultimate Calligraphy trims use a 2.5L turbo-four cylinder with 277 horsepower and 311 pound-feet of torque coupled to an eight-speed automatic AWD transmission.

In terms of pricing, the 2024 Hyundai Santa Fe starts with the well-equipped Preferred: \$40,999, Preferred with Trend package: \$44,999, XRT: \$46,999, Luxury: \$49,999 and the Ultimate Calligraphy at \$53,499. As standard feature include: a wireless phone charger, dual-pane sunroof, leatherette seats digital gauge cluster, as well as a digital key allowing access via a smartphone or smartwatch. All Santa Fe trims feature the 12.3-inch infotainment touchscreen with Apple CarPlay or Android Auto connectivity. The Ultimate

Calligraphy adds a UV-C tray that can sanitize small items.

We tested the XTR version which is a more rugged outdoors recreational/camping orientated version of the Santa-Fe. The XRT is only available with the turbo-charged 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine. The XTR adds as standard: AWD, 8.3 inches of ground clearance, 18-inch wheels with all-terrain tires, and better terrain entry, break over, and departure angles; at 1.9, 2.1 and 1.5 degrees respectively compared to a regular Santa Fe. There is small suspension lift and the traction Control (TC) has also been recalibrated for better off-road driving in the XRT model. The 4x4 Lock button changes the TC settings on all AWD models.

The XRT is also distinguished apart for other Santa Fe's with a unique grille design, dark anodized badging, gloss black side mirrors, exterior cladding, black roof rails, XRT branded leatherette seats. You also get upgraded towing capacity on the XRT trim.

Interior wise – The all-new Santa Fe's interior refinement is exemplified by a variety of high-tech features, including a Panoramic Curved Display and dual wireless charging. The curved display connects the 12.3-inch digital cluster and infotainment system.. There is plenty of leg and headroom and the third row is practical and a nice touch, but as with all third rows- tight for adults. However, there is more headroom in the third row as the seats are low to the floor making them more suitable for kids. Both the second- and third-row seats are foldable and provide ample cargo space.

On the road- the Santa Fe perform well,

quiet, comfortable, and serene. Handling is good along with strong brakes and well loaded steering. There is a Snow, Mud and Sand. off-road drive modes in addition to ding Sport, Eco, and Custom settings. The XRT is a mild off-roader, not designed

for really gnarly boulders, deep mud and super steep inclines or the type of terrain where you can easily get bogged own or stuck in. Think more winter trails, gravel tracks and light-medium snow.

Continued on page 30

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Architectural elegance at it's finest; this West Vancouver-inspired property is located within the prestigious Elgin Park Estates neighborhood in South Surrey. This extravagant home portrays the unique blend of timeless sophistication and secluded park-style living. Sitting on approximately 14,000 sqft of land, this property offers 6488 sqft of luxurious living space; meticulous by design, it features four opulent bedrooms upstairs and similarly one spacious bedroom on the main floor. The kitchen is equipped with Miele appliances throughout and features a beautiful transparent wine cabinet. Furthermore, the property possesses an abundance of outdoor entertainment space in conjunction with a designated theatre room, gymnasium, games room, and bar. Call now to book your private showing!

**#92 15111 EDMUND DRIVE**

Welcome to Townsend! This beautiful unit is one of the largest in the entire complex, boasting 1,976 sq ft. of living space. Built in 2019 by award-winning builder, Polygon, this beautiful townhome features 4 spacious bedrooms - 3 on the top floor, and 1 on the ground floor as guest quarters, 3.5 bathrooms, as well as a grand main floor which includes a large family room and separate dining area. The guest quarters on the ground floor feature a spacious bedroom and a full bathroom, and a double side-by-side garage. In addition to the double garage, there are an additional two parking spots outside. The home has been exceptionally maintained by its current owners. Call to book your private showing today.

**UNIT 2808 13615 FRASER HWY**

NEW LISTING

Welcome to King George Hub, built by PCI is one of the most sought-after locations in central Surrey. Move in or Invest in the fastest-growing city in BC. This bright north-facing unit is located in the master-planned community with all of your needs at your doorstep. The unit is finished with laminate flooring, quartz countertops, and wall-to-wall windows for natural light. The unit has one parking, one storage locker, and an already paid-for EV charger.

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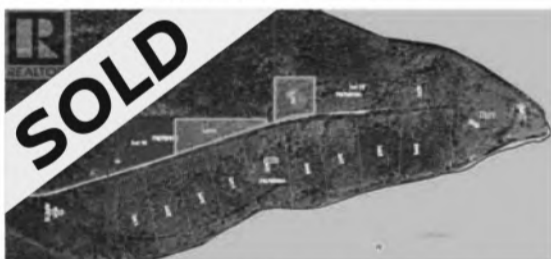
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ASKING **\$795,000**

**5533 CHESTNUT CRE,  
LADNER**



ASKING **\$1,325,000**

**16669 31B,  
SOUTH SURREY**



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# Doctor's Rape And Murder In Kolkata Sparks Protests Across India

Massive protests have erupted in India following the rape and murder of a junior doctor during her 36-hour shift at a state-run hospital in the eastern city of Kolkata.

The 31-year-old postgraduate trainee was found dead in a seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in state capital Kolkata on 9 August. An autopsy confirmed sexual assault.

A suspect has been arrested, a civil volunteer named Sanjay Roy, who is associated with the Kolkata police. The federal Central Bureau of Investigation has overtaken the case amid calls for an unbiased and transparent inquiry.

Doctors say the circumstances of the rape point to the vulnerability of medics left without proper protection and facilities. Though police have detained a man who worked at the hospital helping people navigate busy queues, state government officers have been accused of mishandling the case.

Services in government hospitals were affected and thousands of patients suffered after doctors launched a strike against workplace violence. Indian doctors have called for a nationwide shutdown of hospital services.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), the country's largest grouping of medics



with 400,000 members, said the 24-hour shutdown would be implemented on Saturday, affecting most hospital departments except for essential services. Hundreds and thousands of women across the country poured on to the streets at midnight demanding justice for the junior doctor as they participated in "reclaim the night" marches.

"Doctors, especially women are vulnerable to violence because of the nature of the profession. It is for the authorities to provide for the safety of doctors inside hospitals and campuses," the IMA said in a statement issued on Thursday on X.

Continued from Page 01

## Shots fired at Port Kells...

Anyone who has any information about the Kia Rio 5 or may have witnessed it in the area of 88 Avenue and 192 Street on August 10, 2024 between 3:00 am and 4:00 am, is asked to call Surrey RCMP at 604-599-0502 and quote file 2024-117785. If you have information and wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, or online at solvecrime.ca, or download the "P3 Tips" app.

The South Asian Business community has been rocked across Canada by extortion calls with maximum cases cropping in Lower Mainland, Brampton and Edmonton.

Extortions calls started as rumours in 2023 October. But a few months later, police confirmed that the South Asian businesses were indeed facing threats through phone calls, WhatsApp messages, and letters, compelling them to provide monetary concessions. The cases were confirmed in Surrey, West Vancouver,

Abbotsford, Edmonton (Alberta), and Brampton (Ontario).

According to media reports in Canada and India, various gangs from India were behind these extortions, Canadian police departments did not confirm anything at the beginning.

One news outlet reported that in an extortion incident in Abbotsford, the "suspects are believed to be associated to the Lawrence BISHNOI gang based in India according to the memo, adding that the extortion appears to target affluent members of the South Asian community." The police too did not rule out international

involvement but did not confirm anything since it is still under investigation.

The Edmonton Police officials later also publicly confirmed that the series of arsons, shootings and extortions affecting local South Asian community in Edmonton since October 2023 were being conducted by local individuals directed by a suspect in India.

Inspector Lance Parker of organized crime branch of Edmonton Police said in a press conference this week. "At this time, we believe the series has been committed by a group of local individuals being directed by a suspect in India."

Continued from Page 01

## BC Police bust superlab...

In total, 49 kilograms of MDMA were seized, with additional precursor chemicals capable of potentially producing a further 80 kilograms of MDMA. A Mercedes-Benz G-Class SUV, a Tesla 3, and over \$51,000 cash were also seized.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) identifies a street level dose of MDMA as containing between 50 to 150 milligrams

of MDMA. When the potential yield of the precursor chemicals is combined with the MDMA seized, this seizure has prevented an estimated 2.5 million doses of MDMA from entering our communities.

"Access and availability to illicit synthetic drugs is a primary factor in many deaths. These drugs come from unsanctioned, uncontrolled, and profit driven facilities. MDMA can pose major health risks to its users, possibly leading to overdose and

death. MDMA is also often found mixed with other substances which can result in further risk of exposure to tainted drugs. This is why the RCMP Pacific Region Federal Policing Program is unequivocally committed to preventing illicit synthetic drugs, including MDMA from destroying more lives," said Inspector Jim Leonard, Acting/Officer in Charge of the RCMP Pacific Region Federal Policing.

Dennis Halstead, Shawn Cappis, Balbinder Johal, Richard Waugh, and Christopher Alves have all since been charged with

multiple offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA), with court appearances scheduled for August 14, 2024.

If you know anyone you know may be struggling with addiction, you can seek assistance through the BC Alcohol and Drug Information and Referral Service Line at 1-800-663-1441. And if you have information about a crime and wish to report it, you may contact your local police agency, or report it anonymously by calling BC Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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<b>FORECLOSURE HOPE BC</b> 9000, SQ.Ft lot. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom house rented \$2,400 Per month <b>Asking-\$458,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE ABBOTSFORD BC</b> One Acre! 3 bedrooms, 3 bathroom, good rental house! <b>Asking-\$1,549,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE CHILLIWACK BC</b> 9583, SQ.Ft lot, 3 bedroom 1 bath house long term rented good investment. <b>Asking-\$699,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE CLOVERDALE BC</b> 12 years old, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms suite, 4279 SQ. Ft lot, 3 Storey home, double garage <b>Asking-\$1,499,000</b>
<b>FORECLOSURE MISSION BC</b> 9,800 SQ.Ft lot, 5 bedroom, 3 bathrooms, 2 bedroom suite, 28 years old <b>Asking-\$850,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE PANORAMA SURREY</b> 35,719 SQ.Ft lot, 45 years old, 6 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, 3 Storey, 5400 Sq.Ft home. <b>Asking-\$1,699,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE SURREY BC</b> 12 Years old, 4,042 Sq Ft lot, 8 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 3 Storey, double garage, 2 bed each- 2+2 rental suites. <b>Asking-\$1,725,000</b>	
<b>FORECLOSURE SURREY BC</b> 12 years old, 8 bedrooms, 6 bathroom, 7300 SQ.Ft lot, 2 Storey, 4033 SQ.Ft home, 2 rental suites, double garage, taxes \$6,884 <b>Asking-\$1,949,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE SURREY BC</b> 3 Acres Lot! older home, 3 bedroom, 3 bathrooms! <b>Asking-\$2,379,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE SARDIS BC</b> 7 Acres lot, 4 bedroom, 2 bathrooms older Home! <b>Asking \$2,389,000</b>	
<b>FORECLOSURE FLEETWOOD</b> 4 years old just like new, 6,760 SQ.Ft lot, 3506 SQ.Ft 2 Storey home, 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 2 bedroom suite, taxes \$7,372, double garage! <b>Asking-\$2,275,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE LANGLEY BC</b> 1.6 Acres lot, older home, 4 beds, 3 baths, development land. <b>Asking-\$2,950,000</b>		
<b>FORECLOSURE LANGLEY BC</b> 16.97 Acres older home, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms! <b>Asking-\$3,750,000</b>	<b>FORECLOSURE LANGLEY BC</b> 34 Acres lot, 10,000 home, 9 bedrooms, 11 bathrooms, guest home, more buildings. <b>Asking-\$6,880,000</b>		

# Surrey Mayor Proposes Higher Fire Safety Penalties to Address Escalating Risks During Summer

Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke introduced a Notice of Motion directing staff to conduct a review of financial penalties for violations during open fire bans. The motion aims to ensure public safety by increasing and potentially doubling fines for violations of fire safety regulations, which include the discharge of fireworks, when an open fire ban is in effect. "By taking this step, we are sending a clear message that the safety of our community is our top priority," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "During summertime and heatwaves, we must equip ourselves with the necessary tools to protect our environment and residents. It's essential that everyone understands the serious consequences of violating these regulations, as they directly impact our

ability to keep our city safe." Staff will prepare a report for Council's consideration on the potential of increasing financial penalties. Since May 1, Surrey Fire Service has responded to over 403 brush and grass fires, most of which were caused by human activity. Enforcement of fire regulations is being enhanced in City parks and Bylaw Services will be working closely with the Surrey RCMP and Surrey Fire Services to ensure a coordinated response. Contravention of By-laws can come with significant financial penalties, including up to \$5,000 for the use of fireworks and up to \$2,000 for campfires, plus the costs of prosecution. Individuals may also face a penalty of up to \$2,000 for smoking or setting a fire in City parks.



In 2023, the City of Surrey issued 30 tickets related to the fire season: 11 for unlawful burning, 11 for smoking where prohibited (parks), and 8 for unlawful fire. This year, the City has issued a total of 15 tickets: 10 tickets for unlawful burning, 3 for smoking where prohibited (parks), and

2 for unlawful fire. The City of Surrey encourages residents to stay informed about fire regulations and risks. Fire Danger Rating signs are set up at several fire halls and near many park entrances to keep residents informed of current risks. To report a problem, call 604-591-4370, email [bylawcomplaint@surrey.ca](mailto:bylawcomplaint@surrey.ca) or use the Report a Problem tool. For more information on bylaw regulations and contacts for reporting issues, click here. Residents are also encouraged to remain vigilant in recognizing fire hazards during heatwave conditions. During extreme weather, Surrey's civic facilities are open as heat relief locations. For more tips staying cool and safe during heatwaves, visit [surrey.ca/heatrelief](http://surrey.ca/heatrelief).

## Delta Police Remove 6 Impaired Drivers from Roads in Just 3.5 Hours

On Friday August 9th, in a concerted effort to keep our roads safe, the Delta Police Department conducted a proactive road safety blitz. This proactive engagement during a 3.5-hour period resulted in the removal of six impaired drivers including a taxi driver, from our shared roadways. This operation underscores the ongoing dangers of impaired driving and the department's unwavering commitment to protecting the community.



car. The officer suspected impairment, and the taxi driver subsequently provided breath samples at and near 4 times the legal limit. The driver was issued a 90-day administrative driving prohibition, a 24-hour prohibition, and the taxi was impounded. The driver also faces criminal impaired driving charges. **Stop 3 - 10:58 pm:** An officer observed a vehicle leaving a local liquor store. A roadside sobriety check revealed the driver was in the

"Warn" range, resulting in a 3-day driving prohibition. The vehicle was also towed from the scene.

**Stop 4 - 11:20 pm:** Officers attended a single-vehicle collision where a car had struck the centre median. During the ensuing investigation, the driver failed to provide a suitable roadside breath sample and was consequently served a 90-day driving prohibition for "Refusal." The vehicle was impounded for 30 days.

**Stop 5 - 11:23 pm:** A driver was observed leaving a local pub and subsequently stopped by officers. The driver failed roadside breath tests, leading to a 90-day driving prohibition and a 30-day vehicle impound.

**Stop 6 - 1:07 am:** During a traffic stop in North Delta, an officer detected the odour of liquor from

the driver. The driver refused to provide a breath sample and was served a 90-day driving prohibition for "Refusal." The vehicle was impounded for 30 days. "DPD remains steadfast in its mission to enhance road safety for all road users. The removal of these six impaired drivers, including two drivers who were involved in collisions, in such a short timeframe is a stark reminder of the risks that impaired driving poses to everyone on the road. Our patrol officers will continue to conduct proactive enforcement and respond swiftly to reports of impaired driving. Remember, impaired driving endangers lives. We urge all drivers to make responsible choices. Have a plan in place to get home before you start drinking — don't drive impaired. Your safety and the safety of others depend on it," said A/Insp. James Sandberg (DPD).

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**604-825-4011**



# New Phishing Scam Targets BC Hydro Customers

The BC RCMP is warning BC Hydro customers about a new scam where customers are tricked into providing personal information by calling a fraudulent BC Hydro customer support number.



New phishing scam targets BC Hydro customers

BC Hydro and the BC RCMP have received over a hundred reports throughout the province that paid advertisements are posing as BC Hydro urging customers to call their customer support number to set up new electricity services or reconnect BC Hydro service. The ads utilize BC Hydro's name, but the URL is not correct. These false sites are often found online via search engine. When BC Hydro customers call the fake number, the scammers

ask the caller a similar set of scripted questions which BC Hydro uses in its own contact centre to verify customer identity.

The RCMP is actively investigating all reports of this scam and it requests the public to report the issues to their local police if they have fallen victim. The RCMP is working with BC Hydro to have these phishing websites removed from search engines but request the public do their due diligence when on the internet to ensure they are

on the legitimate website.

To avoid falling victim to scams, BC Hydro wants its customers to know:

It does not collect credit card or bank account information over the phone or by email or text.

If an account is in arrears, BC Hydro will send several notices by mail and use an auto dialer to remind customers to make a payment. Customers can also check their account status at any time at bhydro.com.

BC Hydro's customer

service number is 1 800 BCHYDRO, if you are contacted by any other number claiming to be BC Hydro be vigilant.

If the public finds these websites do not click on them but report the website to

the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre. You can also find tips on the BC RCMP website on how to deal with online safety and or you can see tips on the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre's website.

Continued from Page 07

## Edmonton Police seek assistance...

No one was located inside the vehicle and no injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

On Thursday, June 27, 2024, police re-released a photo of the BMW suspect vehicle and a video clip of the suspects with the hope that someone who recognizes them will come forward. Officers continue to encourage witnesses or anyone who has video footage of the shooting and has not yet come forward to contact the police.

"We are hopeful that someone recognizes this vehicle or recalls seeing it recently and we encourage them to come

forward," says Staff Sergeant Rob Bilawey with the EPS Homicide Section. "We believe the suspects were in the X-Trail shortly after the shooting and investigators are confident the vehicle will still contain valuable evidence, even after the passage of time."

Anyone who locates this SUV is encouraged to not approach the vehicle and instead immediately contact the EPS at 780-423-4567 or #377 from a mobile phone. Anonymous information can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.p3tips.com/250

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4 weeks in Link

## LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Canadian Citizen, Jatt Sikh Brar Boy lives in Surrey, 28 years old, 6' Looking for a family oriented girl. Girl should be Canadian citizen or PR. Study based, work permit can be considered. Vancouver and Calgary families will be preferred.

**604.818.5780**

## LOOKING FOR GROOM

Looking for a suitable match for Canadian PR Hindu girl, 30 years, 5'6", smart, beautiful, and well-educated. She is a kind-hearted and understanding person who values family and relationships. We are looking for Canadian citizen/PR who is well-educated, respectful, and compatible with her personality. If you are interested in knowing more about, please contact **+91 98728 30435 (whatsapp)**

## LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Well Settled Jat Sikh Family from Vancouver Canada Seeks Matrimonial Alliance for their Son India Born OCT 87, 5'9" Commerce Graduate from Universaity BC. Employed as OFFICER with Canadian Federal Govt. Father Runs the Business Owns Residentials & Commercial Properties in Vancouver, Parents Also have Urban Rural Properties in Delhi & Haryana. Family is Looking for Nice Beautiful Educated Girl from a Decent Cultured Reputed Family. Please Contact & send Details along with Recent Photographs to **1(604) 649-6109**

Or email at: **jaschahal10@gmail.com**

## DATING

Older Caucasian Man, Very Clean Financially Independent, Interesting and Active. Would Like to Meet An Older (50ish) Indian Lady For Fun and Excitement. Possible Relationship. Please Call: **778-828-5069**

exp.27/04/24

## DATING

South Asian 54 yrs Old Man looking for a female for campanionship. Must be outgoing. Divorce or Widow Welcome.

Please Call: **778-713-6184**

exp.08/06/24

## LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Jatt Sikh Dhaliwal Educated, handsome boy, 25/5'11", Canadian Born, Lives in Surrey(BC) Canada, He has completed his Bachelor in Health science and Currently doing Medical Laboratory science. He has been working at Govt. Hospital from three years. Family would prefer Canadian born, sikh girl. **contact: parmdhaliwal65@gmail.com Ph: 604.825.5194**

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**604.377.4085**

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"SM4 B Tech, MBA, Canada, 20.5.94, 6'2", Sikh Arora, wrkg in reputed top 5, seeks an educated preferably wrkg in Canada, slim bride

**Contact: +91 79828-36220, +1(778) 890-2550] for more details."**

exp. June 23

## LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Well settled Jat Sikh family from Surrey looking for a bride for their son 36 yrs old, 5'10" tall, handsome, clean shaven, graduate from Canadian University, employed as officer with Canadian federal government. The girl should be educated, family oriented, beautiful and well versed with both cultures. Please send recent picture and bio data to **WhatsApp no. 604-808-9070**

## PERSONAL / DATING

Hi I am a fit 40s athletic male into working out and music. Looking for a female for friends and companion. Discretion assured and respected.

**Cell: 604-618-2820**

## LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Parents are looking for a suitable match for their 32 year old, 6'1" Canadian citizen boy. MBA from India. Currently working as Immigration consultant. Caste no bar.

**Call 236.518.0679** for more details.

## LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Seeking a beautiful girl for Ramgarhia boy, Canadian Citizen, grew up in India, 37 years, 5' 11", Commercial Pilot in Air Canada, based in Vancouver, never married, The girl should be family oriented from respected family, tall, educated with good job, Canadian Citizen/PR respected to elders and loving toward family members and Living with her family in Surrey / Van, region.

For more information Please Contact **604-729 8123.**

## LOOKING FOR GROOM

Jatt Sikh parents are looking for a boy for their beautiful 25 years old, 5'4", MBBS daughter. Boy should be a doctor from Jatt Sikh family and should be a Canadian citizen or PR. Girls family is very well reputed & settled in Vancouver.

**Call 604-377-4085 for more details**

## Nanda Jewellers Inc.,

Located at #6696 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C.V5X 3H2, is looking to fill the position for a **Store Manager [NOC 60020].**

**Number of Positions Available: 1 [one]**  
**Start Date: As soon as possible**  
**Job type: This is a full-time, permanent position.**  
**Location of work: Location of work is only at our only location in the address above.**  
**Salary: \$36/hour.**  
 Language: English. Please mention in your resume if you have any Hindi or Punjabi language skills.  
 Hours of work: 11 AM-7PM, 5 days of the week depending on weekly schedule. 40 hours work week  
 Benefits- Benefits include extended health and dental benefits and minimum provincial benefits

### Job duties:

- A customer centric approach and informing clients about new designs in jewelry introduced in the store catalogue;
- Preparing and coordinating schedules for staff;
- Ensure team is knowledgeable of company policies and are proficient in solving customer service issues efficiently;
- Achieving monthly and quarterly sales targets by demonstrating strong personal selling skills and training team by transferring skills to sales teams;
- Assisting management in the hire and training or new employees;
- Developing sales strategies with online and offline marketing to boost store sales;
- Monitor stock levels and place orders as needed;

### Job requirements

- Completed secondary school is required, In addition please highlight if you have a college diploma or university degree in business management and administration;
- Minimum of one year or more previous sales experience preferably in the jewelry industry;
- Strong leadership and management skills;
- Candidate must be willing to work independently and manage team with a high level of accuracy, have excellent interpersonal skills and display a high level of professionalism;
- Applicant must provide management with a recent Criminal Record check before joining

Please send your resume by email to: **nandaonmain2024@gmail.com**  
 Please only reply by email as we are a busy store and this is the most efficient way for us to screen your application

Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

This position is open for Newcomers to Canada, Visible minorities and Indigenous People.

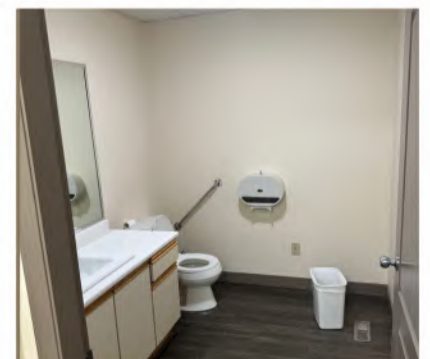
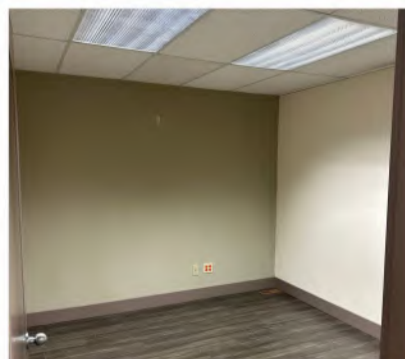
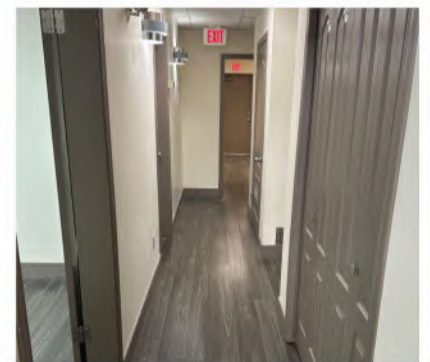
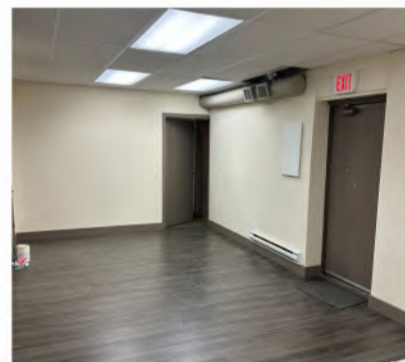
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## Upcoming Program

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>12th August, Monday</b>    | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Sukhminder Brar family.                                    |
| <b>14th August, Wednesday</b> | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Harpal Singh family.                                       |
| <b>15th August, Thursday</b>  | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Anoop Hundal family.                                       |
| <b>15th August, Thursday</b>  | at 5:00 pm, Sri Sukhmani Sahib path and Engagement ceremony by Manjinder Singh Dhaliwal family.                  |
| <b>16th August, Friday</b>    | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Rajdeep Dhillon family.                                    |
| <b>16th August, Friday</b>    | at 10:00 am, Sri Akhand Path parkash by Amrik Singh Rai family langer sewa for all the three days by Rai family. |
| <b>16th August, Friday</b>    | at 6:00 pm, Kirtan regarding Bhandon sangrad and langer sewa by the sangat.                                      |
| <b>17th August, Saturday</b>  | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Parampal Singh Gill family.                                |
| <b>18th August, Sunday</b>    | at 10:00 am, Bhog Sri Akhand Path by Amrik Singh Rai family and langer sewa by Rai family.                       |
| <b>21st August, Wednesday</b> | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Gurminder Singh Pannu family.                              |
| <b>22nd August, Thursday</b>  | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Manjit Sidhu family.                                       |
| <b>23rd August, Friday</b>    | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Avtar Sanghera family.                                     |
| <b>24th August, Saturday</b>  | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Josan Sabia family.  |
| <b>24th August, Saturday</b>  | at 5:00 pm, Sri Sukhmani sahib path, Kirtan and langer sewa by Mukhtiar Singh Bassi family.                      |
| <b>25th August, Sunday</b>    | at 10:30 am, Weekly program. Kirtan and langer sewa by Satinder Kaur Khehra family.                              |
| <b>25th August, Sunday</b>    | at 5:00 pm, Sri Sukhmani sahib path, Gurbani Kirtan and langer sewa by Gurbax Singh Sangha family.               |
| <b>28th August, Wednesday</b> | at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Amarjit Singh Gill family.                                 |

**Daily Program: 5:00 am Prakash Guru Granth Sahib, 6:00 am to 6:45 am Nitnem, 7:00 am to 7:30 am Kirtan Dewan, 7:30 am to 1:45 am Katha, 7:45 am to 8:00 am Ardaas**  
**Evening Diwan: 6:00 pm to 6:25 pm Rahras Sahib, 6:25 pm to 6:45 pm Kirtan, 8:00 pm Sukhaasan Seva!**

**For more information, log in to the Gurdwara Sahib website! [www.nanakniwas.ca](http://www.nanakniwas.ca)**

**Phone number of Gurdwara Sahib is (604) 274-7479**

# John Abraham and Sharvari's thriller on caste system gets you thinking, delivers a hard-hitting message

Vedaa's win lies in the attention to details. As hard it is to digest, a girl belonging to a lower caste, requests an upper caste woman to fill her water bottle from the college's water cooler. It is so deeply ingrained in her, that in another scene, she would rather cry and let a gang of upper caste hooligans assault her, than react.

**The story**

John Abraham is back with action (that he wants all non-idiots to know isn't anything like this recent action films), complete with his t-shirt-ripping muscles. Only here, there's brains behind the brawn. Vedaa begins with the story of a court marshalled Gorkha officer, Major Abhimanyu Kanwar (played by John), who enters the life of a young girl, Vedaa (played by Sharvari). She has seen honour killings up close and personally- her own brother was brutally killed by the 'Pradhan' of the village, Jitendra Pratap Singh (played by Abhishek Banerjee). He also kills a girl from his family for running away with the 'lower caste' boy. You get the drift. Sharvari plans to do a lot with her life. She yearns to learn boxing even as people around dissuade her. Abhimanyu recognises her zeal, and begins to train her, much to the dismay of the fellow male boxers.

After killing her sister, the upper caste antagonists are now chasing Sharvari in order to kill her. Does she escape?

Nikhil Advani has clearly come a long way from the sappy romance he directed in Kal Ho Naa Ho, to now Vedaa. The sensitivity of the subject at hand is revealed via just the disclaimer shown in the beginning of the film. I stopped counting after a few seconds, given how long it was. Calling it fiction in the beginning, convincing us they don't mean to hurt anyone isn't exactly reassuring for the audience who is going to be delivered a hard hitting drama about real life casteism. It's a film which ridicules the caste system, and should hurt those who still believe in it! But sigh, such are the ways of the film world.

**What doesn't work**

For the life of me, I still fail to understand how can a man built like a tank survive everything, yet in the climax feels the pinch as he is shot... in the shoulder? And then falls to the ground after eating four more bullets... and stands up again? What is happening? Meanwhile, Jitendra, the antagonist, is walking normally after getting shot in the stomach. Vedaa deserves this criticism because it isn't looking to sell itself as a masala potboiler with cars and goons flying. Realistic deaths for realistic dramas, please. And let's not even get started on the music of Vedaa. Both songs- Holiyaan and Mummy Ji- are just loo breaks, and test

your patience in the middle of an otherwise engaging story.

**Performance report card**

John is passable. Of course, his build helps and almost convinces us. Almost. For once, I was glad that there was no OTT sequence designed for the male actor's entry. John enters the frame normally, grieving the loss of his wife (played by Tamannaah Bhatia), killed by terrorists. He avenges her death and pays the price. However, Vedaa decides she will approach the courts for her justice.



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# Stree 2

Twitter reviews: Rajkummar Rao, Shraddha Kapoor film called 'blockbuster'; people love 'that' cameo

Stree 2, the much-anticipated horror comedy, released in theatres on Thursday. After watching the film, people took to X (formerly Twitter) and heaped praises on the film. A section of the people loved the cameo of Akshay Kumar, while many called it better than the first movie, Stree (2018). Directed by Amar Kaushik, the film stars Rajkummar Rao, Shraddha Kapoor, Aparshakti Khurana, Abhishek Banerjee and Pankaj Tripathi. (Also Read | Stree 2: All meta references, cameos and more from Rajkummar Rao, Shraddha Kapoor's horror hit)

People love Akshay's cameo in Stree 2

Taking to X, a person wrote, "Akshay Kumar's cameo in Stree 2 is funnier than irritating Aparshakti and sometimes even Pankaj Tripathi." "#Stree2 is an entertaining and thrilling ride that strikes the perfect balance. The seamless mix of comedy and storyline, combined with stunning visuals and sound effects, creates a genuinely chilling experience. It's a well-crafted film brimming with entertainment," said a fan. A tweet read, "1. Proper sequel, 2. Perfect mixture of comedy & horror, 3. Scariest than the first part, 4. #AkshayKumar entry in movies, 5. Lovely cameos, 6. Shraddha Kapoor's hot & sizzling avatar, 7. You will love songs. So Blockbuster Movie."

Fans who watched Stree 2 today on the first day of release have now shared their reviews on Twitter. As expected, the film has managed to exceed expectations that were set by Stree, 6 years ago. Netizens are calling the sequel a total 'paisa vasool' and are also comparing Akshay to Thanos, Marvel's supervillain. For instance, one Twitter user shared, "I Watched #Stree2 I Love Screenplay And I Love How they Connect With #Bhediya #VarunDhawan Screen time is great Now We Will Like to have a Supervillain Like Thanos in a form of #AkshayKumar #RajkummarRao, #PankajTripathi, #AB #AK #Sharddhakapoor And I want to SaY Vicky Please."



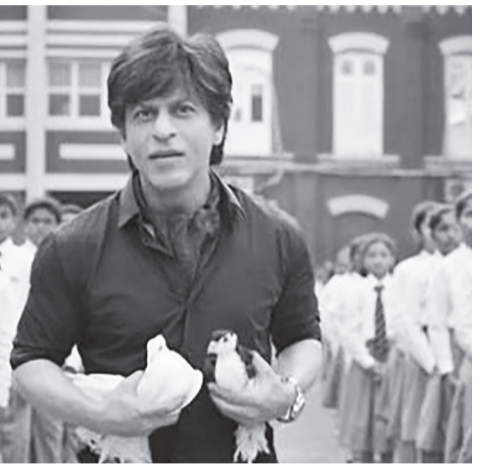
# Shah Rukh Khan reveals he backed out of a film last minute after Zero flopped because he 'just didn't want to act'

Shah Rukh Khan may have regained his box office stature with three resounding hits last year, but one can't forget the slump he went through before that. In a new interview with Variety, the actor opened up on the box office failure of his 2018 film Zero and how he "just didn't want to act" post that. (Also Read - Shah Rukh Khan gives

details about next film King: 'It's a cool, massy, emotional film')

**Shah Rukh says he didn't want to act**

Shah Rukh revealed that he was supposed to start a new film in January 2019, barely a month after Zero hit cinemas in December 2018. The film he referred to was reportedly Saare Jahan Se Achha, the biopic of Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian man to enter space. It was being directed



by Mahesh Mathai and produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur's banner Roy Kapur Films. However, Shah Rukh now revealed why he walked out of the film in the eleventh hour.

"I called the producer and I said to him that I don't want to work for a year. He said, 'It's not possible. You don't sit without working for even a minute. So you don't like the film, say no, don't say you're not working for a year'. And a year and a half later, he did call and he said, 'I was really surprised you actually are not working'. So I just didn't want to work. I just didn't want to act. I didn't feel like acting. Because for me, acting is genuinely very, very organic," said Shah Rukh.

Continued from Page 21

## Duties on Canada's softwood lumber exports cannot be justified: Bruce Ralston

The new rate will be applied retroactively to exports made in 2022 and will apply to new exports of softwood lumber products to the United States from companies that were subject to the fifth administrative reviews.

Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre blamed it on Trudeau government incompetency in negotiating. "It wasn't like this before Trudeau. Former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper negotiated a deal with the United States

within 80 days of taking office, bringing home powerful paycheques to Canada. Trudeau and Freeland, on the other hand, have had nine years and three separate presidents, yet not only has he failed to strike a deal, but the tariffs are getting worse," he said in a statement.

Bruce Ralston, BC Minister of Forests, said, "I am immensely disappointed with the U.S. Department of Commerce's decision to increase unfair and unwarranted softwood lumber duties. The many hard-

working people in B.C.'s forest industry have experienced years of unfair American duties. In addition to hurting forestry communities in B.C. and across Canada, these unjustified duties are increasing the cost of building homes in the U.S., making life harder for people south of the border." He informed that Premier David Eby has spoken directly with the U.S. ambassador, calling on the U.S. to end American duties, and instead champion economic opportunity and lower costs for people.

"We have said from the start and we will say it again now: The only solution is an end to unfair softwood lumber duties. The evidence is clear: Duties on Canada's softwood lumber exports cannot be justified. That's why, alongside the Government of Canada, we will continue to pursue litigation under North American Free Trade Agreement, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, the U.S. Court of International Trade and at the World Trade Organization."

Continued from Page 19

## Unlocking Access:...

**Anonymity and Dignity:** Digital IDs can allow homeless individuals to access services without the stigma that sometimes comes with being identified as homeless. They can maintain a level of privacy and dignity while receiving the support they need. In modern times, where

digital platforms are increasingly the gateway to essential services, having a digital ID can be a lifeline for homeless individuals, helping them to navigate a complex system more easily and with greater dignity. (Alex Sangha is a Registered Clinical Social Worker)

Continued from Page 21

## 2024 Hyundai Sant Fe - New Redesigned And Better...

The AWD on the XRT does allow for a bit more tire slip than normal and you do get Hill descent control and an all-wheel-drive lock button that keeps the clutch on rear axle fully engaged. The XRT can handle hills, ditches, ruts, buried rocks, stumps, roots and a bit of mud. With its center differential locked, the Santa Fe XRT climbed hills easily, controlling wheel slip and sending measured amounts of torque as needed to each axle. The Santa Fe is rated to tow as much

as 2,041kg (4,500 lb) with the XRT package and the roof rails can hold an impressive 220 pounds of camping equipment or other outdoor toys. One other attribute to the XTR if you do go outdoors, the large rear hatch opening is almost 6 inches wider than the previous model makes loading cargo into the back easier.

To sum up, the 2024 Hyundai Santa Fe is a much improved replacement for the previous model with great styling, more accommodation, and excellent

standard equipment levels. The XRT version is a versatile outdoors as a decent recreation and camping vehicle but is not really designed as an high performance boulder-bashing off-roader. Highly recommended as a best buy in this sector and the XRT Package gives you that extra in the look and versatility department. 2024 Hyundai Santa Fe XTR - priced from \$46,999. Plus, options, PDI delivery and taxes. More info at www.hyundai.ca



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