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Kashmir terror attack: Gunmen brutally kill 26 people in Pahalgam, World leaders stand in solidarity with India

World leaders from across the world strongly condemned the deadly terrorist attack which took place in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, April 22.

According to police and media reports, armed gunmen killed at least 26 people on Tuesday in the picturesque tourist resort of Pahalgam in the deadliest such attack in a quarter-century in Kashmir, setting off a chain of tit-for-tat moves by India and Pakistan and raising the spectre of a full-fledged conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

Heart-wrenching videos of victims and their families are circulating on social media, with survivors sharing personal accounts of how armed militants killed their loved ones. Many amongst them were newly married couples. Indian Navy officer Lt Vinay Narwal was one of them.

"This attack is much larger than anything we've seen directed at civilians in recent years," Omar Abdullah, the region's top elected official, wrote on social media.

"We will come down heavily on



Indian home minister Amit Shah paid last respect to the deceased of the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, 2025, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent tourists and left more than 20 others grievously injured.

the perpetrators with the harshest consequences," India's home minister, Amit Shah, wrote on social media. He arrived in Srinagar, the main city in Indian-

controlled Kashmir, and convened a meeting with top security officials.

Continued on page 14

Authorities unanimously condemn Vandalism at Surrey Temple and Vancouver Gurdwara, calling it "an act to divide community"



Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke, Surrey Police Chief Norm Lipinski, Surrey Police officer Jag Khosa, Attorney General Niki Sharma, management of Lakshmi Narayan temple and Ross Street Gurdwara were all present at the conference to show their support to both Hindu and Sikh community and unanimously condemn the act.

Some tough questions were posed to government and law enforcement officers

at a press conference organized by Surrey's Lakshmi Narayan Temple. The conference was

organized by the Lakshmi Narayan Temple on April 23 to condemn the desecration of places of worship in a single day — the temple itself and the Khalsa Diwan Society Gurdwara in Vancouver on April 19.

The April 19 vandalism, which coincided with Surrey's Vaisakhi Parade, left disturbing graffiti on the temple and gurdwara walls, including slogans such as "Khalistan Zindabad" written in both English and Punjabi. Police officials present at the conference said they will follow the evidence to determine the motive behind this act. While the conference began with a unified message of condemnation and a vow of support from municipal and provincial leaders,

Continued on page 23

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International Student From India Dies Due To Drowning Off Vancouver's Wreck Beach

The man who drowned at Vancouver's Wreck Beach last week has been identified by family and friends as Rahul Ranwa, a 26-year-old international student from India.

Police have yet to reveal the identity, but family and friends have created a GoFundMe page to raise funds to arrange for his funeral and repatriation costs.

On April 17, 2025, at 3:25 p.m., the University RCMP received a report of a swimmer in distress at Wreck Beach between trails 4 and 6. Aman was apparently in the water yelling for help and struggling to swim.

A bystander entered the water in an attempt to affect a rescue.

Unfortunately, the rescuer had to return to shore to avoid succumbing to the waters themselves and bystanders lost sight of the man.



With assistance from the Vancouver Fire Rescue, BC Ambulance Service, Metro Vancouver Parks and the Canadian Coast Guard, a marine search was undertaken. The hovercraft CCGS Moytel deployed divers and two rigid-hull inflatable boats (RHIB) from the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station conducted an extensive search. The police conducted a shoreline search at Wreck Beach and Acadia Beach in hopes

to find the missing swimmer. Police Dog Services, RCMP Helicopter Air 1 and Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems (aka drones) have also been deployed to assist in the search. Efforts to date have not been successful in locating the missing man.

The search was unsuccessful; however, and the man was presumed drowned. Vancouver Police later responded to the discovery of a body in the water on Third Beach. "While the body description matches the missing swimmer, confirmation of their identity has not yet been fully completed," the police said.

According to the GoFundMe page, "Rahul was just 26, the only son of his parents, and had come to Canada last year as an international student. He was pursuing his MBA at Vancouver Community College — a bright student, a member of the Student Council, and someone who worked



tirelessly at a part-time job to support his family back home."

Beyond funeral and repatriation costs, the funds will be raised to help clear the debts taken by his parents in India for his education and relocation. "Rahul's dreams were built on their sacrifices, and we want to ease the financial burden they are left carrying in the midst of unimaginable grief," mentioned the page.

BC Nurses' Union, community mourns the Passing of Former President Aman Grewal

The BC Nurses' Union and the community is in shock and expressing the profound sadness that so many members have expressed since learning of the passing of former President Aman Grewal. In the days following this loss, BCNU heard from nurses across the province who were touched by Aman's leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to the profession that spanned over three decades.

Aman was a dedicated nurse and passionate union advocate with an unwavering commitment to patient care, member advocacy, and social justice. She began her nursing career at Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH), where she found her calling in pediatrics and later, in pediatric emergency care. Her leadership journey started early—during the 1989 nurses' strike, she stepped up as SMH's job action

coordinator while the chief steward was on leave. It was a role that saw her lead hospital job action efforts, organize picket lines, and build solidarity.

She continued her activism throughout the 1993 and 2001 strikes as a member of her Worksite Job Action Committee. Over her 33-year nursing career at SMH, Aman held many roles, including clinical care coordinator, patient care coordinator (pediatrics), diabetes nurse educator, shift coordinator, and site leader.

Aman served as BCNU Vice President from 2019-2021 and President from 2021-2023. In addition to her executive leadership, Aman served as the union's provincial lobby coordinator and chaired BCNU's Human Rights and Equity Committee and Truth and Reconciliation Committee. She contributed her insight and experience to numerous committees,



including the Policy Review Committee and working groups focused on bylaw and governance reform, seniors care, internationally educated nurses, and more. Notably, Aman was instrumental in negotiating key provisions in the 2022–2025 Nurses' Bargaining Association provincial collective agreement, which

included breakthrough language on diversity, equity and inclusion. She also helped negotiate the historic establishment of minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in the province.

Aman's advocacy ensured that nurses' voices were heard, and their hard-won rights fiercely protected. She believed deeply in justice, equity, and the collective strength of our members. Her loss is profoundly felt across the union and the broader nursing community.

"BCNU extends its deepest condolences to Aman's family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations of nurses and union advocates. In lieu of flowers, Aman's family requests donations be made to Surrey Hospitals Foundation, in honour of Aman's lifelong commitment to care," said a release.

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21-Year-Old Innocent Student From Punjab Dies From A Stray Bullet During Gunfire

A 21-year-old international student tragically lost her life after she was struck by a stray bullet during gunfire on Upper James, in Hamilton, Ontario. Hamilton Police identified her as Harsimrat Randhawa from India. Harsimrat was studying at Mohawk College and was standing at the bus stop on her way to work when she was killed, the police informed. The police said in a press release that on April 17, 2025, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Hamilton Police received reports of a shooting near Upper James and South Bend Road. When police arrived, they

found a 21-year-old female with a gunshot wound to the chest. She was transported to hospital and later died from her injuries. She was later identified as Harsimrath. According to Indian media reports, Harsimrath was from Taran Taran district. Through collected video, investigators have determined that the passenger of a black Mercedes SUV fired at the occupants of a white sedan. Shortly after the shooting, the white sedan fled northbound on Upper James and the Mercedes travelled westbound on South Bend. Shots also entered the rear window of a residence on Allenby Avenue where the occupants were watching television a few feet away. Fortunately, no one was injured in the home. Investigators are asking anyone with dashcam or security camera footage between 7:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. near Upper James and South Bend to contact Sergeant Alex Buck at 905-546-4123. If you know something that can help further the investigation, please contact police. To provide information anonymously, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit your anonymous tips online at www.crimestoppers.com. Meanwhile, the Indian consulate in Toronto confirmed the incident and expressed condolences. “We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Harsimrat in Hamilton, Ontario. As per the local police, she was an innocent victim, fatally struck by a



stray bullet during a shooting incident involving two vehicles. A homicide investigation is currently underway. We are in close contact with her family and are extending all necessary assistance. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family during this difficult time,” the consulate said. he family of the student has urged the Centre and the Punjab Government for their assistance in bringing back her body.

“We came to know from our relatives. She was standing on the road and then a bullet hit her,” Harsimrat’s grandfather Sukhwinder Singh in said Tarn Taran. The family urged both governments to expedite the process to bring back her body to India.

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These are Surrey Centre Candidates



Randeep Sarai (Liberal Party)
 Randeep Sarai is a lawyer, and entrepreneur. He was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Surrey-Centre in 2015 and has been dedicated to being the voice of Surrey residents in Ottawa. Randeep was born in Vancouver and raised in South Burnaby. He graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Arts and went on to complete his Bachelor of Laws at Queens' University in Kingston, Ontario. He was a Founder and served as a Director of Virsa – Supporting Youth Strengthening Families Society and helped start the South Asian Community Coalition Against Youth Violence, which successfully championed for the creation of the Integrated Gang Task Force. Since 2015, Randeep has helped bring funding for SFU Surrey's new Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Energy campus, a Veteran Affairs Centre for Surrey veterans, and get Canada's largest and most technologically advanced Forensic lab built in Surrey Centre. He has also helped secure the Surrey SkyTrain extension to Langley and successfully advocated for Canada's newest Development Agency, PacificCan, to have its headquarters in Surrey Centre. In Ottawa Randeep has served most recently on the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, as well as the Committee Chair for the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. In May 2022, Randeep's Private Member's Motion, M-44 was adopted with unanimous consent, which will expand pathways to permanent residency for temporary foreign workers.

Rajvir Dhillon (Conservative Party)



Dhillon's journey in legal profession and community service is marked by notable and substantial contributions. He has contributed to the society by helping legal-aid clients and accepting pro-bono work for

the people who are experiencing barriers accessing the legal system because of financial reasons. Dhillon mentored numerous students. He guided them on professional work & provided them a real opportunity to see how life runs in a law office.

Dominic Denofrio, NDP



After graduating from SFU with a

degree in political science, Dominic began working in the Surrey-Whalley Constituency Office for former provincial MLA Bruce Ralston.

As a renter, Dominic has experienced the serious needs the community has for more housing, greater access to healthcare, and better public transit.

Dominic is firmly on Team Canada, and believes in a government that is willing to stand up for Canadian values, like multiculturalism and universal healthcare.

He believes that the hardworking people of Surrey Centre deserve better from their federal government.

As your MP, he said he will fight for more social housing, better access to transit, safer streets, and expansion of our universal healthcare system.

Krishna Khurana (Green Party)

Khurana brings diverse experience as an Assistant Credit Officer in a French bank. He has worked as customer Service and Sales Agent with a reputed Canadian airline, a Wedding Officiant. Environment Sustainability is at the forefront of his



vision for Surrey Centre and Canada. "We have to reduce emissions, protect green spaces and promote clean energy," he says. Affordable Housing and Liveable communities, Inclusive Representation and Economic Empowerment by supporting local business, skills development and innovative technologies are also part of his vision.

Continued on page 05

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Continued from Page 05

These are Surrey Centre...

Ryan Abbott

Ryan is an Industrial Painter & Sandblaster, a workplace safety rep and a proud union member. He lives in Whalley, Surrey and has worked across Alberta and BC in refineries, shipyards and export terminals.

While the big business parties flounder in the face of a compounding economic crisis, he calls for real action for working people: doubling of the corporate tax rate, public ownership of natural resources, nationalization of steel and auto production, the slashing of military spending and putting our shipyards to work building a new fleet of BC ferries

Beverly Tanchak (People's Party of Canada)

Beverly Tankak is a proud supporter of the People's Party of Canada and our



candidate for Surrey Centre. Beverly Tankak is driven by a deep commitment to standing up for her community and the fundamental values of freedom, personal responsibility, respect, and fairness. She believes that Canada can restore prosperity and empower people if we have the courage of our convictions. Help Beverly be the change we need in Surrey Centre today!

7.3 Million Electors Voted At The Advance Polls: Election Canada

Elections Canada has released the estimated number of electors who voted on the four advance polling days in the federal general election now under way.

Advance polls were open on Friday, April 18; Saturday, April 19; Sunday, April 20; and Monday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

According to the preliminary figures, 7.3 million electors voted at the advance polls in this general election. This is a 25% increase from the 5.8 million electors who voted in advance in the 2021 general election.

This is an estimate. Some polls may not have reported yet. A breakdown of the estimated number of electors who voted at the advance polls for all electoral districts is being calculated and will soon be available on elections.ca.

The 45th federal general election will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025.

Canadian citizens who are at least 18 years old on election day are eligible to vote if they are registered. Most Canadians who are eligible to vote are already registered in the National Register of Electors.

Involuntary Care At Surrey Pretrial

Ten new beds will be available at the designated mental-health unit at Surrey Pretrial Services Centre, with the majority open now. Care will be provided to men in provincial custody who meet the criteria under the Mental Health Act (the Act). This service will help people who are incarcerated access care so they can stabilize on their pathway to recovery and improve overall long-term health outcomes.



Surrey mayor Brenda Locke issued the following statement: "The opening of 10 involuntary care beds at the Surrey Pretrial Services Centre highlights the urgent need for specialized services for offenders struggling with mental health challenges, substance use, and brain injuries. This initiative is a significant first step in addressing the complex issues these individuals face while prioritizing the safety of our community. It's essential to provide targeted and long-term support to those in custody to help them stabilize and

navigate their path to recovery. I understand from the healthcare professionals that this program will involve comprehensive oversight and monitoring. We care deeply about every soul affected by mental health, substance use, and brain injury challenges, as well as safety concerns for the public and community, especially in light of the recent acts of violence we have seen elsewhere.

Yet, this simply isn't enough. The demand for mental health and addiction services far outweighs available resources, and the complexities of these needs are becoming increasingly pronounced. While this focus on specialized care for those in custody is crucial, we must also acknowledge and address the broader implications for our community, including the stark reality of addiction, mental health and homelessness. With over 1,060 individuals experiencing homelessness in Surrey—a staggering 65% increase since 2020—it's evident that our resources are falling short. We must take a comprehensive approach to mental health and addiction treatment, ensuring that every member of our community, whether inside or outside the justice system, has access to the care they need. By doing so, we can foster a healthier community, reduce the cycles of crisis, and enhance public safety for all."

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Get Help With High Costs Tax Rebates And Credits

By Jessie Sunner,
MLA for Surrey-Newton

With tax filing season coming to a close, we're getting the word out about money you can be getting right now, just by filing your taxes.

Every year, many people in B.C. miss out on hundreds or thousands of dollars in benefits to help with the cost of living. In fact, it's estimated that more than one in 10 eligible people in Canada do not file their taxes, and nearly a quarter of them are young people aged 18-24.

Don't leave money on the table – file your taxes. Even people who don't have an income and are not required to file, can still file to receive the benefit payments.

If you're making up to \$148,000 in B.C., you're paying one of the lowest income taxes in the country and could qualify for benefits and credits that reduce your taxes even more. **Many working- and middle-class British Columbians who file end up paying**



less tax than they get in benefits. These benefits include:

- BC Family Benefit and Canada Child Benefit – tax-free monthly payments to families with children under the age of 18, to help reduce the costs of raising kids in B.C.
- B.C. renter's tax credit – an annual

refundable tax credit to help renters with the cost of housing as we build more affordable homes to get rent prices down.

- The federal GST/HST credit – quarterly payments to help offset the cost of GST people pay at the store.
- And personal income tax credits – which may lead to a refund of what you paid during the year.

Need help with a tax return? The Canada Revenue Agency has free tax clinics for eligible people with modest income and a simple tax situation. These clinics are hosted by community organizations and run by volunteers.

Visit gov.bc.ca/TaxBenefits to find a tax clinic near you, learn more about cash benefits when you file your taxes, and find other programs to help with costs.

Tax benefits are one way the B.C. government is working to help people and families with the cost of living, alongside our work to help people find affordable homes, protect strong public services, and grow the economy.

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Conservative Party's Costed Platform Proposes Slashing Food And Housing Cost And Cut Liberal Deficit By 70%.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre released his Conservative Plan for Change to lower food and housing costs, stop crime and bring home jobs to put Canada First. The choice could not be clearer – a fourth Liberal term with Mark Carney that will add even more debt than Justin Trudeau’s budget, or a new Conservative government that over the next four years will save Canada \$125 billion compared to Mark Carney. The Conservative Plan for Change:

1. **Cuts the Liberal deficit by**

70% with less spending on bureaucracy, consultants, foreign aid and handouts to insiders and special interests, while boosting growth with resource jobs – for a change.

2. **Lowers income tax 15%** saving the average worker \$900 and average working family \$1,800 – for a change.

3. **Builds 2.3 million homes** by axing taxes to save \$100,000 a home, selling off federal land and getting gatekeepers out of the way to speed up building – for a change.

4. **Locks up criminals** to make you safe – for a change.



5. **Puts Canada First – For a Change.** “For three Liberal terms, Canada has had the worst growth in GDP per capita out of any country in the G7. Canadians can’t afford a

fourth Liberal term under Mark Carney, who is doubling down on the Trudeau record and promising \$130 billion in new inflationary spending. This disastrous Liberal platform “was ready before Mark Carney even became Liberal leader” and will drive up taxes, food and housing costs even higher,” said Poilievre. “Canada needs real change,” said Poilievre. “It’s time for a new Conservative Government that will axe taxes, build homes, unlock our resources, unleash our economy, stop crime and bring home powerful paycheques to put Canada First.”

Liberals Release Fully Costed Platform

Mark Carney released his fully costed plan, Canada Strong. This plan outlines four principles Canada must follow to meet this historic moment. First, we must unite Canadians, so we can focus entirely on our shared objectives and common values. Second, we must secure our sovereignty, keeping Canadians safe in an increasingly dangerous world. Third, we must protect what makes us Canadian, because our very national identity is at stake. And finally, we must build a strong economy, to tackle today’s challenges from a position of strength. “In a crisis, Canadians come together to tackle challenges – because united, we are Canada strong,” said Mark Carney, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. “We can give ourselves more than President Trump can take away. In this defining and consequential moment for our economy and country, my new government will



stand strong against President Trump’s tariffs, create higher-paying jobs and lifelong careers, cut taxes for the middle class, and build the fastest growing economy in the G7. Together, we will build Canada strong.” With this plan, a new Mark Carney government will:

- **Unite** Canadians to give ourselves more than any other country can ever take away. This includes:
 - o eliminating federal barriers to

- interprovincial trade to create one Canadian economy, not thirteen;
- o investing in nation-building infrastructure on a scale and at speeds not seen in generations; and,
- o making it easier for Canadians to buy Canadian.
- **Secure** our sovereignty in an increasingly dangerous and divided world. This includes:
 - defending Canada’s workers against President Trump’s tariffs and other threats;
 - keeping our communities safe and secure;
 - rebuilding, rearming, and reinvesting in the Canadian Armed Forces;
 - working in partnership with Inuit and Northern Indigenous Peoples to secure the North; and,
 - securing Canada’s place in the world, working with reliable partners and allies.
- **Protect** the Canadian way of life, because

Canada will never be America. This includes:

- protecting and building a stronger public health care system;
- working in partnership to build stronger Indigenous communities;
- defending Canada’s nature and water for future generations; and,
- standing up for the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, protecting the 2SLGBTQI+ community and other vulnerable groups.
- **Build** the strongest economy in the G7. This includes:
 - o supercharging Canada’s economic growth by incentivizing greater private sector investments and securing the Canadian advantage in strategic industries;
 - o building homes at a pace and scale not seen since the Second World War;
 - o making Canada the world’s leading innovation and energy superpower while building new international trade partnerships with reliable partners; and,
 - o investing in infrastructure at a pace and

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Mark Carney says Liberals will stand up for British Columbia against President Trump

This election comes at a time of crisis. President Trump is disrupting global markets and fundamentally reshaping the international trading system. With Canada, he has been even more direct and aggressive: he wants to break us so America can own us. Mark Carney says he has a plan that will fight, protect, and build in the face of these threats to our way of life, our economy, and sovereignty - in British Columbia and across Canada. "In an economic crisis, a plan beats no plan. Yesterday, Pierre Poilievre proved that he has no plan to meet this consequential moment, stand up to President Trump, or grow the Canadian economy," said Mark Carney, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. "My new government will stand strong against President Trump's tariffs, create higher-paying jobs and lifelong careers, cut taxes for the middle class, and build the fastest growing economy in

the G7. Together, we will protect British Columbia - together, we will build Canada strong."

To stand up for British Columbians from President Trump and build Canada strong, a Mark Carney-led Liberal government will:

- **Build more homes British Columbians can afford** by getting the federal government back into the business of building homes, and doubling the pace of construction over the next decade to almost 500,000 new homes a year across Canada. And we will be eliminating the GST on homes **under \$1 million and reducing the GST on homes between \$1 million - \$1.5 million;**

- **Build smarter** by providing over \$25 billion in financing to innovative prefabricated home builders, including those using B.C. and Canadian technologies and resources like mass timber and

softwood lumber;

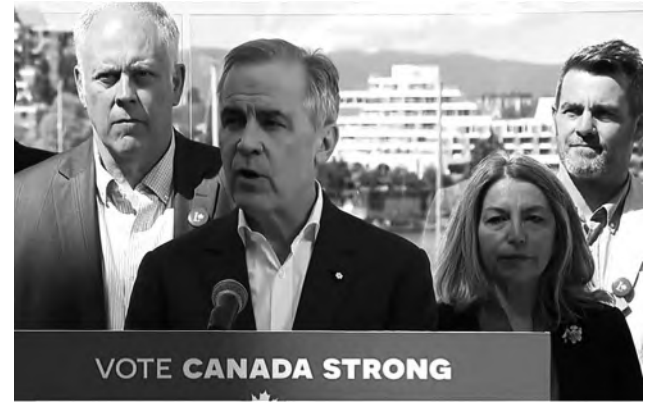
- **Protect Canada's nature and defend it for future generations** by conserving natural habitats, protecting our water and resources, and connecting Canadians to nature;

- **Support clean energy and technology** by proceeding with Canada's six major investment tax credits;

- **Build major nation-building projects** to connect Canada and grow the economy;

- **Establish Canadian-made standards** for federal infrastructure funding, including requirements to maximize the use of Canadian forestry, steel, and aluminum products;

- **Cover apprenticeship training costs of up to \$8,000** and create more training



opportunities in the skilled trades, so more workers can join these professions and secure higher-paying careers;

- **Invest in trade-enabling infrastructure**, to diversify our trade away from the United States, create new jobs, and build one Canadian economy; and,
- **Work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis** to recognize their rights and jointly advance their priorities on the shared path toward reconciliation.



Poilievre Announces Plan To Shut Down Tent Cities

Canadians who live near them.

"Parks where children played are now littered with needles. Small businesses are boarded up and whole blocks of storefronts are shuttered because their owners can't afford to deal with constant break-ins and vandalism," Pierre Poilievre said. "Public spaces belong to everyone, but law-abiding citizens, especially families and seniors, are being pushed out to accommodate chaos and violence."

Canadian cities have a mixed record of dealing with encampments in public places, with some not acting because they don't believe they have the legal authority to remove the camps. Conservatives will work with provinces and ensure law enforcement has the clear legal tools they need to remove encampments and give Canadians back the safe streets and public spaces they deserve.

A Poilievre-led government will do this

by reversing the Liberals' radical pro-drug policies and by:

- **Amending the Criminal Code** to give police the tools to charge individuals when they endanger public safety or discourage the public from using, moving through, or otherwise accessing public spaces by setting up temporary structures, including tents.

- **Clarifying in law that police can dismantle illegal encampments** and ensure individuals living in them who need help are connected with housing, addiction treatment, and mental health services.

- **Giving judges the power to order people** charged for illegally occupying public spaces with a temporary structure and simple possession of illegal drugs to mandatory drug treatment.

- **Returning to a housing first approach to homelessness**, ensuring people get off the streets into a stable place to live with

the support they need to rebuild their lives. "These encampments are a direct result of radical Liberal policies such as drug decriminalization and unsafe supply. They are extremely dangerous for the people trapped in them, who endure overdoses, assaults, including sexual assaults, human trafficking, and even homicide, as well as the community around them," he said.

A Conservative government will also overhaul the Liberals' dangerous pro-drug policies that have led to over 50,000 overdose deaths over the Lost Liberal Decade. Instead of flooding our streets with taxpayer-funded hard drugs, we will invest in recovery to break the cycle of despair and offer real hope.

Conservatives will allow judges to sentence offenders to mandatory treatment for addiction, and we will fund 50,000 addiction treatment spaces,

Continued on page 30

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Health Care Workers Rally To Demand Restoration Of Immigration Pathways

HEU members call on next federal government to restore B.C. PNP spots

Health care workers rallied outside Surrey Memorial Hospital on April 17 to demand justice for migrant health care workers facing deportation due to federal cuts to the provincial nominee program (PNP). Led by the Hospital Employees' Union (HEU), the event featured powerful testimony from affected HEU members and union leaders.

"Let's be clear, these workers are not 'temporary' – they are essential," says HEU secretary-business manager Lynn Bueckert. "They are trained, committed, and doing the difficult, often invisible work that keeps our health care system going."

"These HEU members are Canadian in every way that matters – except on paper," says Bueckert. "And we are demanding that Canada's next national government restore



their pathway to stay in the country and continue their work in health care." The federal government's decision to reduce the number of PNP spots allocated to B.C. has left more than 500 health care workers in the Fraser and Coastal regions at risk of deportation this year when their visas expire. Many had accepted critical health care jobs under the belief that work with a health authority would lead to permanent residency. "We took these health care jobs during

a staffing shortage, with the promise that we would get status," says Jasveer, a housekeeping aide. "But these abrupt changes leave many of us in the dust, without any options."

HEU is calling for urgent federal action to restore the number of PNP spots allocated to B.C. and to create a dedicated federal permanent residency pathway for non-clinical health care workers who are working full-time for B.C.'s health authorities.

Surrey Council Approves Rental Homes To Be Built On City Owned Land



At the Regular Council Meeting, Surrey City Council approved the use of City owned land for a purpose-built rental housing development that will add an estimated 350 new rental homes in Surrey. A minimum of 20% of the new units will be rented at below market rates. Located at 10975 126A Street, the 2.9-acre site is in the South Westminster Neighbourhood and near the Scott Road SkyTrain Station.

"Council is taking action on the shortage of affordable housing by approving the use of City owned land to help facilitate the creation of more rental homes in Surrey," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "A key factor in choosing this site is its proximity to rapid transit and the North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex. When completed, these new units planned for this development will significantly change the landscape of housing options in Surrey."

It is envisioned the development would consist of six-story wood structures, similar to other housing in the area. The project is part of the Surrey Affordable Rental Housing Strategy that aims to preserve and expand rentals and increase affordable housing for low to moderate income renters. "This is a strategic opportunity for the City to address our pressing housing needs through a well-planned rental development on City land," said Rob Costanzo, City Manager. "With Council's endorsement, staff will now begin the procurement process to secure a development partner who will design, build, and operate these homes. Our intention is to start construction in 2027, with completion slated for 2029. By aligning this project with both the needs of our community and rapid transit access, we can provide more affordable, modern options for Surrey residents."

While the City has taken many meaningful actions to facilitate the development of rental housing by the private sector on private property, the City has also been facilitating the creation of rental housing on other City owned lands. Currently, the City's wholly owned development corporation, Surrey City Development Corporation, has submitted a development application for the creation of 1,800 dwelling units in a multi-phased project on City owned lands.

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Change Of Command Ceremony Formally Recognizes Surrey Police As Police Of Jurisdiction

On April 22, 2025, a Change of Command ceremony was held to formally recognize Surrey Police Service (SPS) as the new police of jurisdiction for the City of Surrey. The ceremony acknowledged the handover of authority and leadership from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), represented by Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald, to SPS and Chief Constable Norm Lipinski.

The historic ceremony took place at the Cloverdale Agriplex with The Honourable Wendy Cocchia, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and The Honourable



Garry Begg, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General in attendance, as well as a number of Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament. Also present was Mayor Brenda Locke and members of Surrey City Council, the Surrey Police Board, a number of community leaders, senior leaders from RCMP and municipal police agencies across the province, and SPS sworn and civilian staff.

Following the piping in of dignitaries by the SPS Pipes and Drums, attendees witnessed an Indigenous welcome and blessing by Chief Harley Chappell of the Semiahmoo First Nation, the Presentation

of the Colour (SPS flag) by the Lieutenant Governor, and Trooping of the Colour by the Chief Constable's Ceremonial Guard.

The Change of Command Parchment was signed by Deputy Commissioner McDonald, Chief Lipinski, the Solicitor General, and the Chair of the Surrey Police Board. Each then delivered remarks following greetings made by the Lieutenant Governor. At the conclusion of the ceremony, SPS staff gathered to take the first official photo of Surrey Police Service.

"The RCMP proudly served Surrey for decades and we thank them for their tireless service and commitment to public safety," said Chief Constable Norm Lipinski.

of RCMP's E – Division.

SPS assumed overarching responsibility for policing in the City of Surrey on November 29, 2024, as the new police of jurisdiction.

As Surrey's policing transition continues, the RCMP Surrey Provincial Operations Support Unit is providing policing supports in Surrey until SPS is fully established. The Change of Command ceremony is a symbolic event, rooted in military tradition, that signifies the passing of authority and leadership.

Garry Begg, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of British Columbia, said, that it was a remarkable day as we celebrated the Surrey Police Service as British Columbia's newest police agency, taking over as police of jurisdiction in Surrey. "The Surrey Police Service embraces a community-led policing model with innovative approaches and brings together skilled officers from diverse backgrounds across the country. As we enter into a new era of policing in Surrey, I want to also recognize and thank the Surrey RCMP for their decades of service to the city of Surrey and for playing a critical role in shaping this community's safety and well-being over the decades."

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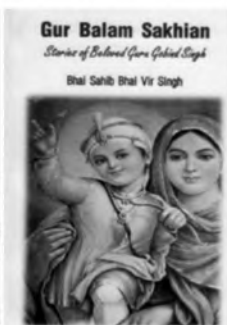
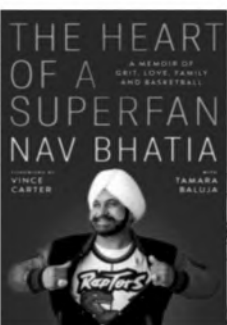
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AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY BY Kulbir Mahi

Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrated Across Canada; Surrey Mayor Declares April 14 As Equality Day



Across the globe, the Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti is being celebrated as the Dr. Ambedkar Equality Day and the month of April, as the Dalit History Month. In Canada, the April 14, 2025 was proclaimed as Dr. Ambedkar Equality Day by the Province of British Columbia and cities of Surrey, Vancouver and Burlington in Ontario. The Province of British Columbia and the City of Burlington also proclaimed April as the Dalit History Month. What is the significance of these proclamations, one may ask? The proclamations serve as tools for profiling and promoting the significance of



the legends and the causes the community organizations are mandated for. There is usually a well researched process that

guides in making the proclamations, declarations, or statements. Baba Sahib Dr. Ambedkar, rightfully regarded as the Father of Indian Constitution, has now emerged as a global icon. His belief in values of liberty, equality, and fraternity, enabled the various drafting sub-committees to think through freely and democratically when proposing the content for the constitution. Many activities are taking place this month to celebrate the legacy of Baba Sahib Dr. Ambedkar.

On April 15, Chetna Association of Canada hosted a celebration at the Dr. Ambedkar Room, Surrey Center Library. Simran Kranti, an artist, read the land acknowledgement and Mohan Banga, a Buddhist and meditation teacher, recited and explained Panchsheel. Special guest for the occasion was Mayor Brenda Locke who presented the proclamation to the members of Chetna Association or Canada. The local MLA, Amna Shah, sent written greetings for the occasion which was read before the audience. Dr. Satwinder Bains and Jaswinder Dilawari were recognized at this event. Dr. Bains is retiring from University of the Fraser Valley and has been a great champion and supporter of the anti-caste movement in Canada. Dilawari is a businessman and founder of Canada Tabloid, a magazine that has served Canadians for the past eleven years.



The Surrey Libraries Board Chair, Dr. Balbir Gurm, welcomed the guests to the library and described the values and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar. In her message, Mayor Locke shared her learnings of Baba Sahib Dr. Ambedkar and the conditions of caste discrimination he lived in. Mayor Locke affirmed by saying, "Surrey has no place for discrimination." Acharya Dwvedi of the Hindi Literary Society was a keynote speaker, who described why some of the discrimination practices continue in India. He also acknowledged many of the contributions of Dr. Ambedkar in addressing the practice of untouchability. Dr. Anne Murphy of the history department at University of British Columbia shared updates on the Caste in Canada project and the next steps that are being explored. Surinder Sandhu, assistant secretary of Chetna, thanked the guests and concluded the event. Refreshments were provided courtesy of the Canadian Folk Art and Culture Exchange (CFACE) Society. For the Dalit History Month Celebrations, Chetna is planning on staging plays at a local school and hosting lectures by Dr. Vivek Kumar of Jawaharlal Nehru University. The first lecture will be on April 30th at the Harbour Center Campus of Simon Fraser University, and the second lecture will be hosted on May 1 at the Burnaby Campus of Simon Fraser University. (Report by Jai Birdi)

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Continued from Page 01

Kashmir terror attack: Gunmen brutally kill 26 people...

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi cut short his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia and returned to New Delhi early Wednesday. In his first public remarks after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Modi on Thursday said India will pursue the perpetrators of the dastardly act to the ends of the earth, break their backs and raze them to the ground. He termed the attack as an assault not just on the innocent tourists, but the very soul of India and said the “perpetrators and conspirators of the act would get a punishment they would never have imagined”.

“Today, from the soil of Bihar, I say to the whole world that we will pursue them to the ends of the earth. India’s spirit will never be broken by terrorism. Every effort will be made to ensure justice is done. The entire nation is firm in this resolve. Everyone who believes in humanity is with us. I thank the people of various countries and their leaders who have stood with us in these times,” said the PM, switching to English in between as he spoke on the

occasion of a National Panchayati Raj Day event.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the attack and stressed that “attacks against civilians are unacceptable under any circumstances,” U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance, who was visiting India, called it a “devastating terrorist attack.” He added on social media: “Over the past few days, we have been overcome with the beauty of this country and its people. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they mourn this horrific attack.”

U.S. President Donald Trump noted on social media the “deeply disturbing news out of Kashmir. The United States stands strong with India against terrorism.” Other global leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, condemned the attack.

“The United States stands with India,” U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on X.

Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence, US, said, “We stand with the people of India in condemning the terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir, and send our condolences and prayers to the victims families. We must all stand up against these jihadists and their ideology.”

Canada was slow to join the leaders in condemning the attacks, but later Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney wrote on platform X, “I am horrified by the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, a senseless and shocking act of violence that has killed and injured innocent civilians and tourists. Canada strongly condemns this terrorist attack. We offer our condolences to the victims and their families.”

Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre said, “I condemn in the strongest terms the horrific terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir that took the lives of innocent civilians, including tourists and families. Our hearts are with the victims, their loved ones, and all those affected. Canada stands



united against terror in all its forms.”

“Prime Minister @GiorgiaMeloni called Prime Minister @narendramodi and strongly condemned the terrible terror attack on Indian soil. She conveyed her thoughts and prayers for the victims and wished a speedy recovery of those injured. She expressed full support of Italy in the fight against terrorism. PM Modi appreciated her call and the clear message of support against terrorism and those behind it. India and Italy will continue to work together including in international platforms to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts”, Indian Ministry of External Affairs wrote on X.

Various Indo-Canadian organizations too

joined the world in condemning the attacks. Candle light vigils are being organized in different parts of Canada to stand in solidarity with the victims and pay tribute to those innocent who lost their lives in this brutal act of terror.

How has the Indian government responded?

A statement issued in the name of The Resistance Front (TRF), which is believed to be an offshoot of the Pakistani-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility for the attack. India announced a series of retaliatory steps on Wednesday after its leaders huddled for hours in the morning, following PM Modi’s return from Saudi Arabia.

The steps include:

- Suspending India’s participation in the Indus Waters Treaty, a 1960 pact that has governed how India and Pakistan share the waters of the six Indus basin rivers. In theory, India could now try to cut – or entirely stop – the flow of water from these rivers into Pakistan, though that is practically difficult.
- The main land border crossing between the two countries, the Integrated Check Post Attari, or the Attari-Wagah crossing, will be closed with immediate effect, and those who have crossed over with “valid endorsements” have to return through the route before May 1.
- SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) visas granted to Pakistanis have been cancelled, and any Pakistani currently visiting India on a SVES visa must leave within 48 hours of the statement issued on Wednesday.
- The military, naval and air advisers in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi have a week to leave India, while Indian military, naval and air advisers will be pulled back from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. Five support staff members will also be pulled from each High Commission.
- The staffing for each High Commission will be reduced from 55 members to 30 through further reductions by May 1.



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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 steppes away from 84 ave and 124 street.
\$8,990,000

FOR LEASE

11316 CONFIDENTIAL



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



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.

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124st and 84ave
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FOR LEASE

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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 16 foot ceiling. auto etc.
LEASED
Only \$1,199,000.

Warehouse for Lease

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

KPU Festival Celebrates South Asian Arts And Culture



Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) celebrated South Asian arts and culture at the third annual South Asian Arts Festival.

This two-day festival, held on April 9 and 11, featured drumming, dancing, poetry reading and singing performances by KPU students, alumni and employees.

The events were hosted by Dr. Asma Sayed, who is the Canada Research Chair in South Asian Literary and Cultural Studies, KPU Language and Cultures instructor Gurp Sian, and the Faculty of Arts at KPU.

Sayed, who is also Vice-President for Equity and Inclusive Communities at KPU, says the festival is a way of bringing together communities and learning about South Asian culture.

"We have a large number of students who

identify as South Asian and this festival allows them to showcase and celebrate their art and culture, and it makes them feel at home," says Sayed. "The last two years that we have hosted this event, people have come and told me that they have never seen our students as happy as they see them at the festival."

The festival, which was co-founded by Sayed and Sian, started out as a small event in 2022 and has since evolved to incorporate more artforms.

"This year we added a second day, and we hope to keep expanding further and bringing in more students and different kinds of artists such as filmmakers," says Sayed.

The South Asian Arts Festival was funded by Sayed's Canada Research Chair grants.

VIPAN SHARMA

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15611 ROPER AVENUE, WHITE ROCK

NEW LISTING **\$1,649,000** Listing ID: R2577672

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2880 169 ST., SURREY

NEW LISTING **\$3,599,000** Listing ID: R2584077

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

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62 15175 62A AVENUE

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19913 72 AVE LANGLEY

NEW LISTING **\$1,849,000**

House with basement suite and a coach home
Potential rent \$5000 or more per month
(3 separate rental units)

UNIT 34 - 1010 EWEN AVE NEW WEST

NEW LISTING **\$849,000**

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 real estate approx \$5000 per month
SOLD
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. Main floor with a good size family room, dining room and kitchen with separate entry and at the back of the house for suite. It comes with a double car garage, 1 bath, along with its own laundry. Lots of parking and very close to all amenities, walking distance to Joyce Collingwood sky train and Gaston Park.

#37-8358 121A ST., SURREY

\$699,000

Welcome to Kennedy Trails. This house checks all the boxes. Cost effective & environmentally friendly. GEOTHERMAL Heating system. E-star windows. Three living areas. Main floor features a large dining area, Gourmet Kitchen with granite, Bath and DEN/Office. Master Bed with walk in closet. Below is very large recreation room with 4th bed and comes with a full bath. And a large 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 home in the heart of Surrey. A perfect home for home buyers, investors. Upstairs features 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen with granite, separate laundry. Massive deck, 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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Sold in 7 days
\$185,000 over asking

14379 66A AVENUE

OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4 PM




6 BED - 4 BATHS - 10,318 SF

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

ASKING 1,599,000

5758 131 A STREET SURREY



11BED - 11 BATHS - 20,255 SF LOT

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE
UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN PRIME
NEIGHBOURHOOD OF PANORAMA

ASKING 4,000,000

9097 BROADWAY STREET



3 BED - 1 BATH - 10,019 SF LOT

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

ASKING 924,000

11956 98 AVENUE, SURREY



7 BED - 5 BATHS - 6,600 SF

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

ASKING 1,699,000

7028 142 STREET, SURREY



5 BED - 5 BATHS - 7,107 SF

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

ASKING 1,699,000

10095 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, CHILLIWACK



4 BED - 2 BATHS - 9,750 SF LOT

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

ASKING 929,000

1001 14881 103A AVENUE



2 BED - 2 BATHS

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

ASKING 589,000

5748 123 Street Surrey

SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!



7 BED - 8 BATHS - 20,211 SF

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This Beautiful & Luxurious Architectural Masterpiece on a CORNER HALF ACRE LOT in the most prestigious neighbourhood of Panorama Ridge Features with Elegant Porte- 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
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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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2025 Hyundai Santa Fe HEV Review: Bolder, Premium Design

Auto Review by Veenoo Dewan

The 2025 Hyundai Santa Fe is a spacious, smooth, and distinct midsize mid-size SUV. Now in its fifth generation it has a completely new look; Square and bolder it looks almost Land Rover like in its premium looks and presence. There is a clever use of the “H” motif in the shape of the head- and tail lights, and the body-coloured trim bar across the lower fascia, its not at all gimmicky and looks cool actually. The interior is premium, impressive and contemporary, and three rows of seating is standard except on the Calligraphy trim. The handy grab handle hidden in the C-pillar makes accessing the available roof rails and optional accessories such as ski- or bike racks

and even a rooftop tent easy.

There is a choice of either gasoline or

hybrid powered

(HEV) models. We tested the Hybrid version powered by a 1.6L four-cylinder hybrid setup, with 231 hp and 271 lb-ft of torque. The XRT and Ultimate Calligraphy trims are powered by a turbocharged 2.5L engine paired with an eight-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission compared to the hybrid's six-speed conventional gearbox. The XRT has a top towing capacity of 4,500 pounds The other gas models can tow up to 3,500 lb. when properly equipped, while the hybrids have a maximum towing capacity of 2,000 pounds.

In terms of equipment, the standard spec is goods as it always is WITH Hyundai. There is a 12.3-inch digital gauge cluster in a slick looking curved glass panel dash with an integrated touchscreen infotainment system.

Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto is standard on every model. A separate 6.6-inch touchscreen provides access to the climate controls. Two wireless smartphone charging pads and various USB-C ports abound along with an available UV-C sterilization tray to help kill germs on passengers' phones, wallets, and other personal items!

Base prices for the Santa Fe start at \$42,499 for the base Preferred rim, XRT: from \$47,999. The Luxury: \$50,999 and the Ultimate Calligraphy at \$54,799 with: Nappa leather upholstery, a head-up display, ventilated front seats, 21-inch wheels, second-row captain's chairs, 12-speaker



Bose audio and more. The Santa Fe Hybrid's interior is above anything else in its class I would say. There is a premium design ethos, and high quality evident everywhere. Hyundai has used eco-friendly materials throughout the Santa Fe Hybrid's cabin, including sustainable leather upholstery suede stitched leather on the doors, dash, and center armrest. There are some “H” and horizontal design elements. All three rows—have more headroom than any vehicle in this segment the second row with its stadium-style seating and even with the optional panoramic moonroof. The third row is accessed thanks be sliding for ward the second-row seat and folding the seatback. The Santa Fe has 413 litres of cargo space behind the third seat row. Fold down the 50-50 split third-row seats and this increases to 1,148 L of space.

Safety-wise, the Santa Fe arrives as standard with a host of driver-assistance features and optional advanced tech, including an adaptive cruise control system with a lane-centering feature.

We tested the 1.6L turbo hybrid version with 232 hp, 271 lb-ft). The Santa Fe feels confident and capable, with a natural effort to the steering and some welcomed feedback

when cornering. Body roll is restrained in common driving scenarios, though noticeable when charging hard into a corner. The hybrid is a tad slower than the gas engined model thanks to being heavier. Canadian Santa Fe's get off-road drive modes in addition to the three drive modes Sport, Eco and Custom, so drivers can select from Snow, Mud and Sand.

Continued on page 25



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VPD Seeks Witnesses To Vandalism At Sikh Temple

Vancouver Police have released images of a vehicle and two people who were outside the Khalsa Diwan Society Gurdwara on Ross Street when it was vandalized Saturday morning, and asks anyone who recognizes them to contact police.

“We believe these people may have information about this crime and what the motivation

was,” says Sergeant Steve Addison. “We ask anyone who recognizes the people in these pictures, or the vehicle, to come forward and speak with our investigators.”


VPD initiated a criminal investigation on April 19, after suspects spray-painted on the walls outside the gurdwara, located near Ross Street and Marine Drive in South

Vancouver. The graffiti was written in both English and Punjabi.

Investigators from VPD’s Major Crime Section, who have been collecting and analyzing evidence from the crime scene and surrounding neighbourhood, have obtained images of a white pickup and two people who were in the area at the time.

Police believe the truck drove

through the area around the time of the offence, between approximately 4 and 4:30 a.m. on April 19. Two people, whom are believed to be associated to the truck, then walked near the front entrance of the temple. One person was wearing a yellow cap, yellow jacket, and black pants. The other was wearing a grey hoodie with black pants.



Anyone with information is asked to call VPD’s Major Crime Section at 604-717-2541.

Continued from Page 01

Authorities unanimously condemn...

a heated debate started when members of the community raised difficult questions. Concerns were voiced over what some described as the government’s “lukewarm” response to inflammatory slogans and imagery — including floats used in Surrey Vaisakhi Parade depicting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi behind bars.

There were also calls for clarity on how far freedom of speech may go when it borders on incitement. Chief Lipinski acknowledged the legal challenges involved. “There is a fine line between free speech and hate speech. But vandalism crosses that line, and we will act accordingly.”

Several speakers from the temple noted the growing frustration within communities over perceived inaction in the face of repeated provocations. “There’s growing frustration over repeated provocations and the lack of decisive action,” said one temple spokesperson. “It seems like the pot boils over time and again, and yet, little is done until it spills.”

However, Surrey City, Surrey police and the province sent a loud and clear message — they do not favour any ideology, and are against any act threatening the public to attend places of worship in their community.

Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke, Surrey Police Chief Norm Lipinski, Surrey Police officer Jag Khosa, Province’s Attorney General Niki Sharma, Surrey city Counselor and member of police board Rob Stutt, management of Lakshmi Narayan temple and Ross Street Gurdwara were all present at the conference to show their support to both Hindu and Sikh community and unanimously condemn the act.

The incidents, which occurred in the early hours of April 19 — the day of Surrey’s Vaisakhi Parade — have sent ripples of concern through both the Hindu and Sikh communities. Surrey Temple authorities informed that the same act of vandalism was carried out on walls of Mata Bhameshwari Temple too on the same day.

Vancouver Police released images of a vehicle and two people who were outside the Khalsa Diwan Society Gurdwara on Ross Street when it was vandalized and is asking anyone who recognizes them to contact police.

Temple president Satish Kumar said, “In addition to the vandalism, the temple’s security camera was stolen, clearly indicating

an intentional and malicious act. This deeply troubling incident is not only a hate crime/criminal offense, but also a direct attack on a sacred space that serves as a spiritual, cultural, and communal hub for many local families — including seniors and children. Such actions have no place in our society and strike at the very heart of our values of respect, inclusion, and peace. We strongly condemn this act of hate and call upon law enforcement to investigate this matter with utmost urgency.”

Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke stood firmly in support of religious harmony, stating, “Without question, Surrey is a safe city — but it must feel safe. Places of worship are sanctuaries; such hateful acts strike at the heart of our peace and unity. This city will not tolerate divisive actions, and we will use every tool at our disposal to identify and prosecute the culprits.”

Echoing her sentiments, Police Chief Norm Lipinski assured the public that the investigation is being handled with urgency. “Even minor vandalism deserves a full response — and this is far from minor. A special team has been assigned to the case and we are working closely with the Vancouver Police Department. We urge anyone with information to contact us or Crime Stoppers.”

Attorney General Niki Sharma described the events as heartbreaking. “Three places of worship in one day — it was an attack not just on buildings, but on the very fabric of our multicultural society. These temples and gurdwaras are not just places of prayer — they are community hubs, offering language classes, yoga sessions, and support for all ages. An attack on them is an attack on us all.”

The temple secretary Vinay Sharma believes the vandalism is part of an effort to scare people and foment hostility. “We are mature enough as Hindus and Sikhs that we do not fight with each other,” Sharma said. “We know these people just want to divide and create a rift.”

From the Ross Street Gurdwara, leaders of the Khalsa Diwan Society reaffirmed their commitment to communal peace. “Our society was built by Hindu and Sikh pioneers — hand in hand. These vandals seek to divide what generations have united. Their hatred is not welcome here.”

“The act is part of an ongoing campaign by extremist forces that seek to instill fear and division within the Canadian Sikh Community. Their actions undermine the values of inclusivity, respect, and mutual support that are foundation to both Sikhism and Canadian society,” said Kashmir Singh Dhaliwal, general secretary, Khalsa Diwan Society.

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safety measure requirements for protective gear, which will be established through regulations. These changes will help reduce fatalities and serious injuries resulting from motorcycle-related crashes.

Motorcycle riders are over-represented in fatal crashes in B.C. They make up 3.7% of insured vehicles yet are involved in 14.2% of all road fatalities. Of motorcycle crashes where licensed riders were at fault, 46% involved a licensed rider with less than five years of riding experience.

Proposed changes to the GLP and MLP will continue to be informed by engagements with key partners, including Indigenous communities, driver training schools and health authorities, with implementation planned for early 2026.

Asian Community Hub is to foster the health and well-being of underserved diverse communities living in British Columbia by providing low-barrier services, counselling, and advocacy through a South Asian perspective in multiple languages.

The generous community support and their interest to discuss issues of mental health and addictions shows just how important it is to create safe spaces to educate, advocate and collaborate.

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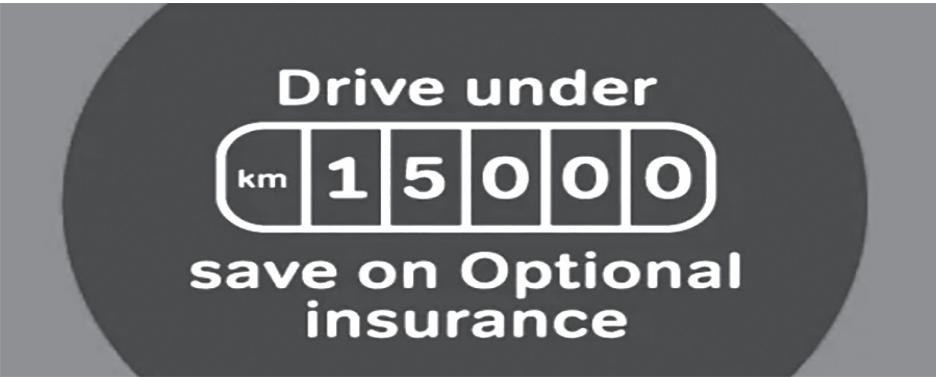
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ICBC Expands Optional Insurance Distance-Based Discount

B.C. drivers who drive under 15,000 kilometres annually will soon be eligible for a new discount on their Optional insurance premium. Drivers may save between approximately 10 to 15% on select ICBC Optional coverages depending on how much they drive during their one-year policy term. These new savings build on ICBC’s existing usage-based discount program and will be available for drivers renewing policies from June 1, 2025, onwards.

“We know many of our customers are interested in usage-based insurance with cost savings being the top motivating factor and it’s our goal to provide affordable auto insurance to the people living in B.C.,” said David Wong, ICBC’s president & CEO. “Driving less not only lowers your risk of getting into a crash, it’s also better for the environment. We hope more of our customers will be able to take advantage of the new Optional distance-based discount now available.”

The new 15,000 km discount applies



to most of ICBC’s Optional insurance products including Extended Third Party Liability, Collision, Comprehensive and Specified Perils coverages, and expands the threshold for discount eligibility by 5,000 kms from the existing 10,000 km threshold, allowing more drivers to take advantage of savings.

Drivers may be eligible for the new expanded Optional distance-based discount if they:

- Drive less than 15,000 kilometres per

year alone.

“We’re working to continue expanding our usage-based insurance options and we encourage drivers to submit their odometer readings online or through their broker when renewing their insurance even if they don’t currently qualify for a distance-based discount,” said Wong. “This will help inform us on potentially new usage-based products that may benefit them in the future.”

ICBC customers can renew their insurance up to six weeks in advance of their policy expiring, so drivers with policies beginning on June 1st can renew their insurance early and potentially save on their Optional premiums.

ICBC also offers a 10% discount on Basic insurance for drivers who drive under 5,000 kms annually. If a customer drives under 5,000 km and has met all other eligibility requirements, they will get both the Basic distance-based discount and the Optional distance-based discount.

More than 1.4 million ICBC customers’ policies have been reduced by a distance-based discount since they were introduced in 2019, including 882,000 discounts last

Sikh Heritage Month Celebration in Langley

The City of Langley and the Langley Library are celebrating their first annual Sikh Heritage Month event. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this free, drop-in, and open to all program. Canada celebrates April as Sikh Heritage Month, honouring the contributions of Sikh Canadians to the nation’s cultural, social, and economic life, and to create awareness about the Sikh heritage and culture.

Please come and join us to enjoy a rich cultural experience through a speech on Sikh heritage and culture, live music, turban-tying demonstrations, displays, and traditional food.

For more information, please visit the Langley Library or call 604-514-2850

SIKH HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Timms Community Centre,
20399 Douglas Crescent



Canada celebrates April as Sikh Heritage Month, honouring the contributions of Sikh Canadians to the nation's cultural, social, and economic life, and to create awareness about the Sikh heritage and culture. Please come and join us to enjoy a rich cultural experience through a speech on Sikh heritage and culture, live music, turban-tying demonstrations, displays, and traditional food.

50K Reward Offered for the Arrest of Man Wanted for First Degree Murder

Peel Regional Police, in partnership with the Be On The Lookout (BOLO) Program, is asking for the public’s assistance in locating Dharam Dhaliwal, a 32-year-old man who is wanted for First Degree Murder.



Dhaliwal is described as a South Asian male, who is 5’7” and 165 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes, and a tattoo on his left hand and forearm. It’s possible that he may have black facial hair as well.

The BOLO Program, which leverages media, technology and engagement to encourage citizens to be on the lookout for Canada’s most wanted, has named

Dhaliwal as one of the top 25 most wanted persons in Canada. A reward of up to \$50,000 has been offered until June 3, by the BOLO Program for any information that leads to Dhaliwal’s arrest.

A Canada-wide warrant was issued for Dhaliwal for First Degree Murder after Peel Regional Police officers responded to a shooting at a gas station in the area of Creditview Road and Britannia Road in Mississauga in December 2022. The victim, Pawanpreet Kaur, a 21-year-old woman from Brampton, was shot multiple times and pronounced deceased at the scene.

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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.

LOOKING FOR BRIDE

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

604.818.5780

LOOKING FOR GROOM

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

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LOOKING FOR BRIDE

Well Settled Jat Sikh Family from Vancouver Canada Seeks Matrimonial Alliance for their Son India Born OCT 87, 5'9" Commerce Graduate from Universaity BC. Employed as OFFICER with Canadian Federal Govt. Father Runs the Business Owns Residentials & Commercial Properties in Vancouver, Parents Also have Urban Rural Properties in Delhi & Haryana. Family is Looking for Nice Beautiful Educated Girl from a Decent Cultured Reputed Family. Please Contact & send Details along with Recent Photographs to 1(604) 649-6109 Or email at: jaschahal10@gmail.com

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LOOKING FOR BRIDE

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

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

ends Feb 22, 25

LOOKING FOR BRIDE

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.

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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

DATING

49 year old Canadian born Sikh male looking for a female for dating and friends. I am into working out gym and music. Speak English, Punjabi. Discretion assured and respected. Call 604-206-6324

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 BRIDE

Jatt Sikh family Moundhi Age 34/ height 6ft canadian born lives in South surrey Canada ,completed health care diploma currently drives truck for local unionized company Contact: 778-384-8371

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

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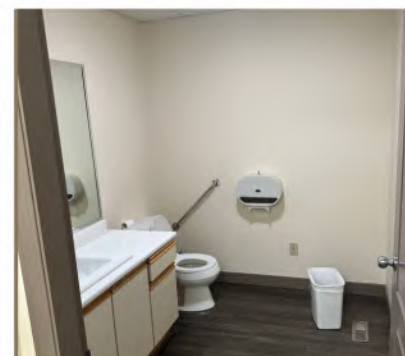
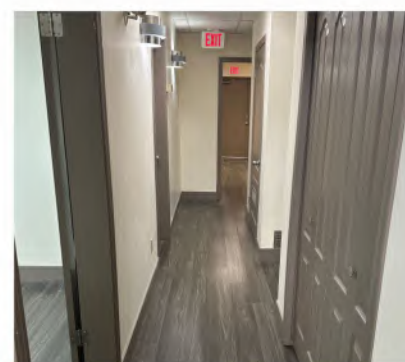
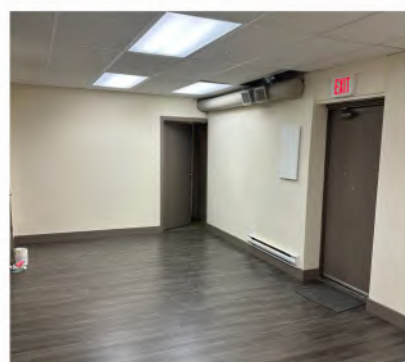
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Upcoming Program

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

- 25th April, Friday at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by the Avtar Singh Hundal family.
26th April, Saturday at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by the Kuldeep Singh Mundi family.
26th April, Saturday at 5:00 pm, Path Sri Sukhmani Sahib, Kirtan, Katha and Langer seva by Kulwant Singh Riar family.
27th April, Sunday at 10:30 am, Weekly Kirtan Diwan, Katha Vichar smagam and langar seva by the sangat.
27th April, Sunday at 5:00 pm, Path Sri Sukhmani Sahib, Gurbani Kirtan and Langer seva by Sunny Mehal family.
28th April, Monday at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by the Anita Bhullar family.
1st May, Thursday at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by the Gurmukh Viridi family.
2nd May, Friday at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by Jaskirat Kaur family.
3rd May, Saturday at 10:00 am, Anand Karj ceremony will be performed by the Jasmail Singh Gill family.
4th May, Sunday at 9:30 am, Weekly Kirtan Diwan by Parminder Singh Riyad, Sukhmani Sahib Path, Katha Vichar, Gurbani Kirtan and langar seva by the Riyad Family.

**19 July (Saturday) and 11 September (Thursday) are available for Anand Karj.
Please contact Kanwaljit Singh (Assistant Secretary) to book Anand Karj.**

All the Sangat are requested to come to the weekly Kirtan Diwan and Katha Vichar 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.

If any family wishes to do seva of Gurbani Kirtan and Langar in the weekly Diwan, they should contact the Management Committee.

***Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM, Path Sri Sukhmani Sahib Ji by the Bibian and the Langer seva by the group of Sukhmani Sahib Walian Bibian**

***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

**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 6.00 pm to 6.20 pm, Kirtan 6.30 pm to 7.15 pm, Ardas/Hukamnama 6.20 pm to 6.45 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

AR Rahman Reacts To Public Scrutiny Over His Separation From Saira Banu: "God Gets Reviewed"

New Delhi: AR Rahman and Saira Banu announced their divorce in November, last year, making his safely guarded private life to be dissected by the public. Months after their separation, AR Rahman reacted to the public chatter

Rahul Bhatt On Mahesh Bhatt And Pooja Bhatt's Infamous Kissing Pic

New Delhi: More than three decades ago, Mahesh Bhatt and Pooja Bhatt featured on a magazine cover where they were pictured sharing a kiss. The picture sparked widespread controversy and continues to drive conversations



around the family dynamics of the Bhattas. Rahul Bhatt, brother of Pooja Bhatt, recently was asked to share his thoughts about the picture. Being unfazed, Rahul recalled that he was only 14 years old when the picture was published. In a conversation with Hindi Rush, Rahul said, "Kuch farq nahi padta. It's like water off a duck's back. Hum jaante hain sach kya hai, aur humne bachpan se sab dekha hai, (We knew the truth. We had seen this since childhood)." Rahul also added how growing up in film family helped him handle public scrutiny without letting it overpower them. "Film parivaar ke bachche ya toh bohot messed up hote hain, ya bohot mazboot. Log sochte hain humein chinta hoti hai, lekin aisa nahi hai," said Rahul. Pooja Bhatt had also addressed the controversy in the past, most notably in a candid interview with Siddharth Kannan. She called the photo moment "absolutely innocent" and expressed disbelief at how easily people project their own biases.

around his divorce and the media frenzy that followed him after announcing the separation. "The choice of being in public life is intentional, so everybody gets reviewed. Right from the richest person to even God gets reviewed, so who am I?" Rahman told Nayandeep Rakshit on his YouTube channel. "As long as we stay together and are not concealed or toxic... even those who criticise us - they're all family," AR Rahman reflected on the perils of being a public figure. Addressing to the troll and the relentless commentary on his personal life, AR Rahman said, "If I say things about someone's family, someone will say things about mine. And we, as Indians, believe this. Nobody should say unnecessary



things because everyone has a sister, a wife, a mother." "Even when someone says something hurtful, I pray, 'Please God, forgive them and guide them'," Rahman voiced his philosophy of life to tide over the tough situation. Being married for almost three decades, AR Rahman and Saira Banu called it quits in November last year. They share

three children - son AR Ameen, and two daughters, Khatija Rahman and Raheema Rahman. Soon after the news broke, the musician opened up about how "shattering" it is to bear the "weight of broken hearts." AR Rahman posted a heartbreaking update on X (formerly Twitter), "We had hoped to reach the grand thirty, but all things, it seems, carry an unseen end. Even the throne of God might tremble at the weight of broken hearts. Yet, in this shattering, we seek meaning, though the pieces may not find their place again. To our friends, thank you for your kindness and for respecting our privacy as we walk through this fragile chapter. #arsairaabreakup." In March, after Rahman underwent an angiography following complaints of chest pain in Chennai, Saira Banu said in public that she didn't want to be referred to as "Ex-wife" as they were not divorced yet.

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Shah Rukh, Salman Khan React To Pahalgam Terror Attack: “Ek Bhi Innocent Ko Marna...”

New Delhi: Hours after the Kashmir valley turned red as terrorists shot 26 civilians dead, Shah Rukh Khan wrote a message on his X handle. Standing by the families who lost their loved ones, Shah Rukh Khan urged his countrymen to stand united in the hour of need. He wrote, “Words fail to express the sadness and anger at the treachery and inhumane act of violence that has occurred in Pahalgam. In times like these, one can only turn to God and say a prayer for the families that suffered and express my deepest condolences. May we as a Nation, stand united, strong and get justice against this heinous act.” Salman Khan also expressed his anger on X. He wrote, “Kashmir, heaven on planet

earth turning into hell. Innocent people being targeted, my heart goes out to their families . Ek bhi innocent ko marna puri kainath ko marne ke barabar hai (Killing one innocent person is equals to killing an entire nation).” Priyanka Chopra also wrote a powerful message on her Instagram, condemning the act of terror. She wrote, “What happened in Pahalgam is reprehensible. People were there on vacations, honeymoons, celebrating with their families. Just taking in the beauty of Kashmir. This is not a tragedy we can move past from. “So many innocent lives were caught in a storm they never asked for. Targeted, right in front of their loved ones.

“I’m so deeply anguished by this,” Priyanka added. Stars like Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Allu Arjun, Ram Charan, Kareena Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif also expressed their anguish and demanded justice for the families who lost their loved ones. Twenty-six people were killed after terrorists opened fire at Baisaran, a popular meadow near the resort town of Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir around 3 PM on Tuesday. An Indian Navy officer and an Intelligence Bureau personnel were also killed in the attack. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based terror



group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the attack. A massive manhunt has been launched. Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and Jammu and Kashmir Police have cordoned off the area. Helicopters were deployed to evacuate the injured from the inaccessible meadow. Locals helped in transporting the wounded on ponies down the rugged terrain to Pahalgam.

Pahalgam Terror Attack Cuts Short Bollywood’s Cautious Love Affair With Kashmir

New Delhi: On Tuesday, the idyllic town of Pahalgam in Kashmir - often referred to as India’s “mini Switzerland” - was shattered by a gruesome terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 tourists. Allegedly targeted for not offering prayers, they were gunned down in cold blood, a first-of-its-kind unprovoked attack on civilians in a region that had long been considered an oasis of peace, even during Kashmir’s darkest chapters. Unlike neighbouring areas like Anantnag or Pulwama that have endured insurgency-related violence for decades, Pahalgam had remained untouched. The attack not only stunned the nation but also severed, perhaps indefinitely, Bollywood’s tentative rekindling of its once-flourishing relationship with the valley. Local voices painted a stark picture. “Humaari toh rozi roti gayi,” said a shopkeeper in the bustling main bazaar of Pahalgam. For thousands whose livelihoods depended on tourism and film shoots, the tragedy brought with it not just mourning but economic devastation.

Betaab And The Birth Of Betaab Valley The cinematic history of Pahalgam began in 1983 with the release of Betaab, the debut film of Sunny Deol and Amrita Singh. Directed by Rahul Rawail, the film was a sweeping romance set against the breathtaking backdrops of lush meadows, pine forests and snow-capped peaks. The love story between two youngsters from different worlds struck a chord, but what left an indelible mark was the location. **A still from Betaab** Such was the film’s visual impact that the area where it was shot came to be known as “Betaab Valley”, a name now officially marked on the tourist map of Jammu & Kashmir. It became one of the most photographed and visited destinations in the Valley, pulling in both film crews and tourists for decades. The Golden Era Of Filming In Kashmir Following Betaab, a wave of filmmakers

turned their lens toward Kashmir. Films like Kashmir Ki Kali (1964) starring Shammi Kapoor and Sharmila Tagore, had already captured Pahalgam’s beauty, but the post-Betaab era saw a marked uptick in big-budget productions choosing the Valley as their set. **A still from Kashmir Ki Kali** Between the 1960s and 1980s, Kashmir was a central hub for Bollywood films. Known for its breathtaking landscapes, it became the setting for numerous iconic movies that have defined Indian cinema. Films like Kashmir Ki Kali (1964), Arzoo (1965), Jab Jab Phool Khile (1965), and Kabhi Kabhie (1976) featured the majestic Dal Lake, lush meadows and snow-capped mountains. **A still from Silsila** The grandeur of Kashmir was captured in classics like Silsila (1981), Satte Pe Satta (1982), and Roti (1974), which created an inseparable link between Bollywood and Kashmir. **A Break In The Romance** The 1990s were marked by a wave of militancy in Kashmir, particularly in areas like Anantnag, Pulwama and Sopore. Bollywood pulled back, no longer willing to risk shooting in a region that had turned volatile. Pahalgam, despite being relatively untouched by violence, suffered from the broader perception that Kashmir was “unsafe”. The tide began to turn in the 2000s. After a hiatus of 28 years, Kashmir’s silver screen presence was reignited by director Imtiaz Ali, who in 2011 decided to film Rockstar, starring Ranbir Kapoor and Nargis Fakhri, in the famous Betaab Valley.



A still from Rockstar The choice of location was not coincidental: the valley had earned fame decades earlier with the 1983 film Betaab. Imtiaz Ali’s film brought Kashmir back into the cinematic fold, and soon, the Valley’s magic was discovered by more filmmakers. In 2012, Bollywood’s “Badshah”, Shah Rukh Khan, visited Pahalgam for Jab Tak Hai Jaan. The film’s romantic track Jiya Re, shot against the stunning Betaab Valley, reintroduced the Valley to a global audience. The Valley’s pristine beauty, captured by Yash Chopra’s camera, signalled the revival of Kashmir as a film destination, and Bollywood’s love affair with the region was reborn. **A still from Jab Tak Hai Jaan** In 2013, Ranbir Kapoor returned to the snow-clad landscapes of Gulmarg and Pahalgam for Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani alongside Deepika Padukone, shooting in temperatures as low as -6.7°C. **A still from Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani** Despite the 2014 floods, which devastated Kashmir and led to massive loss of life and property, filmmakers did not shy away. Films like Fitoor (2014), an adaptation of Charles Dickens’ Great Expectations, was filmed around Srinagar’s Dal Lake and Pahalgam. The same year, Highway, starring Alia

Bhatt, was shot in the Aru Valley in Pahalgam. The film, released in 2015, focused on the themes of freedom and escape, and used Kashmir’s landscapes as a metaphor for the protagonist’s emotional journey. **A still from Highway** Haider (2014), directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, was shot in Pahalgam and other parts of the Kashmir Valley. Salman Khan’s Bajrangi Bhaijaan (2015) shot scenes in Pahalgam that doubled for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (2023), starring Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh, was also shot in Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Srinagar. **A still from Bajrangi Bhaijaan** Aside from this, Sam Bahadur, which tells the story of India’s first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, was shot in Pahalgam and Srinagar, both located in the Kashmir region. Each film contributed not just to India’s pop culture memory but also helped rebuild Kashmir’s image as a safe, scenic haven. The shoots brought in money, visibility, and jobs. Hotel occupancy rose, homestays thrived, and a new generation of Kashmiris saw Bollywood not as a distant dream but a tangible opportunity. The abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 also played its part. This constitutional change revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and was followed by the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy in 2021. Supported by actors like Aamir Khan and filmmakers such as Rajkumar Hirani, the policy aimed to bring normalcy by attracting filmmakers back to the Valley. The results were swift. The plan seemed to work. Pahalgam emerged as a symbol of Kashmir’s rebirth. Until now.

Continued from Page 09

Poiliere Announces Plan To Shut Down Tent Cities

ensuring that those struggling with substance use get the support they need to recover—because real compassion means helping people get better, not enabling their suffering. In addition to these measures, Poilievre has a plan to end the soft-

on-crime approach by introducing Three-Strikes-and-You’re-Out Law: Individuals convicted of three serious offences will face a minimum prison term of 10 years and up to a life sentence, with no eligibility for bail, probation, parole, or house arrest.

Mandatory Life Sentences: Life imprisonment for those convicted of five or more counts of human trafficking, importing or exporting ten or more illegal firearms, or trafficking fentanyl. • Repeal of Bill C-75: Ending the Liberals’ catch-and-release

policies to restore jail, not bail, for repeat violent offenders. • New Offense for Intimate Partner Assault: Creation of a specific offense for assault of an intimate partner, with the strictest bail conditions for those accused, and ensuring that murder of an

intimate partner, one’s own child, or a partner’s child is treated as first-degree murder. • Consecutive Sentences for Repeat Violent Offenders: So there will no longer be sentencing discounts for multiple murderers.



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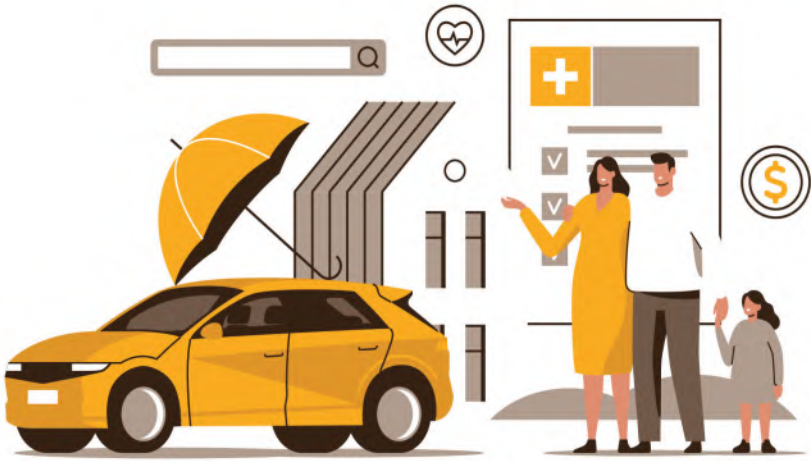
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