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BC Premier Urges Canadians to Think Carefully Before Spending Money in US or on American Products

BC's premier David Eby is asking British Columbians to rethink when spending money in US or on US products, amidst 25% tariff threats that are looming large on Canadian exports.

Trump's proposed 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian exports would be a "deliberate economic attack" on B.C. families and people should think carefully about spending money in a country that wants to do them economic harm, Eby said.

"It feels very strange to say but I really do think that for Canadians right now, when you're planning your March break vacations, when you're planning your summer vacations, if the tariff threat is realized, the deliberate economic attack on families in our province, in our country, by the president of the United States, that we really should think carefully about spending our money in that country," Eby said.

He also urged residents to read the labels of products they buy to make sure they are



supporting Canadian-made goods. "I hope for British Columbians at home, when you're at the grocery store and you have a chance to buy a product, right now you're looking carefully at the labels to support Canadian jobs and to support Canada at this critical time," he said.

Eby was speaking to reporters on Tuesday with a backdrop of the Port of Vancouver.

He reiterated BC's importance in Canadian trade. He said, "300 billion dollars in trade flows through that Port, trade with 170 different countries supporting more than a 100,000 trade dependent jobs right across the country and it's an example of the importance of trade to British Columbia to Canada."

But he said the situation we find ourselves in is one where there is no new normal in terms of our trade relationship with the United States. "We have a president that is threatening catastrophic tariffs for both American families and Canadian families against Canadian goods and the consequences for that for British Columbia would be quite significant. For many American families as well they'll see higher prices for things like housing electricity and gas at the pump. For our Province the tariffs mean potentially the loss of tens of billions of dollars more than 100,000 jobs."

Continued on page 19

Khalsa Day (Vaisakhi) Parade Set For April 19th In Surrey



Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar, organizers of the Surrey Khalsa Day Parade have announced that the 2025 event will take place on Saturday, April 19th in Surrey, British Columbia. (Full story on Page 23)

Liberal Cabinet Minister Harjit Sajjan Won't Seek Re-Election

Federal Emergency Preparedness minister, Liberal MP from Vancouver South and well-known member of the South Asian community Harjit Sajjan will not seek re-election this year. This week, he made the announcement in a 2-page letter he posted on Platform X. He cited "increasingly toxic and polarized" political environment reason for his decision.



Continued on page 19

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The Maha Kumbh Mela -- A Global Village Of The Timeless And The Emergent

By Dr Kavita Gupta,
Founder, Dus Dishaa

This 'Global Village' draws attention from a wide spectrum of humanity. It is a living testament to Hinduism's timeless beliefs and practices while also being a sandbox for newer and emergent facets. It enables the three eternal concurrent processes of Evolution, Equilibrium, and Involution.

This year brings millions of people to the Maha Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj. The Mela (fair) offers a comprehensive view of Hindu beliefs and practices, providing visual and experiential insights. There is a pervasive feeling of equanimity, where distinctions of all types dissolve, fostering a sense of interconnectedness. The Mela connects to nature worshipping, honouring the Panch Tatvas – (the five elements of life: Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Space). It recalls a time of ritual observance and intellectual inquiry into natural forces and their astrological significance, emphasising the harmonious balance of these elements.

The Triveni Sangam delta at Prayagraj, the confluence of River Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati, draws a wide spectrum of humanity, from the Yogis from the Himalayas to devout pilgrims to curious travellers and tourists, diverse people from different walks of life, each with their own objective. This 45-day festival is hosted by an ecosystem of administrators, ground support, volunteers, business people and entrepreneurs. Such a scale also amasses attention from educators,

researchers and innovators with a multi-disciplinary lens.

All triune things converge in this land where the three rivers meet, including the compelling combination of three cycles embedded in the sacred trilogy of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. Brahma represents Evolution (Anabolism), and Vishnu represents Equilibrium (Metabolism), and Shiva represents Involution (Catabolism). The Kumbh Mela is a rich example of all three processes: the celebration of the past, the reflection on the present, and the preparation for the future. The Mela finds its roots in the famous legend of Hindu mythology - Samudra Manthan or the Churning of the Ocean) by Devtas (Gods) and Asuras (Demons). From the churning emerged various gifts, Kumbh of Amrit (a pot of nectar) for immortality, being one of them. The Kumbh Mela is a commemoration held every four years in each of the four cities, Haridwar, Nasik, Ujjain and Prayag, on a rotational basis.

Beyond its immense religious significance, the Kumbh Mela is also culturally and spiritually significant. The sheer number of devotees and pilgrims in an ephemeral city creates a rare and unique experience, attracting hordes of visitors to gain insights into the mystique of the Mela. Historically, many foreign travellers have written detailed accounts of their visits, getting the Kumbh Mela widespread global recognition. Hieun Tsang's Chronicles and Journals of Fanny Parkes



(Wanderings of a Pilgrim) have enamoured the global audience across ages.

The scale of the Mela has always been immense and is only growing with each decade. The estimated number of visitors this year is likely to cross 400 million through the Mela duration. Ten thousand hectares of Mela area have been declared a temporary district with 10 zones and 25 sectors. Setting up a temporary city of this scale is a massive administrative challenge, mainly when the location for the same is on the floodplains of the Ganges that receded very reluctantly this year, leaving a very small time frame for making all arrangements.

Despite the limited time, various government departments and agencies have worked round the clock to provide infrastructure and ready amenities before the first snan (holy dip) date. Massive budget allocations and various department personnel have been deployed to manage

security, traffic, health, sanitation and other arrangements. The Uttar Pradesh Government has also made a substantial technological push with its Digi Kumbh initiative. AI-powered CCTV systems, using facial and vehicle number plate recognition, have been designed to provide surveillance and monitor crowd movement, traffic flow and parking managements. Further, underwater drones with advanced imaging capabilities have also been deployed to provide round-the-clock aquatic surveillance. An AI-powered chatbot has also been launched to support over 11 languages and enable easy navigation.

In independent India, the Kumbh Mela is being hosted since 1954. Each government has put in its best efforts to make it a smooth and memorable experience for the pilgrims. Such efforts in successful set-up and operations have gained attention from across the world and attracted various forms of research efforts

beyond just an anthropological perspective.

Leading global and Indian academic establishments such as Harvard University, London School of Economics (LSE), IIM Bangalore and MIT have conducted various comprehensive studies to learn from the scale of operations and draw insights from such a mega event. Through a multi-disciplinary lens, these studies focus on ephemerality and infrastructure, public management, socio-cultural and logistical complexities, AI and technology. The mammoth scale of the pilgrimage, particularly on the main bathing days, when millions take a dip in the holy waters garnering wide-scale astonishment.

Such a concentrated flow of massive footfall has also meant immense potential for brand visibility and marketing opportunities for businesses. Alongside large brands, thriving local enterprises are tapping into every opportunity to serve all segments of the massive crowds. The guests visiting for a few days can choose from a variety of options available -luxury tents, budget tents, hotels, guest houses, homestays. Logistics providers, from taxi drivers to boatmen, are all geared up to provide services to the visitors while small vendors are ready to lend themselves to cater to the essential needs of puja (prayers) items and rituals, for the devotees coming for a day. Hindu astronomy, astrology, built heritage, ecology, and local food, each layer has a rich presence in the Kumbh Mela.

Continued on page 04

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WSO Welcomes Supreme Court Decision to Hear Bill 21 Religious Freedom Appeal

The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear a court challenge against Quebec’s controversial secularism law, known as Bill 21. Bill 21 prohibits certain public workers in positions of authority, such as judges, police officers, prison guards and teachers, from wearing religious symbols while performing their duties. Several groups have fought the law since it was passed, and on Thursday they welcomed the chance to have the Supreme

Court rule on its constitutionality. The World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO) welcomed the decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to grant leave to appeal in the case challenging Quebec’s Bill 21. The WSO highlighted the involvement of Amrit Kaur, a practising Sikh educator who wears a turban. The WSO and Kaur, who left Quebec to pursue her profession, are among those appealing the law. Amrit Kaur, a past WSO Board member who is a practicing Sikh and wears articles of faith, including a dastar (turban), as a part of her beliefs, was forced to leave Quebec in order to pursue her profession. The WSO and Amrit Kaur will be represented by Léon Moubayed and Faiz Lalani from Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP. WSO President Danish Singh said, “The Bill 21 appeal is deeply significant—not only for the Sikh community but for the broader principles of religious freedom, human rights and multiculturalism that define Canada. Bill 21’s discriminatory impact on visible minorities has forced individuals like Amrit Kaur, a Sikh teacher, to choose between their faith and their profession—an unacceptable choice in a country committed to protecting fundamental rights. We are also seeing the impacts of Bill 21 in Quebec’s Sikh community which has experienced rising intolerance. This week’s decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to grant leave to appeal is an important opportunity to examine the historic and fundamental protections for religious minorities and the limits of the notwithstanding clause in a case where it has been weaponized to override fundamental freedoms and disproportionately target visible minorities.” Singh said that the organization is encouraged by the federal government’s expressed willingness to intervene in this case and look forward to their participation as it proceeds. “As this case advances, we remain steadfast in our commitment to defending the rights of all Canadians to live and work freely, without discrimination. The stakes could not be higher, and the outcome of this case will have profound implications for the future of human rights and freedoms in Canada. We stand in solidarity with all those affected by Bill 21 and will continue to advocate on their behalf.”



Amrit Kaur, a practising Sikh educator who left Quebec to pursue her profession

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Continued from Page 03

The Maha Kumbh Mela...

From pilgrims, devotees, and travellers to market gurus, academicians and research enthusiasts, there’s something meaningful and compelling for everyone to witness and partake in the Maha Kumbh Mela! (Kavita is an avid traveller who collects stories from everyone and everywhere, completely enamored by the rich tapestry of Indian history and culture. She explores for her wanderlust and brings in unique perspectives! Through Dus Dishaa she brings alive local charms in this global village through immersive, specially curated experiences. In her regular days, she is a management professor with over 20 years of experience.)

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Sameer And Supreet Singh Charged Following Reports Of Violence In Surrey City Centre

Two men have been arrested and charged with a number of criminal offences following an incident in a City Centre apartment on January 20, 2025.

Shortly before 11 pm on January 20, 2025, Surrey Police Service Frontline officers responded to a call from a resident in an apartment in the 13400 block Central Avenue, Surrey that two men in an apartment were allegedly acting violently and had a gun.

SPS officer arrived and two men were taken into custody without incident. With the assistance of SPS's Frontline Investigation Support Team and Serious Crime Unit detectives, a search warrant was obtained and executed. Seized in the search was a black BB gun.

The investigation resulted in the two men being charged with several criminal offences by BC Prosecution Service.

Sameer Sameer, a 23-year-old Surrey resident, has been charged with one count of assault, one count of assault with a weapon, and one count of unlawful confinement.

Supreet Singh, a 23-year-old Surrey resident, has been charged with one count of assault, one count of uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm, one count of assault with a weapon, and one count of unlawful confinement.

Both men were remanded in custody and have their first court appearance on the morning of January 22, 2025.

Firearm Seized By Surrey Police In Traffic Stop

Surrey Police Service Gang Crime Unit seized a firearm and a loaded magazine in a vehicle and arrested two men following a traffic stop in east Newton late on January 16th, 2025.

At about 11 pm on January 16th, 2025, Surrey Police Service Gang Crime Unit officers were conducting proactive patrols in east Newton when they stopped a vehicle near 140th Street and 78th Avenue after seeing it driving erratically.

During the stop, officers located two knives, a firearm magazine loaded with .22 calibre rounds, and an unloaded .22 calibre rifle that had been heavily modified to resemble the size of a handgun.

The driver and passenger, both of whom are known to police, were arrested and released on an undertaking pending further investigation and potential consideration of criminal charges by the BC Prosecution Service. The firearm was seized and will be submitted for forensic testing.

First Homicide In Delta In 2025: 29-Year-Old Delta Resident Gurvinder Uppal Dies In Shooting

A shooting that occurred at a residence in the 8100 block of 112B St, Delta on January 20th, 2025 has left one male dead.

Delta Police Department (DPD) first informed that 29-year-old Delta resident Gurvinder Uppal was injured in the shooting. "Upon arrival, our officers located one male injured as a result of the shooting. This man has been transported to hospital for treatment. A white Ford truck was seen leaving the area following the shooting," police said.

At 7:26 Am, the DPD also responded to a reported vehicle fire in the 7300 block of Blake Dr, where officers located a fully engulfed white Ford pickup truck. "While we wait to confirm connection between these incidents, our investigators do believe



the burning truck is involved in the shooting investigation," said A/Insp. James Sandberg. "These incidents have the hallmarks to other BC gang conflict shootings. Investigators believe the shooting to be a targeted incident and not directed at the general

public."

The next day on January 21st, police informed that Uppal DPD's Major Crime Section was now investigating this shooting as a homicide. "The victim, Gurvinder Uppal, succumbed to his injuries in hospital. The DPD extend condolences to the family for their loss," Sandberg said.

The DPD Major Crime Section investigates serious offences in Delta, including homicides. DPD is not part of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT). Any information, witnesses, or video can be directed to the DPD at (604)940-7321 or tips@deltapolice.ca If you wish to remain anonymous, you can provide information to CrimeStoppers at 1(800)222-TIPS(8477).

This shooting is the first . Delta recorded no homicides in 2024.

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Billionaires' Wealth Grew by \$2 Trillion in 2024 – Oxfam Report

Rate of wealth growth last year was three times faster than in 2023

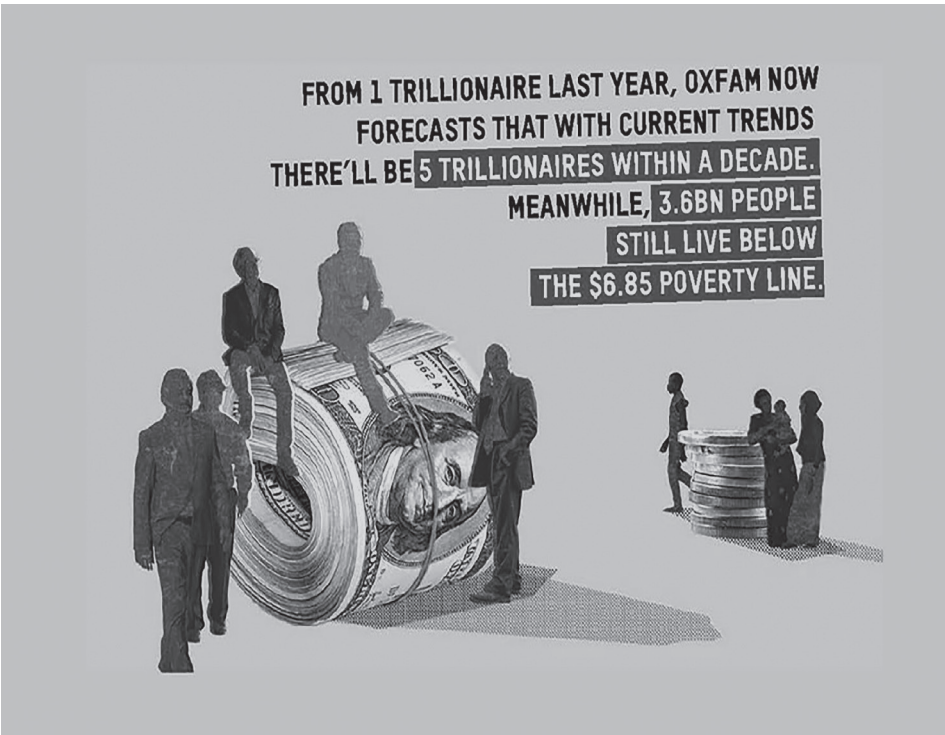


By Harinder Mahil

The wealth of the world's billionaires grew by \$2 trillion (US funds) in 2024, three times faster than in 2023, according to a report issued by Oxfam on January 20, 2025. This amounts to a growth of \$5.7 billion a day.

At the same time, the number of people living under the World Bank poverty line of \$6.85 a day has barely changed since 1990 and is close to 3.6 billion. This represents 44% of the world's population today, the charity said. One in 10 women live in extreme poverty (below \$2.15 a day), which means 24.3 million more women than men endure extreme poverty.

The report, titled Takers Not Makers, comes as many of the world's political leaders and the super-rich travel to the



Swiss ski resort of Davos for their annual Economic Forum. The latest inequality report from the charity reveals that the world is now on

track to have five trillionaires within a decade, a change from last year's forecast of one trillionaire with in 10 years. Oxfam's examination of billionaire assets also coincides with Donald Trump's inauguration as US president. Trump has included several billionaires in his team of advisers, including the Tesla and SpaceX chief executive, Elon Musk. He is promising to offer large-scale tax breaks to the wealthiest US citizens. Oxfam has warned that progress on reducing poverty had ground to a halt and that extreme poverty could be ended three times faster if inequality were to be reduced.

Globally, the number of billionaires rose by 204 last year to 2,769. Their combined wealth jumped from \$13tn to \$15tn in just 12 months – the second-largest annual increase since records began. The wealth of the world's 10 richest men grew on average by almost

\$100m a day and even if they lost 99% of their wealth overnight, they would remain billionaires. They include the Amazon founder, Jeff Bezos, with a net worth of \$219.4bn, whose Amazon "empire" accounts for 70% or more of online purchases in Germany, France, the UK and Spain. The report argues that most of the wealth is taken, not earned, as 60% comes from either inheritance, "cronyism and corruption" or monopoly power. It calculates that 18% of the wealth arises from monopoly power. According to the Forbes, the richest people in the world are Elon Musk; Jeff Bezos; Mark Zuckerberg, the Facebook and Meta co-founder; Larry Ellison, the co-founder of Oracle; and the LVMH founder Bernard Arnault.

- Oxfam is calling on governments to:**
- Radically reduce inequality – setting global and national goals to do so.
 - Repair the wounds of historical colonialism through apology and reparations.
 - End systems of modern-day colonialism.
 - Tax the richest to end extreme wealth.
 - Promote South-South cooperation and solidarity.
 - End ongoing formal colonialism in all forms.

These are excellent recommendations if governments are serious about ending inequality. Governments need to commit to ensuring that, both globally and at a national level, the incomes of the top 10 percent are no higher than the bottom 40 percent. It is extremely important to abolish tax havens. Oxfam's analysis shows that half of the world's billionaires live in countries with no inheritance tax for direct descendants. Inheritance needs to be taxed to dismantle the new aristocracy. *Harinder Mahil is a human rights activist and is secretary of Dr. Hari Sharma Foundation.*

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Illegal Construction On Property In Surrey Results In Legal Action From The City

Surrey Council has directed staff to file Notice on Title to the property at 9397 132 Street, where the owners have illegally constructed and occupied the buildings without permits and in violation of the City's Building Bylaw.

"Today's approval to file a Notice on Title for this property is a testament to Council's zero-tolerance approach to illegal construction in Surrey," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "It is shocking that this property has 10 illegal bedrooms within 7 illegal dwelling units. Numerous fines have gone unpaid as the property owners blatantly disregarded numerous Stop Work Orders, completing extensive unpermitted construction. Thank you to our Illegal Construction Enforcement Team for their tireless efforts to address these violations. By standing strong on these regulations, we are sending a clear message that illegal and unsafe construction will not be tolerated in the City of Surrey."

The notice on title is a result of a Special Council Meeting on Jan. 20, 2025, where



Surrey City Council voted unanimously in favour of filing the notice on title to the property. The notice will alert potential buyers, lenders, and insurers about illegal construction and the potential risks associated with the property.

Since July 2024, there have been 3 Special Council Meetings for Council consideration that led to the filing of a Notice on Title on 4 different properties impacting 7 property owners.

A notice on title under Section 57 of the

Community Charter is a legal measure used by a city to inform the public, including potential purchasers, about unauthorized structures on a property that were built without the necessary building permits or inspections. It serves several purposes, including:

Encouraging Compliance: It encourages owners to bring their property into compliance with the City's Building Bylaw, to ensure homes are built to the minimum health and safety requirements. The legislation provides that the notice will be removed once compliance is achieved.

Transparency and Awareness: It acts as a warning about unauthorized structures, protecting prospective buyers and informing the public.

Enforcement and Accountability: It emphasizes the City's commitment to enforcing its Building Bylaw by holding property owners accountable for illegal construction activities.

Continued on page 11

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Canada's immigration backlog in jeopardy after Immigration Department announces to slash thousands of jobs

The announcement of 3,300 job cuts at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is a devastating blow to the public services families, businesses, and communities in Canada rely on, warns the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and its component union, the Canada Employment and Immigration Union (CEIU). The federal immigration department is set to cut roughly 3,300 jobs over the next three years. The Canadian Press reported that in an internal memo obtained by The Canadian Press, the IRCC's deputy minister Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar and associate deputy minister Scott Harris told employees that some permanent positions "will be eliminated," along with "many" term positions. "Although the affected functions have been identified, the individuals have not," the memo said. "Our plan is to inform affected individuals first before we start to broaden the picture of how this impacts teams, sectors and the department." The memo said around 3,300 jobs will be cut over the next three years, with 20 per cent of the reductions hitting permanent employees. Letters will be sent to affected employees beginning in mid-February. The Public Service Alliance of Canada and the Canada Employment and Immigration Union said in a joint statement that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has not said who will be affected by the cuts. IRCC's shocking announcement provided no clear details about who will be affected by these significant cuts, stating only that further information would follow in mid-February. "These massive cuts will hurt families and businesses who rely on these critical public services and make a growing immigration crisis even worse," said Sharon DeSousa, PSAC National President. "Sweeping public service cuts always hurt Canada's most vulnerable populations and leave thousands of workers in limbo, unsure if they'll be out of a job next month." IRCC workers are essential in processing citizenship, permanent and residency applications, passports, conducting interviews, and ensuring Canada can attract the talent needed to strengthen our economy. "Last month, immigration processing wait times continued to reach record-breaking backlog levels, and these cuts will only worsen an already dire situation," said Rubina Boucher, CEIU National President. "Families longing to reunite, businesses grappling with critical labour shortages and a healthcare system desperate for skilled workers will all suffer the consequences of this reckless decision." PSAC and CEIU are urging the government to collaborate on real solutions, such as replacing expensive outsourcing contracts with in-house expertise to build a stronger immigration system that supports Canada's future. The cuts are the latest in a troubling series of workforce reductions as part of the government's Refocusing Government Spending Initiative. The 2023 budget outlined \$15 billion in cuts to programs and services over the next four years, with another \$3 billion in spending reductions announced in last year's Fall Economic Statement.

Continued on page 30

Former Brampton MP Ruby Dhalla Plans To Run In Liberal Leadership Race



Business owner, chiropractor, model and former Brampton MP Ruby Dhalla announced plans to run for the party leadership this week in a bid to replace Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, following his resignation

announcement earlier this month. With the deadline to enter set on Thursday, Dhalla said she intends to enter the contest "to bring something to this race that the other candidates are not," she told CTV. "And we also need to ensure we get the respect that Canada deserves at the international stage back, and I will stand up and I will fight for all Canadians," she said. Dhalla was first elected to the Springdale riding in 2004 and held onto it in the 2006 early election and again in 2008, defeating Conservative candidate Parm Gill.

Former Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland Announces Bid For Liberal Leadership

Chrystia Freeland, former finance minister officially announced she will run for the Liberal leadership. Freeland announced her campaign on social media with a single sentence: "I am running to fight for Canada." The announcement came after former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney launched his campaign for the leadership race. Speaking in front of about 200 supporters at the St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club in Toronto, Freeland highlighted her experience as both foreign and finance minister, and pledged to match Trump's threatened 25 per cent tariff on Canadian exports



"dollar-for-dollar" to deliver "the biggest trade blow the United States has ever endured." Freeland's launch was repeatedly disrupted by protesters, many carrying Palestinian flags or banners referencing Gaza. Supporters drowned out the demonstrators with chants of

"Freeland! Freeland!" but it took nearly 20 minutes for the candidate to get past her initial remarks and into her prepared speech. "We won't pick a fight with you. We don't want a fight with you. But if the fight comes to our door, remember, we love our country just as much as you love yours," Freeland said, referring to Trump. "Canada is not for sale and our sovereignty is not negotiable. So if you hit us, we will hit back." Freeland split publicly with Trudeau in December, resigning as finance minister the same day she was scheduled to deliver a key economic update.

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Mandatory Short-Term Rental Registry For Hosts In BC

BC government has announced the launch of a new short-term rental (STR) registry under which anyone operating a short-term rental in B.C. and listing on platforms, such as Airbnb, Vrbo and others, will be required to register with the Province, including hosts operating outside areas with the principal-residence requirement.

"We are taking action to help more people find a home in the communities they love by reining in speculators who are operating illegally," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. "The launch of the registry is the next step to provide more long-term homes for people,

giving hosts who are playing by the rules the ability to continue to legally operate and welcome guests while further cracking down on speculators who are breaking the rules."

To register, hosts need to complete an online application available here: <https://gov.bc.ca/strregistry>

Hosts will receive a provincial registration number that must be displayed on all online listings in B.C., effective May 1, 2025. Hosts who do not comply and who do not have a provincial registration number will have their listings taken down as of June 1, 2025.

Registration fees are: \$100 per year for



Ravi Kahlon,
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

an STR in which the host lives, such as a whole home the host rents out while away or a bedroom within it; \$450 per year if the host does not live in the STR, such as a secondary suite, cottage or laneway home; and \$600 per year for an entire strata hotel. Hosts will receive a 50% discount on fees if they register by Feb. 28, 2025, or a 25% discount if they register by March 31, 2025. Revenue from the program will support STR enforcement and compliance in communities throughout B.C.

The provincial registry requirement is in addition to any requirements and rules set out by local municipalities

Continued on page 11

'NDP Seems Intent On Keeping People As Tenants Instead Supporting Their Path To Becoming Homeowners'

Linda Hepner, Opposition Critic for Housing, has called the mandate letter delivered to Housing Minister Ravi Kahlon by Premier David Eby "a missed opportunity and nothing more than a blueprint for delays."

"The NDP's housing mandate is full of lofty promises but lacks the urgency and concrete steps British Columbians need," said Hepner. "Families are struggling, developers are frustrated, and municipalities are overwhelmed. This is not the bold action our province deserves, it's just more delays wrapped in empty rhetoric."

Hepner criticized the absence of a focus on market housing and the government's apparent prioritization of rental and co-op housing over homeownership. "The NDP seems intent on keeping people as tenants rather than supporting their path to becoming homeowners," she said. "Homeownership is a cornerstone of affordability and stability, yet it's



barely addressed in this mandate."

She also emphasized the need to reduce regulatory hurdles to make building faster and more affordable. "Reducing red tape is crucial to getting homes built quickly and efficiently," Hepner said.

"Without meaningful reforms, affordability will remain out of reach for countless British Columbians."

Continued on page 11

More Substance-Use Treatment Coming To B.C.

As many as 250 people with addictions challenges in B.C. will have more options to help them move toward recovery with newly opened substance-use treatment beds in their communities.

"When someone reaches out for help with their substance use, they should receive compassionate and effective care," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. "We are expanding services across B.C. so more people have the supports they need to stabilize their lives and begin their healing journey."

Twenty-six new publicly funded treatment and recovery beds are improving access to addictions care for under-served populations. This will make it easier for people to get treatment without facing barriers, such as travel and cost. Expanded services are now available at:

* Harbour Light Centre in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, with 12 beds for women, including transgender and two-spirited, that offer a range of mental-health and addictions



Josie Osborne, Minister of Health

services, and connection to community supports.

* Island Crisis Care in Nanaimo, with six beds for women who have completed treatment to get longer-term support with their recovery and rebuilding a healthy life in a homelike setting.

* Karis Support Society service in Kelowna, with six beds providing tailored support for pregnant women and women with children to help reach their

recovery goals.

* 333 Recovery program in Prince Rupert, with two beds offering recovery supports for men, including Indigenous cultural-focused programs.

Amna Shah, parliamentary secretary for mental health and addictions, "We want treatment options available for people no matter where they live in B.C. That's why we are adding more mental-health and substance-use services throughout the province and working closely with local communities and partners, to help people on the path to a healthy and fulfilling life."

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Immigration Department Announces New Penalties For Paid Immigration Representatives Who Break The Law

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada is introducing new rules to penalize paid representatives (authorized and unauthorized) who break the law when representing applicants and advising them on immigration or citizenship applications. This includes fines of up to a maximum of \$1.5 million for advising clients to misrepresent themselves. The regulations would also require that the minister publish information concerning persons found liable for a violation on the department's website, including the nature of the violation, the amount of the administrative monetary penalty and an indication of whether the person has paid the penalty. The goals are to encourage paid representatives to act honestly and only with appropriate authorization, and to combat fraud. This will strengthen the integrity of our immigration system and support our commitment to border security.

The draft regulations have been published in the Canada Gazette. Stakeholders can review and provide feedback before the new rules are implemented in 2025. Many people rely on immigration and citizenship representatives for help with their applications. These rules would address issues like fraud and unauthorized practice, holding representatives accountable with clear consequences for violations. In preparation for these new regulations, we've launched an open, transparent and merit-based selection process to fill a reviewer position. The reviewer's responsibilities will involve evaluating requests for review submitted by those who have been found in violation. This is a virtual, part-time position open to qualified candidates across Canada. For more information on the position and on how to apply, please see the notice of appointment opportunity.

Employers Heavily Fined And Banned From Hiring Under The Temporary Foreign Worker Program

The government of Canada informed that between April 1 and September 30, 2024, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) conducted 649 employer compliance inspections, of which 11 percent were found to be non-compliant. Penalties for non-compliant employers have increased in comparison to the previous year. During this six-month period, ESDC issued \$2.1 million in Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMP), more than double the amount in the same period in 2023. Inspections during this time resulted in 20 employers being banned from the TFW Program, a fivefold increase from the same time span last year. From April 1 until September 30, 2024, non-compliance violations included



Steven MacKinnon
Minister of Employment

an employer in the seafood product preparation and packaging industry was fined \$365,750 and banned from the program for two years after violating several requirements and conditions, including failing to retain necessary records, non-compliance with hiring and recruiting laws, not compensating foreign workers properly, and not providing a workplace free of abuse. An employer in janitorial maintenance was fined \$124,000 and prohibited from participating in the TFW Program for five years for improper pay and working conditions. Another employer in the farming sector was fined \$75,000 and banned from the TFW Program for five years for failing to provide required documentation to inspectors, being absent from a scheduled meeting with inspectors, and failing to demonstrate they were operating a legitimate business. To combat program misuse and increase worker protections, ESDC has implemented stricter guidelines for AMPs. In 2023, penalties increased from \$15,000 to \$45,000 and a 5-year ban for employers who do not provide documents and who are found to be claiming a business that does not exist or exists illicitly. Beginning in fall 2024, the same penalties also apply to employers who refuse to meet with inspectors and who do not attend inspections. Additionally, employers who are not actively engaged in their business operations now face penalties of \$15,000 for each negatively affected temporary foreign worker, rather than a total fine of \$15,000 for non-compliance. "Workers in Canada deserve and expect to feel safe and protected in the workplace. That's why we're taking steps to further protect temporary foreign workers and hold bad actors accountable. Today's compliance report clearly demonstrates that our enhanced inspection practices, stronger enforcement measures, and tougher penalties are working. Employers must follow the rules, and we will continue to take decisive action to protect workers' rights and well-being while growing our economy," said Steven MacKinnon Minister of Employment.

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More than 15,000 Canadians Died Waiting for Health Care in 2023-24

SecondStreet.org, a public policy think tank, released government data showing an additional 15,474 patients in Canada died in 2023-24 before receiving various surgeries or diagnostic scans. However, that number is incomplete, as several governments provide either partial data, or simply do not track the problem.

In total, 4,516 British Columbians died while on waitlists for treatment, according to report out of this 3,528 died due to waiting for diagnostic and 988 died due to waiting for surgeries. The highest number was recorded in Fraser wealth with more than 1500 people dying due to waitlist.

SecondStreet.org collected the data by filing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests across Canada. When the data collected is extrapolated across jurisdictions which did not provide data, the number actually nearly doubles, to around 28,077. These figures cover everything from cancer treatment and heart operations to

Table 1 Patient Deaths While Waiting for Surgeries and Diagnostic Scans (2023-24)			
Province	Deaths (Surgery)	Deaths (Diagnostic)	Total
BC	988	3,528	4,516
• Interior Health	212	1,232	
• Fraser Health	230	1,343	
• Northern Health	73	105	
• Island Health	217	360	
• Vancouver CH	256	488	
AB	-	-	-
SK	385	-	385
MB*	31	-	43
• Prairie Mountain Health	31	-	
• Southern Health	12	-	
ON	1,935	7,947	9,882
QC	-	-	-
NB	51	-	51
NS	373	-	373
PE	17	207	224
NL	-	-	-
Total	3,792	11,682	15,474

cataract surgery and MRI scans. “Canadians pay really high taxes and yet our health care system is failing when compared to better-performing

universal systems in Europe,” said Harrison Fleming, Legislative and Policy Director at SecondStreet.org. “Thousands of Canadians across the country find themselves on waitlists — in some cases for several years — with too many tragically dying before ever getting treated, or even diagnosed.”

The report examines the data SecondStreet.org gathered from provincial governments and their health authorities, between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

The report highlights at least 15,474 patients died in Canada while waiting for surgeries or diagnostic scans. This figure does not include Quebec, Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador and most of Manitoba. Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia only provided data on patients who died while waiting for surgeries – not diagnostic scans.

New data from Ontario Health suggests 378 patients died while waiting for cardiac surgery or a cardiac procedure.

Since April 2018, SecondStreet.org has identified a staggering 74,677 cases where Canadians died while waiting for care. “When a restaurant fails a health inspection, the government shares the news publicly and sometimes notices are posted in the establishment’s windows for everyone to see,” said Colin Craig, SecondStreet.org President. “But, when nearly 75,000 Canadians have died before getting the care they needed, governments don’t proactively disclose anything. Maybe it’s time for governments to hold themselves to the same standard they hold everyone else.”

“This research was inspired by stories like Laura Hillier’s, the 18-year-old Ontario patient that died on a waiting list for cancer treatment,” added Craig. “Governments need to do a better job tracking tragic stories like hers, notifying the public about waiting lists deaths and most importantly, initiating reform to save lives.”

Continued from Page 09

Mandatory Short-Term Rental Registry...

and governments, including any business licence requirements. Launching the provincial registry is a step that gives the Province another tool to help enforce rules and to ensure mini-hotel operators and people with multiple, illegal listings are no longer allowed to

operate. To register an STR, visit: <https://gov.bc.ca/stregistry> To find out more about the registry, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/short-term-rentals>

Continued from Page 07

Illegal Construction On Property In Surrey Results In Legal Action From...

The City of Surrey’s Illegal Construction Enforcement Team, established in 2022, is dedicated to enforcing the City’s bylaws and targeting residential construction that is done without permits, inspections, or compliance with safety standards. The City of Surrey has also increased fines for illegal building

activities and sought compliance through court action. To file a complaint about construction you suspect has been done without permits, email bylawcomplaint@surrey.ca or call 604-591-4370. Complaints can also be submitted online through the Report a Problem tool.

Continued from Page 09

‘NDP Seems Intent On...

Hepner urged the government to take bold action by setting enforceable housing targets, fast-tracking permits, and partnering with the private sector. “This

isn’t just about policies; it’s about families, young professionals, and seniors struggling to afford homes,” she said. “British Columbians deserve better than vague promises and bureaucratic delays,” concluded Hepner. “The time for action is now.”

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Advocates Call for Action to Preserve Learning Centres and Prioritize Inclusive Education in Surrey

The Surrey Teachers' Association (STA), CUPE 728, and Surrey District Parent Advisory Council (Surrey DPAC) are urging SD36 school trustees and local MLAs to fulfill their obligations to maintain critical alternative education programs like Learning Centres. This call comes amidst increasing concerns about the strength of the provincial government's commitment to the most vulnerable students in the district given the reduction from five to two Learning Centres by the end of this school year. "According to the District's own June 2024 report," said Lizanne Foster, STA President, "students who attend Learning Centres represent some of the most vulnerable populations in our school system. The comments accompanying the 5170 signatures on the petition to protect Learning Centres highlight their

proven track record in supporting at-risk students to achieve success and stability." Despite the Surrey District's assurances that the Learning Centre environment can be replicated within catchment schools, Surrey DPAC President Anne Whitmore voiced skepticism. "It's unrealistic to believe that mainstream schools can provide the same targeted supports and specialized environment as Learning Centres. These programs meet unique needs that catchment schools often cannot accommodate - which is why students are at Learning Centres in the first place. Families and students rely on these alternative settings to thrive. Returning students to the place that often was the source of trauma is an unacceptable solution." Tammy Murphy, President of CUPE 728, emphasized the disproportionate representation of marginalized groups in Learning Centres, including youth in care, Indigenous students, neurodivergent students, youth at risk of substance misuse, and students experiencing mental health challenges. "It is unconscionable that successive governments, whether BC Liberals or BC NDP, have consistently

underfunded these critical services. These closures represent a failure to uphold the education and well-being commitments owed to these vulnerable students." Adding to these concerns, Foster highlighted the imminent closure of City Central Learning Centre, which serves one of Surrey's regions with the highest population of Indigenous residents. "This decision calls into question the government's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Decisions like these must prioritize the impacts on Indigenous youth and uphold the principles of equity and reconciliation." Whitmore, Murphy and Foster's calls for action echo concerns raised by the BC Ombudsperson in their recent announcement of investigation into school exclusion. The investigation announcement underscores the urgent need for inclusive education practices that address the diverse needs of all students. Learning Centres exemplify best practices in inclusive education by providing

tailored environments where students can access the supports necessary for academic and personal success. Their closure risks deepening systemic inequities. "Our students deserve access to programs and resources that ensure their success and well-being," Whitmore stated. "We have heard over and over from students and their families how Learning Centres are more than a place to get an education - they provide a safe place where students feel that they belong, that they matter and that they are heard. Learning Centres play a crucial role in changing the course of students' lives, especially for those who face barriers in mainstream settings." This joint statement by Surrey's key education partners urges local MLAs to honour their responsibility to Surrey's students by advocating for immediate funding to preserve these vital programs. This is part of a continuing, urgent call for resources to address severe operational funding and capital project shortages that are impacting support of inclusive education in Surrey.

Significant Number Of Ambulances In BC Without Staff Due To New Overtime Ban Policy

The Ambulance Paramedics of BC - CUPE 873, who represent the nearly 6,000 dispatchers and paramedics in British Columbia are reporting a significant number of ambulances sitting empty across the province as BCEHS refuses to schedule overtime in advance. "Our members are reporting dozens and dozens of ambulances across the province sitting empty when they show up to work, and it's not getting any better," said Ambulance Paramedics of BC President Jason Jackson. "We've tried to engage



with BCEHS, PHSA and the government, and they still seem hesitant to admit we are reaching critical staffing levels again.

Continued on page 14

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Vishwa Hindi Diwas Celebration



Consulate General of India, Vancouver celebrated Vishwa Hindi Diwas on 10th January 2025. More than 200 people from including from Hindi Associations/Schools and Hindi enthusiasts took part in the programme. While conveying his greetings on the occasion, Consul General Masakui Rungsumg spoke about the importance of Hindi as a bridge between cultures and its role in forging unity in diversity. He reaffirmed our commitment to promote Hindi language across the globe and thanked all those who participated in the celebrations.

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Toronto's Registered Massage Therapist Arrested For Sexual Assault

Toronto Police have arrested a South Asian massage therapist Chandra Babu Bala Sri, 46, after complaints of sexual assault. According to police, "On January 18, 2025, at approximately 6:30 p.m., a victim attended 22 Division to report a sexual assault that occurred in the Bloor Street West and Mill Road area. It is alleged that the victim attended a business for a massage and the accused is a registered massage therapist. Sri has been arrested and charged with two counts of Sexual Assault. Police are concerned there may be more victims. He is scheduled to appear in court at



the Ontario Court of Justice, 10 Armoury Street, on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 2 p.m., in room 201. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-2200, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), or at www.222tips.com. A sexual assault is any form of unwanted sexual contact. It includes, but is not limited to, kissing, grabbing, oral sex and penetration. To learn more about sexual assault, including how to report a sexual assault or get support in the community, please visit YourChoice.to.

16 Year Old Facing Charge Along With 3 Other Indo-Canadians Following Shooting In Brampton

A 16-year-old has been charged with first-degree murder in connection with a fatal shooting that happened in Brampton last August, marking the fourth "and final" arrest. On Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, officers responded to a residential address on Milestone Drive in Brampton where they located an adult male deceased who had been shot. The identify of the victim has not been released at the request of the family. Three other individuals have already been arrested and charged in connection to this homicide. 24-year-old Parmvir Singh of Brampton was charged with First Degree Murder. 21-year-old Manvir Khabra and an 18-year-old male, both from Brampton were charged with Manslaughter. The 18-year-old was a youth at the time of an incident and therefore cannot be named by police. As the investigation unfolded, detectives identified a fourth suspect. On Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, the fourth and final suspect, a 16-year-old youth from Brampton,

was arrested and charged with First Degree Murder. They were held for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton. The identity of the youth cannot be disclosed as per provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. "I want to commend our investigators for their diligent efforts that will bring justice to the victim and closure for the family. We will continue to investigate and hold those accountable for such senseless and heinous crimes that threaten the safety of our communities," said Deputy Chief Nick Milinovich. Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau at 905-453-2121, ext. 3205. Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Continued from Page 12 Significant Number Of Ambulances

We know we have hundreds of open and unfilled positions in the province. These are predictable vacancies that can be staffed well in advance. There is just no reason to wait to the last minute to start calling people to come in." BCEHS instituted new overtime bans on January 1st to cut costs in the face of a significant budget deficit, which has translated into frontline cuts to ambulances, affecting response times. BCEHS always runs at sub-optimal staffing levels, with 25% of their ambulances commonly unstaffed on a day-to-day basis. "Our low acuity calls are waiting longer than ever, and BCEHS' deployment changes are hurting patients. We're hearing that patients are sitting for hours on the floor, or with first responders when they need to be transported to hospital by paramedics immediately. Now is not the time to cut front line services." According to Jackson, BCEHS, PHSA and the government have refused to change their overtime ban policy, even after concerns were brought to them about patients waiting. "We're issuing this warning to the public that when you call 911, and if it's not critical, you will undoubtedly be waiting for an ambulance, and it could be a long time." Official Opposition Critic for Rural Healthcare and MLA for Courtenay-Comox Brennan Day said, "The public safety crisis unfolding in our ambulance system is a direct result of the NDP government's failure to prioritize frontline healthcare. Paramedics are stretched to their breaking point, and communities across the province are being left to fend for themselves. BC families deserve better than a system where ambulances sit idle while patients wait hours for critical care."



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4000 sq. Ft. Exclusive listing CD Zoning, Perfect retail/wholesale business. Centrally located, heart of Newton. Must see. Price is \$4,499,000.

FOR SALE

12335 83A AVENUE

Free standing non strata building in the heart of west newton. Rare find 5 loading docks plus one level loading. Almost half a acre of land. 22 feet ceiling height. Total 5 units, 3 are used by the owner and 4500 sq ft leased for app \$12000.00 a month gross. Owner is in the process of legalizing Mezzanine. Very long possession is possible. Very convenience location and only steps away from 84 ave and 124 street.

\$8,990,000

FOR LEASE

11316 CONFIDENTIAL



\$649,900

A highly profitable, busy and well established convenience store for sale in the Heart of downtown Vancouver. Close to Skytrain and surrounded by offices, this convenience store enjoys plenty of foot traffic and fantastic daily sales boosted by vapes and accessories.

PIZZA FOR SALE

120 30485 CARDINAL STREET

\$210,000

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 OR LEASE

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.

2 Unit
Warehouse

total 2625 Sq ft, prime location 123st and 84 ave area, \$2,900,000 for both.

FOR SALE

\$1,688,800



11933 96 AVENUE

This stunning custom-built home in the desirable Royal Heights neighbourhood of Surrey sits on an expansive 8,500 sq. ft. lot, offering ample outdoor space and privacy. On the market for the first time, this home features a bright and airy interior designed with modern finishes, and large windows that flood the home with natural light. Two separate laundry. A separate rental suite provides excellent income potential or an ideal in-law suite. Located within walking distance to shopping, restaurants, parks, and schools, this home offers convenience and ease of living. Extra-large garage with additional room for your hobbies or extra storage.

FOR SALE

\$619,999



118 225 FRANCIS WAY

Located in the heart of New Westminster, this stunning one-bedroom unit at the Whittaker combines elegance and comfort for an exceptional living experience. With large windows that flood the space with natural light, the open-concept layout features a modern kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Move-in ready, this home is perfect for those seeking both urban convenience and a peaceful escape. The Whittaker's exclusive "Boiler Room" clubhouse enhances the lifestyle with a fully equipped fitness center, media room, and a party space for larger gatherings.

SURREY TRUCK
BODY SHOP

Extremely busy location. Land app. 1/2 acre (including building) 8000 sq ft. 2 bays. 24 hr. business alone or together.

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WAREHOUSE
FOR LEASE

124st and 84

Total 12,000 sq ft, on 2 levels.

Call for details

FOR LEASE

4.363 acres of prime land in the heart of Surrey. Near 152st and 68ave. ALR is designated as an industrial business park. (Truck parking only not allowed)

WAREHOUSE

3000sq ft. warehouse, 1500sq. ft. up and down, near payal business center

\$2,049,000

Call for details

WAREHOUSE
FOR SALE

2817 Sqft in 1/2 acre, New 1000 sq ft. auto etc. 16 foot ceiling.

Only \$1,199,000.

Warehouse for Lease

2637sq ft, Newton area 124st and 82ave., end of January. \$17 sq ft. plus \$6 additional rent.

Continued from Page 01

BC Premier Asks Canadians To Think...

Eby said BC will adopt a three-part approach to respond to tariffs. He said retaliatory tariffs, targeted tariffs, and specific embargos are not out of the question. “We’re supporting the federal government in direct-response targeted tariffs at Republican districts to make sure that the party that is bringing these tariffs to us understands why trade increases the prosperity of our countries,” said Eby. Secondly, Eby says B.C. is forming a “task force on trade and economic security for the province” co-chaired by notable local business people, CEOs, and Indigenous leaders. The task force, he says, will help ensure that the province doesn’t remain dependent on trade with the U.S. “What President Trump has done has let us know that a partner that we’ve had for many, many years, that we trust, that we rely on, that’s like family for us, can no longer be relied on. And I, for one, will

not allow British Columbia to stay in a position of being dependent on a partner that we can’t count on.” To achieve that independence, Eby says the province will, thirdly, diversify its portfolio, deepening and expanding trade relationships with other countries around the world — especially those also under threat of U.S. tariffs. President Donald Trump reiterated his threat to impose tariffs on Canada while speaking to global business leaders at the World Economic Forum. He said the US does not need Canadian energy, vehicles or lumber. Asserting that it can be avoided if the neighbouring nation chose to “become a state” of the US. “You can always become a state, and if you’re a state, we won’t have a deficit. We won’t have to tariff you,” he said in Davos. Meanwhile Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alongside the Minister of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs, Dominic

LeBlanc, the Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, Anita Anand, and Canada’s Ambassador to the United States of America, Kirsten Hillman, convened a virtual meeting with Canada’s premiers to discuss the Canada-U.S. relationship. The Prime Minister and the premiers shared insights from recent conversations with their U.S. counterparts and agreed to continue advocating for Canadian workers and businesses. The Prime Minister stressed that a strong, united Team Canada approach is the best way to promote Canadian interests and forge a productive relationship with the incoming administration. First Ministers discussed a wide range of measures that federal, provincial, and territorial governments are prepared to take to respond to the proposed U.S. tariffs and support Canadians while recognizing that preventing the imposition of tariffs remains Canada’s top priority. First Ministers discussed the importance of reducing barriers to trade within Canada and agreed that there is more work to be done to facilitate internal trade. The

Prime Minister and premiers also agreed that the Committee on Internal Trade should meet as soon as possible to make recommendations to First Ministers on concrete measures to liberalize trade and strengthen Canada’s economy. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of the ongoing partnership between federal, provincial, and territorial governments in the weeks and months ahead, and he thanked his counterparts for their contributions. The Prime Minister and the premiers agreed to meet again next week to provide updates on their efforts to strengthen Canada-U.S. relations. “Together, we are committed to working closely with the new U.S. administration on border security issues. The prospect of unjustified 25 per cent tariffs, imposed unilaterally by the U.S. against its closest ally, is a matter of grave concern. Tariffs on Canadian goods would increase the cost of living for consumers on both sides of the border, put thousands of jobs at risk, and weaken North America’s competitiveness in the global economy,” he said.

Continued from Page 01

Liberal cabinet minister Harjit Sajjan won’t seek...

Starting the letter on a note of gratitude towards the community he was raised in and has been serving, he said, his decision to enter politics was driven by a desire to raise the “collective voice of Vancouver South” to be heard in Ottawa. Listing the achievements, Vancouver community made under his leadership, he said, “Together I believe we have accomplished this. We have advocated and received significant federal funding for housing, we increased transit along our busiest corridors, we gained investments for our local parks, and we added an

additional seniors center at Sunset.” The army veteran and former Vancouver police detective joined Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s cabinet as national defence minister when the Liberal party formed government in 2015. Sajjan was re-elected in the riding in 2019 and again in 2021, after which he was shuffled from the national defence portfolio to international development, and then later to emergency preparedness. In his statement, Sajjan highlighted some achievements from his nine years in cabinet, including launching a new

Canadian defence policy that saw increased military spending, and leading the Canadian Armed Forces’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Vancouver South MP lamented that the political climate of the past few years has brought “more aggressive rhetoric and even physical threats.” “Sadley, over the last few years, our political landscape has become increasingly toxic and polarised, with more aggressive rhetoric and even physical threats. This environment not only take significant toll on politicians, but also on our ability to

raise our children in a healthy and safe way. We can and must find our way back to civility by embracing respect for each other, by seeking common ground and fostering constructive dialogue.” Sajjan concluded his statement by saying he remains a dedicated member of the Liberal Party of Canada. On Saturday, Sajjan endorsed former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney for the leadership of the Liberal party. “Mark’s accomplishments are known the world over,” Sajjan said in a statement. “Canada is the greatest country on Earth: we need builders, unifiers and proud Canadians with experience — Mark embodies some of the best attributes of Canada.”

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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.

217 20696 EASTLEIGH CRESCENT

NEW LISTING

\$699,000

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!

19917 72 AVE LANGLEY

NEW LISTING

\$1,599,998

House with basement suite All ready to move in approx \$500 per month Open house Sunday 1-4

11516 PARKWOOD PLACE DELTA

NEW LISTING

\$1,499,000

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.

5105 ABERDEEN ST., VAN

\$1,495,000

Beautiful Corner House in the most desired area of Collingwood. Upstairs features three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Downstairs has a good size family room with fireplace and a large dining area. Close to schools, transit and shopping. Call today for more details.

#37-8358 121A ST., SURREY

\$699,000

Welcome to Kennedy Trails. This house checks all the boxes. Cost effective & environmentally friendly. GEOTHERMAL Heating & Cooling. E-star windows. Three large bedrooms. Large dining area. Granite kitchen. Master Bedroom with 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.

9750 128 ST., SURREY

\$999,900

Solid 6 bed and 2 bath house in the heart of Surrey. A perfect home for first time home buyers. Large living room, kitchen, dining room, and master bedroom. 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.

#51-7090 180 ST., SURREY

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14379 66A AVENUE

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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- Couchette 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.

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Honda Civic Hybrid Named 2025 North American Car of the Year

Auto Review by Veeno Dewan

It's a record-setting fourth win for the Honda Civic, which has won more NACOTY honours than any other nameplate in the over 30-year history of the award.

The win also marks the second honour for the 11th-generation Civic and the seventh time a Honda vehicle has received a North American Car or Truck of the Year award—Honda Civic (2006, 2016, 2022 and 2025), Honda Ridgeline (2006 and 2017) and Honda Accord (2018).

“The Honda Civic is Canada’s best-selling compact car for a reason, it embodies all of Honda’s legendary attributes balancing all the rational needs customers require while delivering a thrilling drive, generation after generation, it truly is an icon,” said Emile Korkor, Assistant Vice President Honda Canada. “We are extremely proud to have the Civic recognized with this award by the automotive press across the continent, we expect Civic Hybrid variants to represent over 60% of Civic sales in Canada this year, it is a key part of Honda’s electrification strategy focused on customer demands today and tomorrow.”

The North American Car, Utility and Truck of the Year awards honour excellence in innovation, design, safety features, performance, technology, driver satisfaction and value. Initiated in 1994, vehicles are judged by 50 professional automotive journalists from Canada and the United States who work for independent magazines, television, radio, newspapers, and industry websites.

Positioned at the top of the refreshed 2025 Honda Civic lineup, the new Civic Hybrid, offered for the first time as either

a sedan or hatchback, combines the fun-to-drive spirit of Civic with the award-winning Honda two-motor hybrid system. With a combined 200 horsepower and an impressive 232 lb.-ft. of torque, the new Civic Sport Hybrid and Sport Touring Hybrid are the most powerful non-Type R Civics ever. Featuring two large and powerful electric motors, the Honda two-motor hybrid system gives Civic Hybrid quick, effortless



acceleration with outstanding fuel economy ratings – including a 4.7 L/100km city rating for Civic Sedan Sport and Sport Touring Hybrids.

To further amplify the legendary fun-to-drive spirit and class-leading ride comfort of Civic, the ride and handling dynamics have been optimized with unique spring and damper tuning, and a special tire developed for Civic Hybrid. Hybrid-electric trims also enjoy the highest levels of cabin quietness and ride comfort in the Civic lineup, with a robust noise reduction package that includes Active Noise Control on all hybrids, and wheel resonators on Sport Touring.

Civic is the longest-running Honda automotive nameplate. Honda has sold over 15 million Civics in North America since 1973, and the 11th-generation Civic is an unparalleled success. Serving as

the gateway to the Honda brand, Civic is Canada’s best-selling compact car.

Honda is celebrating 25 years of hybrid sales in North America. Honda began sales of the first-generation Honda Insight, Canada’s first hybrid-electric model, in December of 1999.

The new fourth-generation Honda two-

motor hybrid system that powers Civic Hybrid models maximizes efficiency without compromising dynamic performance or passenger and cargo space to deliver a sportier and more pleasant driving experience with exceptional fuel economy ratings.

Continued on page 30

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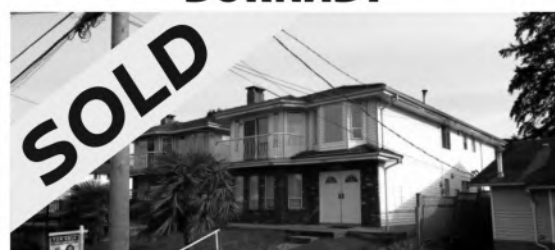




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US Court Judge Temporarily Blocks Trump’s Birthright Citizenship Order

A federal district court judge has temporarily blocked President Donald Trump’s executive order aimed at limiting birthright citizenship.

Trump’s executive order states that citizenship is not automatically extended to those born on American soil and that it is instead contingent on the citizenship status of a child’s parents.

In their emergency motion, the plaintiffs alleged that Trump’s order violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees citizenship to all children born on U.S. soil “and subject to the jurisdiction thereof.”

Senior U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour heard 25 minutes of arguments and then issued an order from the bench blocking the policy from taking effect for 14 days. There will be a further briefing on a preliminary injunction to permanently block the executive order while the case proceeds.

During a hearing on the matter, Judge Coughenour said of Trump’s executive order, “I’ve been on the bench for over four decades, I can’t remember another case where the question presented is as clear as this one is. This is a blatantly unconstitutional order.”

The case is one of five lawsuits being brought by 22 states and a number of immigrants rights groups across the country. The suits include personal testimonies from attorneys general who are U.S. citizens by birthright, and names pregnant women who are afraid their children won’t become U.S. citizens.

Signed by Trump on Inauguration Day, the order is slated to take effect on Feb. 19. It could impact hundreds of thousands of people born in the country, according to one of the lawsuits. In 2022, there were about 255,000 births of citizen children to mothers living in the country illegally and about 153,000 births to two such parents, according to the four-state suit filed in Seattle, Associated Press reported.

The U.S. is among about 30 countries where birthright citizenship — the principle of jus soli or “right of the soil” — is applied. Most are in the Americas, and Canada and Mexico are among them. The lawsuits argue that the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees citizenship for people born and naturalized in the U.S., and states have been interpreting the amendment that way for a century.

Indian-American lawmakers have opposed the executive order by US President Donald Trump on changes in birthright citizenship, a move likely to hit not only illegal immigrants from around the world but also students and professionals from India.

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna said changes in birthright citizenship as done through the executive order would impact newborn babies of not only illegal and undocumented immigrants but also those staying in this country legally like on H-1B visas, PTI reported.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

“Trump’s order removes birthright citizenship for children born in the US not just to undocumented parents but to ‘lawful’ immigrants who are temporarily on a student visa, H1B/H2B visa, or business visa. So much for the pretence that the Republicans are for legal immigration,” Khanna said.

World’s Largest Khalsa Day Vaisakhi Parade Set For April 19th In Surrey

Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar, organizers of the Surrey Khalsa Day Parade have announce that the 2025 event will take place on Saturday, April 19th in Surrey, British Columbia. The Surrey Khalsa Day (Vaisakhi) Parade in Surrey, British Columbia attracts over 500,000 people annually in a celebration of one of the most significant days in the Sikh calendar, the creation of the Khalsa in 1699. The event welcomes people of all cultures and communities who come together in this communal gathering of understanding, sharing, and goodwill. The Parade begins at 9:00am at the Gurdwara Sahib Darbar (12885 85th Avenue, Surrey) and travels along 124th Street, turns left onto 75th Avenue, continues on 76th Avenue onto 128th Street then returns to the Temple at approximately 5:00pm. Vendors offering free food; music and festivities occur along the Parade route, but due to heavy traffic organizers encourage attendees to walk to the festival area. There is no parking in the area of the event. Any business or individual wishing to serve food at the event MUST obtain a food permit through Fraser Health, for more information visit: <https://www.surreyvaisakhiparade.com/applications/foodpremises-application/> For many thousands of years, Vaisakhi has been the time when farmers have put their sickles to harvest and celebrated the coming of a new year. Since 1699, the Sikhs have had a further reason to celebrate at this time of the year. Now Vaisakhi is celebrated with even more energy, pomp and fanfare. It has become a holy day to mark the birth of the Khalsa fraternity. And so 300+ years on, this tradition continues with much gaiety, vigour and enthusiasm. Sikhs worldwide will spend much time remembering this most important day in their religious calendar – the day the Khalsa was created.

The Surrey Vaisakhi Parade has been held in the streets of the community for the past 20 years. Attendees of all races and cultures are welcome at this celebratory and rich cultural event, which features a large number of floats, community performers and live music. Surrey’s Vaisakhi Parade also features a unique element which pays tribute to the harvest celebration roots of the parade – attendees are given free food and drink from hundreds of local residents and businesses. For more information including a map, transit and shuttle information visit: www.SurreyVaisakhiParade.com.



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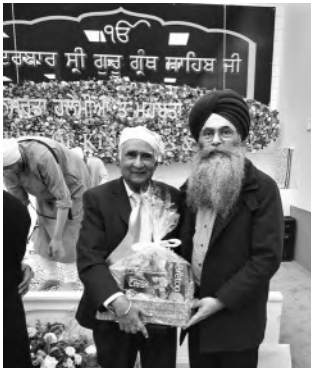
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Seminar on Kindness focuses on cultivating Positivity Within Yourself and Others



Amarjit Singh of Darbar Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji, Surrey, presenting Balwant Sanghera, one of the participants, with a token of appreciation.

By Balwant Sanghera

Darbar Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji management in Surrey organized a seminar titled: An Afternoon of Kindness and Love. Prominent representatives of various religious denominations and other organizations attended the seminar to their thoughts. Each one of them brought a different perspective to the discussion. The attendees participated in a very lively and productive presentation by each of the esteemed speakers. Kindness can be defined as a behaviour marked by acts of

generosity, consideration, rendering assistance or concerns for others without expecting praise or reward in return. In other words, do a good deed and forget about acknowledgement or reward in return. It also signifies the quality of being gentle, caring and helpful to others. It is a very noble cause. There are several ways that a person can show kindness and love towards others. By taking the focus away from one self and putting others at the center is one of the easiest and most effective ways of showing kindness. Offering others a helping hand, listening to their concerns in a

non-judgmental and non-threatening way is another strategy that is also very effective. Smiling at others and offering genuine compliments to them is also very helpful in this regard. We should try to make empathy as part of our daily life. There are a lot of ways that we can help and make our fellow human beings' lives more meaningful and productive. Having a positive attitude goes a long way in self-improvement and in helping others. Carve it in your mind that every day is a good day. Always focus on the positive for your own well-being and that of others around

you. A prominent philosopher has captured the essence of kindness and love beautifully in these words: "Let us embrace the beauty of diversity and connect through shared humanity. Together we can create a world where kindness reigns and oneness thrives." In conclusion, I would like to thank the management and volunteers of Darbar Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji and Gobind Sarvar School for making it all possible. Their hospitality was wonderful. (Balwant Sanghera is a retired School Psychologist and Community Activist)

Western Community College Hosts Forum On Countering Tariff Threats Through Education, Technology And Economy

Western Community College and the Surrey Health & Technology District hosted a very informative meeting in Surrey with Shadow Ministerial Critics from the BC Conservative Party. The event fostered an engaging dialogue focused on the transformative potential of education, specifically private education, and technology in advancing British Columbia's economic growth. Education and transportation are critical drivers of economic development, enhancing productivity, efficiency, and access to opportunities. The discussion emphasized the strategic role of Surrey's Health & Technology District in fostering innovation and its impact on the province's economy.



"Together, we provided key strategic pathways on how education, technology skills training, and innovation can counter Trump tariffs and focus on productivity for BC's economy," said Anita Huberman, Board



Chair, Chief Global Public Affairs Officer. "We are excited about the possibilities ahead as Western Community College continues to lead in educational excellence and city building. We look forward to further collaboration with key stakeholders to foster economic growth and innovation in Surrey," said Gurpal Dhaliwal, President, Western Community College. Guests included: Korky Neufeld, Gavin, Linda Hepner, Elenore Sturko, Lynne Block, Mandeep, Lawrence Mok, Jody Toor, Brent Chapman, Bryan Tepper, Dr. Ryan D'Arcy.

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to fluctuating patient visits, expanding our base level of inpatient beds and increased staffing in the ED as available, and collaborating with other Health Authorities for repatriations when needed. Optional masks are available at public entrances and hospital information desks, whilst all staff, care providers and visitors must wear a medical mask in patient care areas where patients are receiving care. Hospital leadership is carefully monitoring patient needs to minimize the wait time for patients and families.

Continued on page 30

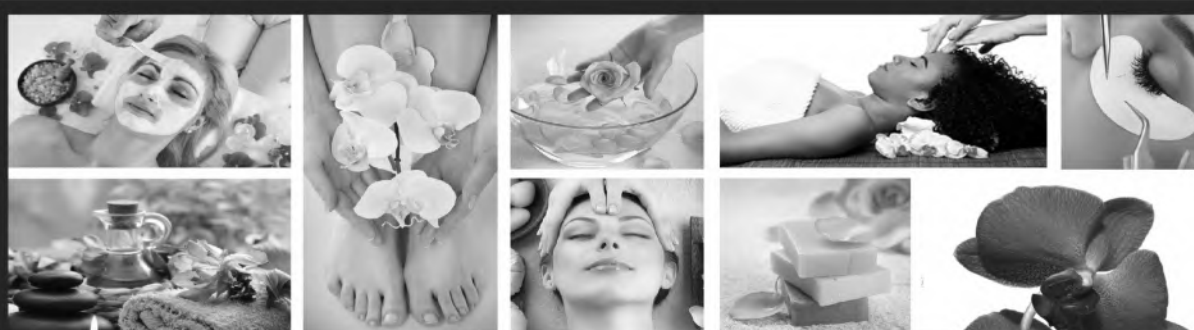
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Jatt Sikh Canada Born Young Man, Looking For A Bride. She can be Canada Born or on Work Permit, Student or P.R. Serious Inquiries Only Please. (604) 900-2999

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

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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

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LOOKING FOR GROOM

Family of Canadian born girl, age 34, height 5'10", doing good government job, looking for a respectable Canadian born boy. No caste restrictions. Contact: 604-841-8854 Call 236.518.0679 for more details.

LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Jat Sikh parents are looking for a girl for their handsome, clean shaven, 28 year old, 5' 8", engineer son. Girl should be educated and family oriented, religion/ caste no bar. Boy and parents are settled in Chilliwack, BC. Interested parties can contact the parents at 604-368-6151.

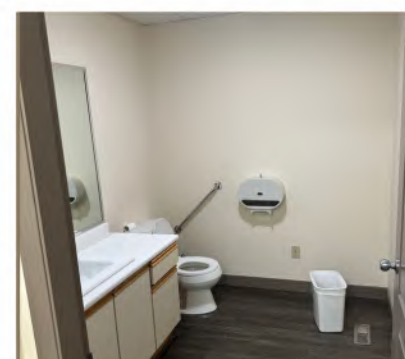
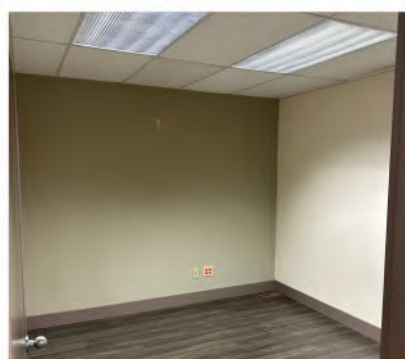
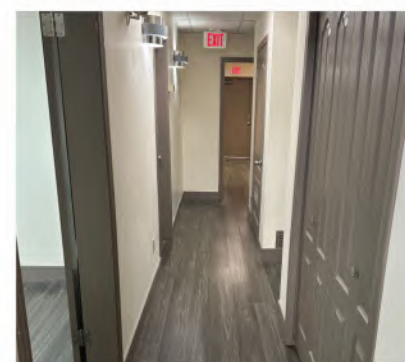
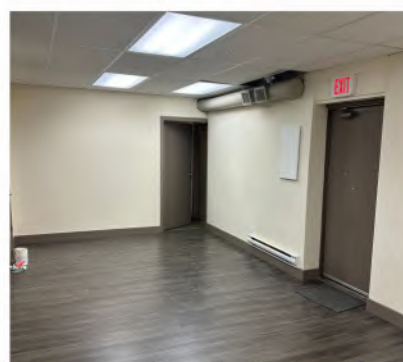
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Upcoming Program

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

25th January, Saturday

at 4:30 pm, Sri Sukhmani Sahib path, kirtan, katha and langer seva by the Kamaljit Kaur family.

26th January, Sunday

at 10:30 am, Weekly diwan and Katha vichar smagam. After that, the langer seva by the sangat.

All the Sangat are requested to come to the weekly Kirtan and Katha Smagam every Sunday morning from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. The Sangat is invited to come to the weekly Smagam and make your life successful. On the first Sunday, there were no Kirtan and Katha Smagams, only Anand Karjs are held. Keeping in mind the demand of the Sangat, these weekly Kirtan Smagams have been started. Please come and also encourage your friends and relatives to come to the Gurdwara.

*Important Information:

Punjabi classes have started in Punjabi schools from Sunday, January 5th.

Please enroll your children in the school so that they can speak, read and write Punjabi.

For more information, contact Secretary S. Balwant Singh Sanghera 604-836-8976

Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM, Path Sri Sukhmani Sahib Ji by the Bibian and the Langer service will be provided by the group of Sukhmani Sahib Walian Bibian.

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: Rehras Sahib 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm, Kirtan 6.00 pm to 6.15 pm, Ardas/Hukamnama 6.15 pm to 6.30 pm, Sukh Aasan 8.00 pm

For more information, log in to the Gurdwara Sahib website! www.nanakniwas.ca

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

Ayushmann Khurrana

Appointed Brand Ambassador For FICCI Frames: "It's A Huge Honour"

New Delhi: FICCI Frames, India's leading global media and entertainment convention, is all set to celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. Ayushmann Khurrana has been appointed as the brand ambassador for this milestone edition of FICCI Frames. The actor shared his excitement about being named the brand ambassador, saying, "It is a huge honour for me to be announced as the first Brand Ambassador for FICCI Frames in its silver jubilee year. As someone who arrived in Mumbai from Chandigarh with nothing but dreams in my eyes, I could never have imagined this incredible journey, one where my work has not only touched lives but also become a part of India's rich pop culture tapestry."

Saif Ali Khan Hugs Auto Driver Who Took Him To Hospital After Attack



Saif Ali Khan met auto driver Bhajan Singh Rana, who took him to the hospital after being stabbed at home in the early hours of January 16. The actor met Mr Rana at the Lilavati hospital before he got discharged on January 21. In the pictures, Saif Ali Khan is seen smiling as he stands beside Mr Rana. The actor can be seen resting his hands around his shoulder while he poses for the camera. Saif Ali Khan returned home six days after being stabbed several times by an intruder in an attempted burglary. He had two surgeries to repair his wounds at the Lilavati hospital. After the attack, Saif Ali Khan was rushed to the hospital by an auto rickshaw. Bhajan Singh Rana, who drove the actor to hospital, didn't know that he's Saif Ali Khan. After meeting the actor on Tuesday, Bhajan Singh Rana spoke to news agency IANS and shared what the actor and his family told him. "They gave a time of 3:30 PM, I said okay, and I will reach. I was a little late, about 4-5 minutes, and then we met. As we were moving around inside, his family was there too. They were all worried, but everything went well. His mother and children were there, and I was treated with respect..

He added, "In my new role, I am committed to working closely with the exceptional FICCI team to champion disruption, celebrate innovation, and highlight the excellence our industry consistently delivers." This year's theme, "RISE: Redefining Innovation, Sustainability and Excellence," highlights FICCI Frames' transformative role in shaping narratives, fostering creativity and driving the evolution of India's media and entertainment industry. Held annually in Mumbai, FICCI Frames gathers influential personalities, creative professionals and policymakers from around the world to discuss emerging trends, new technologies and key challenges in the entertainment landscape. The event features various formats, including keynote addresses, B2B meetings, masterclasses, policy roundtables, the Best Animated FRAMES Awards (BAF), a global content market, exhibitions and vibrant cultural evenings.

Over the years, FICCI Frames has welcomed prominent global figures, such as Hollywood stars Hugh Jackman and James Murdoch, CEO of 21st Century Fox, Charles H. Rivkin, Chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America and Gary Knell, Chairman of National Geographic Partners. Other notable attendees include Ajit Pai, former Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, Jim Egan, CEO of BBC Global News, and JB Perrette, President of Discovery Networks International among many others. In addition, FICCI Frames has seen influential addresses from Bollywood stars such as Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Madhuri Dixit and Amitabh Bachchan.



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Sridevi Didn't Let Her Daughters Janhvi And Khushi Kapoor Watch Her Films For This Reason

One of India's biggest superstars, Sridevi had such an iconic career, that people still cannot get enough of her films. But did you know that while the whole world appreciated her films, she never let daughters Janhvi And Khushi Kapoor watch her films. Khushi recently revealed why. At a recent interview while promoting her upcoming film Loveyapa, the interviewer told Khushi, "When it comes to your mom's films, I'm sure you've seen almost all of them." "Well, she actually wouldn't let us watch them at home, so it was a bit tough," she responded. Divulging the reason behind this strict rule, Khushi revealed, "Yeah, she would just feel a bit shy, so Janhvi and I would have to watch them secretly in a room by ourselves. We did watch a lot of them, there were so many, but we'd have to do it secretly." In an earlier interview, Khushi had mentioned how she was always mesmerised by her mother's

grace and elegance and how she carried herself. Coming to her upcoming film, Loveyapa is Directed by Advait Chandan and produced by Phantom Studios and AGS Entertainment. For the unversed, the film tells the tale of a young couple who decide to exchange phones and that's when their relationship hits rock bottom. Also featuring Eijaz Khan, Raveena Ravi, Radhika Sarathkumar, and Swati Verma among others, the film is slated to release on February 7, 2025.



Monali Thakur Rushed To Hospital As She Struggles To Breathe During Live Show

New Delhi: Singer Monali Thakur was admitted to a hospital in Dinhata, in Cooch Behar, West Bengal, after she struggled to breathe during a live performance recently. Monali Thakur was performing at the Dinhata Festival in Cooch Behar on January 21 evening. In a video from the live performance, which went viral on Facebook, the singer can be seen stopping her performance midway. She apologised to the audience as she felt sick and couldn't continue her performance.



In the video, Monali Thakur can be heard saying, "I sincerely apologise to you. I am very sick today. The show was on the verge of getting cancelled." Take a look: Monali was first rushed to the Dinhata Sub-District Hospital, reported News 18. Then, the singer was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment. The singer was admitted to a private hospital in Cooch Behar. She is currently undergoing treatment there, as per the report.

Continued from Page 08 Canada's immigration...

The newly announced cuts at IRCC are the most significant so far, but more are expected as federal departments are being asked to find savings across the board. In November, the Canada Revenue Agency announced significant budget restrictions with 600 contract workers being prematurely terminated. "Protecting core public services needs to be a priority for this government, and any party who hopes to lead this country in the next election," added DeSousa. "Cutting services isn't just bad for workers, it impacts everyone in Canada who depends on services day to day."

Continued from Page 21 Honda Civic Hybrid Named 2025 North American Car...

Variants of the two-motor hybrid system are also available in the Honda Accord and CR-V and representing over 50% of Accord and CR-V sales in Canada. Praised for its power, efficiency and refinement by the editors at WardsAuto, the Honda two-motor hybrid system powering the 2025 Honda Civic Sedan and Hatchback received a Wards 10 Best Engines

and Propulsion Systems award. This was the second year in a row the Honda hybrid-electric powertrain has received this prestigious honour. The new fourth-generation Honda two-motor hybrid-electric power unit is built* at the Honda Transmission Plant in Ohio. It is paired with an all-new 2.0-litre Atkinson-cycle four-cylinder engine made at the Anna Engine Plant in Ohio. All major

components in the engine have been redesigned and improved, including the block, which now features stronger main bearing caps, cylinder head, crank, connecting rods and camshafts. These components are manufactured at the Anna Engine Plant for the first time, improving production efficiencies and increasing capacity. The 2025 Honda Civic is now on sale at Canadian dealerships.

Continued from Page 25 Where To Access Care During Respiratory Season?

Respiratory viruses – including colds and flus – are common among children in daycare or school. To help prevent illness it's important to get vaccinated. Vaccination offers the best protection against serious viral illness. Ensure your infant/child six months and above receives their routine immunizations, including COVID-19 and influenza

vaccines. Visit ImmunizeBC for BC's vaccination schedule. Encourage children to wash their hands regularly, especially before eating, and urge them to try not to touch their face. Also remind children to cough and sneeze into their elbow or a tissue, if available; Stay at home from school, work and

outings if you or your child feel unwell, especially if you have a fever, cough, nausea, or diarrhoea. Ensure you know where to access care; if you have a non-urgent concern and don't know where to seek care, call 8-1-1 for free healthcare guidance. "We know it is stressful to visit the hospital with an unwell infant or child,"

says Christy Hay, Executive Director, Clinical Operations, BC Children's Hospital. "But families with sick children can be assured we are dedicated to delivering the best possible care. We kindly ask all families to be patient and respectful to our staff who are doing their utmost to care for and support all patients and their families."



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