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25-year-old male shot dead, another male injured in Surrey in BC Gang Conflict



The killers emerge from a car to attack their victims.

THE Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) says that Tuesday's homicide victim in Surrey was a 25-year-old resident of the city. His name is not yet being released as family notifications are still ongoing. While the investigation is in its infancy, investigators believe this was an isolated and targeted incident, with initial information suggesting that the shooting has ties to the BC Gang Conflict. On April 28 at approximately 6:55 p.m., Surrey Police Service (SPS) responded to reports of shots fired into a vehicle in the 6800-block of 148 Street. Officers located an adult male suffering from gunshot wounds. Despite the best efforts of first responders, the man was subsequently pronounced deceased at the scene. A second victim, an adult male, was also found at the scene and was transported to hospital with reportedly minor injuries. A video sent to The VOICE shows two armed men emerging from a vehicle with the driver, who is armed with an automatic rifle, pumping bullets into the driver of another vehicle. He then chases the vehicle as it pulls away, while the second attacker also runs towards it with a handgun. Seconds later, one of the victims is seen



The torched vehicle that was apparently used

running back and throwing himself to the ground behind some vegetation and crawling to try and hide. Then the man with the handgun is seen darting back towards his vehicle. Seconds later, the man with the automatic rifle is also seen running towards his vehicle. He stops to pick up something lying on the ground before getting into his vehicle and speeding away. (You can view the video on our website voiceonline.com) The attackers apparently torched the vehicle they had used near 96 Avenue and 144 Street. IHIT was called in and continues to work in close partnership with the BC RCMP Major Crime Unit, Surrey Police Service Major Crime Unit, Forensic Identification Services (FIS),

The victim's body in his vehicle, and the BC Coroners Service to advance the investigation. "Thanks to Surrey Police Service frontline officers for their quick actions in securing the scene and preserving vital evidence while also managing a large number of potential witnesses in the area," said Staff-Sgt. Kris Clark of BC RCMP. "Extensive work is underway to interview those witnesses; however, anyone else who saw the shooting or knows the victims is asked to connect with investigators."

IHIT is also seeking CCTV or dashcam video from April 28 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in and around the following areas:
* 148 Street between 72 Avenue and 64 Avenue
* 96 Avenue between 123 Street and 125 Street
* Including alleyways. Anyone with further information regarding this investigation is asked to contact IHIT at 1-877-551-IHIT (4448) or email ihitinfo@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

The deadline for this week's newspaper was Friday morning. For updates on this story and other news, please visit our website voiceonline.com

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Sikh Heritage BC and Minister Sunner host first ever Sikh Heritage Month event at BC Legislative Assembly

SIKH Heritage BC, alongside Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills Jessie Sunner (MLA for Surrey-Newton), hosted the first-ever Sikh Heritage Month celebration in the Hall of Honour at B.C.'s Legislative Assembly in Victoria on April 16. The gathering was rooted in a clear intention: to express gratitude for and to honour the enduring contributions, values, and legacy of the Sikh community across the province. Community leaders from across B.C., each with deep connections to the Sikh community, were invited to take part in this historic occasion. Remarks were delivered by Sikh Heritage BC directors Jasleen Kaur Sidhu and Mohnaam Kaur



Jessie Sunner addresses the gathering at the B.C. Photos: BC NDP

Shergill, Sunner, Speaker Raj Chouhan and Premier David Eby, each reflecting on the significance of Sikh Heritage Month and the importance of recognizing the community's impact.

A meaningful highlight of the event was the sharing of a version of langar, presented by Minister Ravi Parmar in partnership with the Topaz Gurdwara. As a cornerstone



Premier David Eby and Sunner with guests.

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Sikh Heritage BC directors Jasleen Kaur Sidhu and Mohnaam Kaur Shergill with Sunner.

of Sikh tradition, langar symbolizes equality, humility, and service of bringing people together to share a meal prepared in a community kitchen, open to all regardless of faith, gender, caste, or economic status. Its presence in the Hall of Honour served as a powerful expression of inclusion and collective care.

Eby spoke to the profound role Sikh communities have played in shaping B.C.'s social, economic, political, and cultural landscape, grounding his remarks in values that closely mirror the teachings of Sikhi: service, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to justice. Sunner delivered heartfelt

reflecting on the honour of welcoming the Sikh community into the Legislature and the significance of seeing and smelling langar fill the halls of the Assembly. She expressed profound gratitude for the generations who came before her, those who carried forward the teachings of Sikhi through action, sacrifice, and community-building. Sunner emphasized that principles such as daya (compassion), seva, and sarbat da bhala (the well-being of all) are not abstract ideals, but living commitments that continue to guide her in public service. Minister remarked "celebrating Sikh Heritage Month

CONTINUED ON 3



A section of the invitees.



Speaker Raj Chouhan, former minister Moe Sahota, Sunner and guests.

CONTINUED FROM 2

at the Legislature is a true moment of pride and reflection for our community.” She reflected on how these teachings shape her responsibility as an elected official, grounding her work in empathy, accountability, and a dedication to uplifting all communities she is honoured to serve. Together, the event stood as a tribute, grounded in gratitude and respect to the Sikh community’s legacy, while reinforcing a shared commitment to inclusivity, service, and community in B.C. Sikh Heritage BC began as a student-led volunteer initiative at Simon Fraser University

and University of British Columbia, becoming an official non-profit in 2018. What started as five events has grown into a province-wide movement showcasing the lasting contributions of Sikh Canadians. Now in its ninth year, the organization continues to expand its impact, including offering scholarships that support and uplift future generations. This year’s theme, “Daya” (compassion), reflects a core pillar of Sikhism, calling not only for empathy, but for meaningful action to support others. Additionally, the Province of British Columbia has issued an official proclamation recognizing Sikh Heritage Month,

affirming that “the government of British Columbia recognizes the important contributions that Sikhs have made and continue to make to the province’s social, economic, political

a n d cultural fabric.” The proclamation further emphasizes that Sikh Heritage Month serves as a vital opportunity

to celebrate the aspirations of Sikh communities while educating future generations about this rich and diverse heritage.

Gunshots exchanged between vehicles in Surrey’s City Centre

SURREY Police Service (SPS) is investigating reports of shots fired involving two vehicles on Saturday night in the City Centre neighbourhood.

On April 25 at approximately 9:03 p.m., SPS frontline officers responded to a report of gunshots exchanged between two vehicles near the intersection of 105 Avenue and University Drive. Officers located several spent shell casings.

The vehicles, described as a black sedan and a white sedan, were seen speeding away. The white vehicle was also described as possibly having damage to the windshield on its driver’s side.

Neither of the vehicles has been located and there have been no reports of any injuries.

SPS’s Major Crime Section has taken over the investigation. Detectives and other officers, including members of the Integrated Forensic Identification Services, may be back in the area on Sunday canvassing for physical and digital evidence. The motivation for the shooting is currently unknown.

Anyone with information or who has dashcam or CCTV footage is asked to contact SPS’s non-emergency line at 604-599-0502 and quote file number 26-39710 (SP) or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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MLAs Garry Begg and Amna Shah attend Khalsa School's 5th Annual Vaisakhi Jorh Mela



MP Sukh Dhaliwal (2nd from left), MLA Garry Begg (3rd from left) and MLA Amna Shah (6th from left). Photos: BC NDP



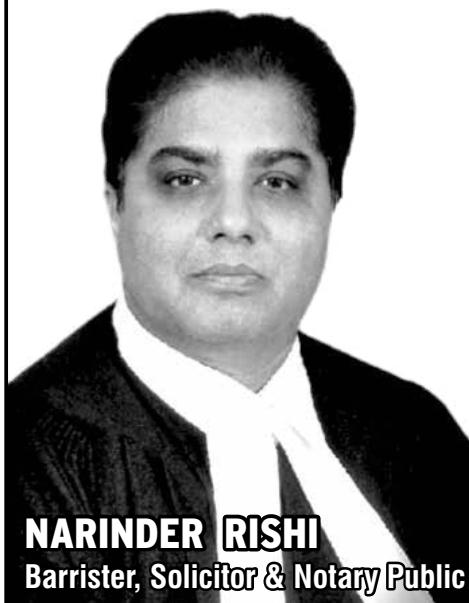
Schools' 40-year milestone celebrations, recognizing their longstanding contribution to education and community life in British Columbia. Khalsa Schools will officially reach their 40th anniversary in September 2026. Begg and Shah joined school leaders, educators, and families in acknowledging the importance of Vaisakhi as a time of reflection, service, and community unity. Their attendance highlighted the significance of the event to Surrey's diverse population and the strong relationship between local schools and the broader community.



SURREY MLAs Garry Begg and Amna Shah joined students, families and community members at the 5th Annual Vaisakhi Jorh Mela hosted by Khalsa Secondary School on April 25. The event took place across the Khalsa School Old Yale Road and Khalsa Secondary School fields at 10589 124 Street in Surrey. The Vaisakhi Jorh Mela brought together thousands of attendees to celebrate the spirit of Vaisakhi through cultural displays, student performances, and community engagement activities. This year's gathering also marked the beginning of Khalsa

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Langley's Sikh Heritage Month celebration



THE City of Langley and the Langley Library brought vibrant energy and community spirit to their second annual Sikh Heritage Month celebration, drawing a lively audience that enjoyed the Punjabi folk dance Bhangra, a presentation on Sikh history and culture in Canada, hands-on calligraphy, cultural displays, and refreshments.

The event's special guest, Manjit Kaur Gill, gave a talk on Vaisakhi. Ramneek Singh highlighted Sikh history in Canada, including the hardships faced in the early days, as well as the community's



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achievements and contributions to Canada. A young girl, Pargun Kaur Gill, presented a prayer song. The Punjabi folk dance Bhangra performances by the Shan-E-Punjab Arts Club team was full of energy and the team instructor, Mandeep Singh, invited attendees to learn a few steps of the dance. The Punjabi calligraphy workshop by Sarbjit Kaur Randhawa was also a big attraction, with several children learning the basics of Punjabi writing. There was also a display highlighting the rich history, vibrant culture, and meaningful contributions of the Sikh community in Canada. Attendees enjoyed traditional refreshments. Langley Library programs expert Donna Gomes was the MC for the program. Library Manager Dr. Sarwan Singh Randhawa thanked everyone for making the event a resounding success.

(Write-up and photos submitted)

Perbeen Mann appointed Provincial Court judge in Abbotsford

PERBEEN Mann has been appointed Provincial Court judge in Abbotsford by the B.C. Government effective May 1, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Attorney General.

Mann has been a federal prosecutor since 2004, first serving as a standing federal Crown agent before joining the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) in 2007. In 2009, Mann became an organized crime prosecutor, and in 2022, was appointed to team leader of the PPSC - Surrey office.

Mann has recently been on assignment at PPSC headquarters in Ottawa as senior legal and strategic adviser to the deputy director.

Mann has served as an adjunct professor in the master of laws (LLM) program at the Peter A. Allard School of Law since 2018, teaching Canadian Criminal Law and Procedure and Canadian Private Law: Contractual Obligations and Remedies.

Mann has also held a leadership role on the Public Prosecution Service of Canada's National Council of Racialized Employees, providing advice to senior government officials on advancing cultural competency and anti-racism initiatives in the workplace.

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5 South Asian men charged in Ontario after stolen cannabis worth over \$2 million seized



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The seized cannabis.

FIVE men have been charged by Ontario's York Regional Police Auto Cargo Theft Unit (ACTU), following the recovery of over \$2 million in stolen cannabis products and two illegal firearms.

On April 15, investigators were in the area of McLaughlin Road and Highway 401, in the City of Mississauga, when they located a trailer that was reported stolen from the Niagara Region.

Through investigation, it was determined the trailer contained a large amount of cannabis products, intended to be delivered to numerous dispensaries, when it was stolen.

While in the area, investigators observed and identified several males as being associated to the stolen trailer.

Investigators placed five males under



Firearms seized by police.

arrest and while searching them, two firearms were located.

The suspect photos are being released as investigators believe there are additional victims. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact police.

The following face numerous charges related to theft and firearms:

* Manveer Singh, 21, of Brampton

* Sarbjeet Singh, 32, of Brampton

* Dilkhhab Singh, 21, of Brampton

* Karan Kumar, 25, of Hamilton

* Jaiskavan Malhi, 23, of Brampton

York Regional Police continue to work in

partnership with Equite Association by targeting Auto and Cargo Theft in York Region and the GTA.

Abbotsford Police issue alert about thefts from shopping carts

ABBOTSFORD Police are advising the public of a recent trend involving thefts from shopping carts while grocery shopping after receiving three separate reports where purses or wallets were stolen after being briefly left unattended in shopping carts while the victim was distracted selecting items from store shelves.

In each incident, an unknown person removed the wallet or purse, and the victim's credit and debit cards were subsequently used at other locations.

Abbotsford Police are reminding everyone to keep purses and wallets with themselves at all times and never leave them unattended—even for a brief moment—in public spaces.

Shoppers are encouraged to report any suspicious behaviour immediately to store staff and police. If



Photo: Abbotsford Police's X

you believe you have been a victim of theft, report it as soon as possible.

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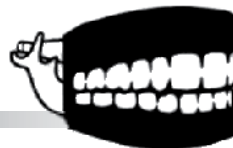
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Metro Vancouver implements Stage 2 water restrictions

METRO Vancouver started implementing Stage 2 water restrictions — which prohibit all lawn watering — from May 1 to conserve water due to a low snowpack, a forecasted drought, and to maintain water pressure during critical infrastructure upgrades.

The snowpack in the water supply areas is well below normal, averaging around 50 per cent of the historical average, and considerably lower than last year. Although reservoirs are currently at typical levels, snowmelt helps keep reservoirs fuller longer. Forecasters are predicting a drought this summer, which means less rainwater refill reservoirs through to the fall, and warning water suppliers to prepare.

In the summer, daily water use in Metro Vancouver can increase by more than 50 per cent, largely due to lawn watering. Metro Vancouver has one of the highest per-capita water consumption rates in Canada, meaning there is more work to do on conservation — and this year it's more important than ever.

Following watering restrictions will



Capilano Reservoir

Photo: Metro Vancouver

also support Metro Vancouver's work to construct the Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel, a project that will help ensure a resilient water supply for future generations. The First Narrows Crossing, one of the system's key supply pipes from the Capilano and Seymour reservoirs, has been out of service since last fall to allow for work to take place on the Stanley Park project. While the system is well equipped to supply the region for where it's needed most, if too much water is used during the summer for non-essential purposes,

then it could affect water pressure. Reduced water pressure could affect first responders' ability to use water for emergencies.

Under Stage 2:

- * All lawn watering is prohibited
- * Aesthetic water features, such as fountains, cannot be filled or topped up
- * Washing surfaces like driveways and sidewalks is prohibited except in limited circumstances
- * Trees, shrubs, and flowers can be watered by hand or using soaker hoses or drip irrigation at any time, or by using a sprinkler between 5 and 9 a.m. any day
- * Vegetable gardens can be watered at any time

Non-residential properties are subject to similar restrictions on lawn and garden watering, as well as filling and topping up aesthetic water features and washing impermeable surfaces. Watering at golf courses and sports fields is reduced, but they can still water to protect these private and public assets — many use supplemental water sources or are operating under an approved member

jurisdiction water management plan. Water play parks may not operate unless they have user-activated switches.

These restrictions do not apply to the use of rainwater, grey water, any forms of recycled water, or other sources of water outside the regional and municipal drinking water supply system. Cities enforce watering restrictions through local bylaws.

It's anticipated that restrictions will be tightened in early June, when water use typically ramps up further.

Weather, snowpack, water demand, and reservoir level information will be published on Metro Vancouver's website weekly starting May 6. Find full restriction details at itsalldrinkingwater.ca.

Metro Vancouver ensures more than three million residents receive high-quality drinking water every day. Working with member jurisdictions, Metro Vancouver manages a regional system of protected water supply areas, dams, treatment facilities, reservoirs, pump stations, and water mains to keep drinking water flowing reliably throughout the region.

Pre-construction contract for Newton Community Centre awarded

SURREY City Council on Monday approved the award of a pre-construction and design services contract for the Newton Community Centre, a major new facility that will serve as a vibrant, inclusive community hub in the heart of Newton.

"The Newton Community Centre is the largest capital project investment in the

City's history," said Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke. "With recreation, culture and library services under one roof, we're creating a welcoming space that reflects the diversity and needs of the neighbourhood and broader community."

Following a competitive process that included three shortlisted design-build teams, Ventana Construction

Corp. was selected based on experience, technical approach and financial considerations. The progressive design-build pre-construction services contract is valued at \$9.1 million. Once completed, the 175,000-square-foot facility will include a 50-metre lap pool, leisure pool, hot tub, sauna, two gymnasiums, fitness centre, multi-purpose and arts

spaces, child-care areas and a new 40,000-square-foot library, more than double the size of the existing Newton branch.

Located on the east side of King George Boulevard, next to the Newton Seniors Centre, the \$310.6-million project supports the city's long-term vision for a revitalized Newton town centre and is expected to open in spring 2030.



Brenda Locke

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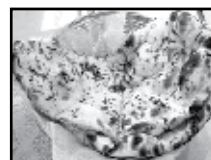
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Surjit Bhandal

Surrey Police investigating physical assault of child during Khalsa Day celebrations

SURREY Police Service (SPS) is investigating an incident that occurred during the April 19 Khalsa Day celebrations where a young boy was allegedly assaulted while inside a carnival attraction.

On Sunday, April 19 at approximately 5 p.m., SPS frontline officers responded to a report of an assault that occurred outside the gurdwara in the 12800-block of 85 Avenue.

It was determined that inside a haunted house amusement called "Kreepy Kastle," which was set up in the parking lot for the Khalsa Day festivities, an eight-year-old boy had been assaulted by two adult males. The child escaped from the males and fled outside to inform his family. The child suffered injuries to his neck which required treatment at a hospital.



The suspects. Photo: SPS

SPS's Major Crime Unit and Special Victims Team (SVT) has assumed conduct of the investigation. The owner / operator of the carnival is cooperating, and staff are



One of the suspects

not believed to be involved in the alleged assaults.

SPS detectives have searched the area for physical and digital evidence and

canvassed for witnesses. Two suspects have been identified because of this work. These suspects are described as South Asian adult males wearing dark clothing. One of the males was wearing a turban and the other a very distinctive floral patterned brown shirt. The search for digital evidence has resulted in images of the potential suspects being captured.

SPS is appealing for additional witnesses and other potential victims to come forward. Furthermore, police are asking others who attended the area and have photos or video of the interior or exterior of the "Kreepy Kastle" between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on April 19 to contact police.

Anyone with information should contact SPS's non-emergency line at 604-599-0502 and quote file number 26-37221 (SP) or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Over 15,000 attend Surrey's 15th annual Party for the Planet

THE City of Surrey marked its 15th annual Party for the Planet at Surrey Civic Plaza last Saturday. Presented by TD Bank Group, more than 15,000 attendees gathered for B.C.'s largest Earth Day event, celebrating sustainability, community, and environmental action.

"Each year, I look forward to Surrey's Party for the Planet, and celebrating our 15th event is an important milestone," said Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke. "This event brings people together to learn about sustainability and the wide range of initiatives underway across the city. Together, we can continue to build a greener future for Surrey."

Party for the Planet had humble beginnings



Photo: City of Surrey

as a small Earth Day event at Bear Creek Park, drawing just a few hundred people. In 2010, following the success of the City's

Olympic celebration site at Holland Park, it expanded into an annual signature event. Over the past 15 years, it has grown to fill Surrey Civic Plaza, attracting upwards of 10,000 people each year.

The Surrey Parks plant sale was once again one of the event's most popular attractions, selling out of more than 1,500 affordable native plants. This year's event also highlighted the City's environmental initiatives, including the Climate Action Team, Climate-Friendly Homes, and ReThink Waste.

Attendees participated in a hands-on activity with the Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (SHaRP), painting wooden salmon to raise awareness

about local salmon habitats. The painted salmon will be displayed along Quibble Creek at 9910 Whalley Boulevard on May 23 in celebration of World Fish Migration Day.

"Party for the Planet was another huge success, and TD was thrilled to take part in the celebrations," said Chris Sirovyak, Surrey district vice president of TD Bank Group. "We were proud to serve as the presenting sponsor for this marquee event as it marked its 15th year, continuing to inspire thousands to contribute to a more vibrant and sustainable planet."

Attendees are invited to provide feedback on Party for the Planet 2026 for a chance to win a \$200 gift card to Guildford Town Centre. To participate in the survey, visit partyfortheplanet.ca.

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New regulations for Firearm Violence Prevention Act will help disrupt organized crime

NEW regulations taking effect October 1 will bring the Firearm Violence Prevention Act into force, strengthening efforts to curb gun violence, disrupt organized crime and keep communities safe, says the Province.

“Gun-related violence has a profound effect on communities, and it continues to be a serious threat to public safety in British Columbia,” said Nina Krieger, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, on Monday. “By closing the gaps in gun laws, we are providing police with new ways to go after gangs and criminals, and keep people and businesses in all our communities safe.”

The act, the first of its kind in Canada, will help disrupt organized crime activity by providing additional tools for law enforcement that will fill existing gaps in federal law related to the misuse of firearms. While the legislation was created and passed before the extortion crisis, the legislation gives police new regulations to hold criminals accountable for offences that typically occur during criminal activities tied to

extortion. These include:

- * discharging firearms from a vehicle
 - * operating a vehicle that is illegally transporting a firearm – a firearm is being illegally transported if no one in the vehicle has the federal licences and authorizations to possess the firearm or if the firearm is not being transported in accordance to federal law
 - * using or storing firearms in an unsafe manner
 - * causing a public disturbance with low-velocity firearms or imitation firearms and possessing firearms or imitation firearms if subject to federal prohibition
 - * possessing a firearm or imitation firearm in or on designated property
- “For parents, there is nothing more important than protecting our children, especially from gun-related violence,” said Niki Sharma, Attorney General. “I am proud that our government is taking these actions to help prevent criminals from trying to draw our young people into organized crime.”
- The act and regulations include prohibiting individuals



Nina Krieger
Photo: Krieger's X

from selling low-velocity and imitation firearms to youth under 18 years of age, such as BB, pellet and airsoft guns, and lighters designed to look like firearms, and other objects that could reasonably be mistaken to be firearms. When it comes to places of worship, courts, child care facilities, hospitals, K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions, the act prohibits firearms, low-velocity firearms

and imitation firearms from those properties. While firearms are generally prohibited in these locations by a mix of laws, policies and procedures, the act puts in place a clear prohibition that is easy to understand and enforceable by police.

The act, passed in 2021, was developed in response to recommendations set out in the 2017 Illegal Firearms Task Force Report. Over the past five years, the Province has been engaging with stakeholders and partners to determine the full effect of these changes.

As a result of these extensive engagements, the regulations include exemptions for safe and lawful use of firearms and imitation firearms, and enables adults and youth who use them in a responsible way to continue doing so with minimal change.

Exemptions include activities such as hunting, sport shooting, firearms education and training, and airsoft activities. In addition, exemptions have also been established for public officials who are exempt from federal firearms requirements during the course of their duties, such as peace officers, conservation officers and others with specific exemptions granted under the Criminal Code of Canada. The six-month timeframe before the act comes into force will allow for the Province, police, affected stakeholder groups and law-abiding firearm owners time to prepare for implementation. Work is underway to implement additional provisions for the impoundment of vehicles that flee police or transport illegal firearms. These are expected to come into effect within 2027.

Former White Rock dance teacher charged with multiple counts of sexual assault

WHITE Rock RCMP are requesting that anyone with information related to alleged historical sexual offences involving female dance students come forward.

In 2021, White Rock RCMP received a report of a historical sexual assault involving a dance teacher and student at a local dance studio in White Rock. The General Investigation Section took conduct of the investigation.

As the investigation progressed, additional victims were identified, all of whom were youths at the time of the alleged offences. Investigators subsequently submitted a report to Crown Counsel for charge assessment by the BC Prosecution Service.

On February 12, 2026, the BC Prosecution Service laid charges against 45-year-old Nigel Brock Jellison, commonly known as “Brock Jellison,” and a Canada-wide warrant was issued for his arrest. Jellison faces five counts of sexual assault, and one count of sexual exploitation. These charges relate to alleged offences involving four victims between 2006 and 2011. There is a publication ban protecting

victim identity.

On April 15, 2026, Jellison was arrested in Magrath, Alberta, by White Rock RCMP, with the assistance of the Raymond / Magrath RCMP. He was processed and subsequently released on conditions while awaiting his next court appearance.

The alleged offences occurred while Jellison was teaching at a local dance studio in White Rock. Investigators are aware that he has also been associated with other dance studios. Due to the historical nature of the allegations, and to avoid any unintended impact on current studio operations, police will not be identifying the business. Based on the investigation, it is believed that more recently Jellison was teaching in Alberta. “We believe there may be people within our community who were taught by Brock Jellison or attended the local dance studio who have information and have not yet spoken with police,” says White Rock RCMP Detachment Commander Staff-Sgt. Rob Dixon. “We are asking anyone with information to contact the White Rock RCMP at 778-545-4800.”

Manslaughter charge laid in death of Abbotsford man

THE Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) announced on Saturday that the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) has charged 49-year-old Ryan Easton with one count of manslaughter in relation to the death of the 47-year-old victim in Abbotsford on Friday.

On April 24 at approximately 6:09 p.m., Abbotsford Police patrol officers responded to a

report of a fire at the Peardonville encampment in the 31500-block of South Fraser Way.

Upon arrival, officers secured the scene and determined the fire was limited to a single wooden structure. Following fire suppression efforts by Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service, a man was found deceased.

CONTINUED ON 11

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- 1 years or more of previous sales experience in the Jewellery industry is required;
- Candidate must be willing to work independently and manage a team with high level of accuracy;
- Strong leadership and communication skills, positive attitude to work and people management skills;
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Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

This position is open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents, newcomers to Canada, visible minorities, and Indigenous persons.

Burnaby man arrested in Campbell River drug trafficking investigation

FOLLOWING a lengthy investigation into a male trafficking illicit drugs in Campbell River, the Campbell River RCMP Street Crime Unit with the assistance of the Crime Reduction Unit, Major Crime Unit, Police Dog Services and frontline policing executed a search warrant on April 16 on a short term vacation rental in the rural Merville area south of Campbell River.

In total, 780 grams of suspected cocaine,



Photo: RCMP

310 grams of suspected fentanyl, and over \$13,000 was located and seized.

A 31-year-old male from Burnaby was arrested in Campbell River in connection with the search warrant. The male was later released with a first court appearance of June 29.

Abbotsford school arson suspect arrested and charged

DURING the overnight hours of April 13 and April 15, two separate fires were deliberately set at Bakerview Centre for Learning. A third fire occurred on April 17, when a portable classroom at Godson Elementary School was set on fire.

Abbotsford Police Department's Major Crime Unit (MCU) took conduct of these investigations, supported by its Patrol Division, General Investigative Section, and Forensic Identification Section.

On the afternoon of April 22, MCU, with assistance from the Crime Reduction Unit and Gang Crime Unit, arrested 34-year-old Jessie Olson. Olson has since been formally charged with arson in relation to the April 13 incident, as well as breach of a release order stemming from his arrest on April 22.

Olson remains in custody, and the remaining two arson incidents continue to be investigated.

Abbotsford Police Sgt. Paul Walker said that this investigation remains a priority, given the impact incidents of this nature can have on students, families, and school staff. He said police remain committed to working closely with schools and partners to ensure students feel safe and supported in their learning environments, and to respond quickly to incidents that threaten their sense of safety.

CONTINUED FROM 10

The initial investigation led police to suspect homicide. One man was arrested and taken into custody.

IHIT assumed conduct of the case and continued to advance this investigation with support from the Abbotsford Police Department's Major Crime Unit, Forensic Identification Services (FIS), and the BC Coroners Service.

Easton remains in custody pending his next court appearance. Investigators believe this to be an isolated incident where parties were known to each other.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the IHIT information line at 1-877-551-IHIT (4448) or by email at ihitinfo@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

Identification of Langley victims, family notifications still underway

THE Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) said on Tuesday that the Langley crime scene where two deceased individuals were found on Monday is contained to a residence and the victims' names are not being released at this time as identification and family notifications are still underway.

While the investigation is in its early stages, homicide investigators believe there is no ongoing risk to public safety and are still gathering evidence and establishing a timeline of events.

On April 27 at approximately 11:16 a.m., Langley RCMP responded to a report of a suspicious incident in the 21000-block of 16 Avenue in Langley. First responders from the Langley RCMP, Township of Langley Fire Department, and BC Ambulance Services attended the area and located the deceased

individuals. IHIT was called in and assumed conduct of the investigation.

IHIT said it continues to work in close partnership with the Langley RCMP, Integrated Forensic Identification Service (IFIS), and the BC Coroners Services to advance this investigation.

"We are liaising with our policing partners to canvass for CCTV, collect evidence, conduct interviews, and advance this investigation" says Constable Pratheep Thavarajah of IHIT. "Investigators continue to work to determine the circumstances surrounding the deaths."

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the IHIT information line at 1-877-551-IHIT (4448) or by email at ihitinfo@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

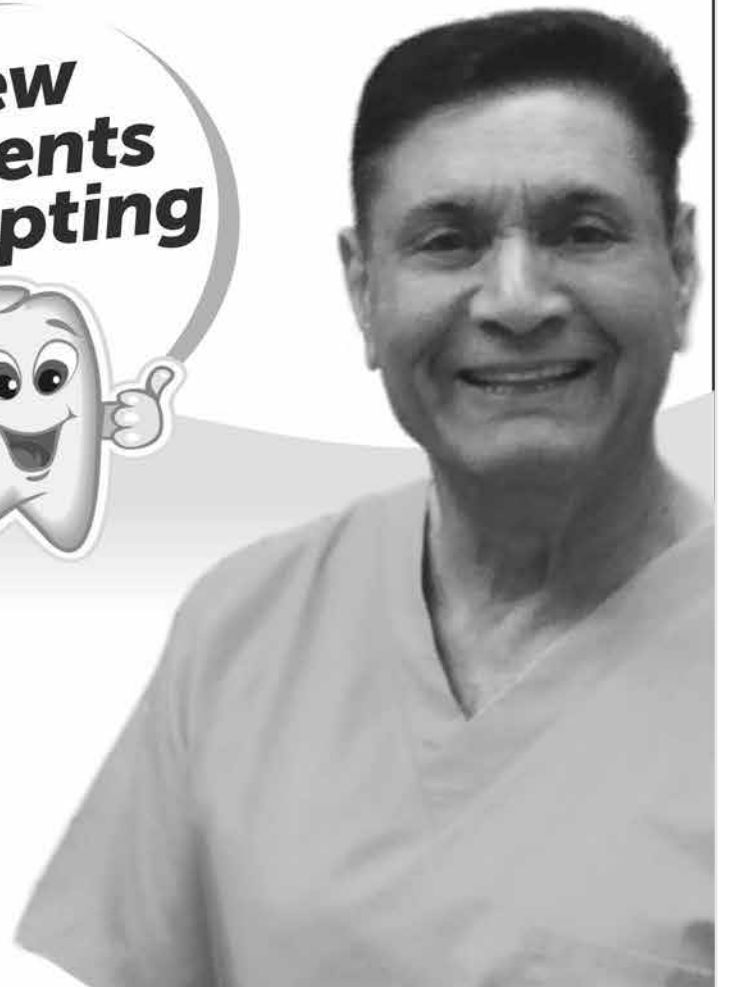
As the investigation is still in its early stages, no additional information will be released at this time, police said.

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Vancouver Mayor Sim urges Province, Whitecaps to sign BC Place deal

VANCOUVER Mayor Ken Sim is urging the Province and Vancouver Whitecaps to sign a BC Place deal.

Sim said in a statement on Tuesday: "The City of Vancouver has done its part to create a path forward for the team's future here by offering prime space at Hastings Park for the Whitecaps to construct a new stadium and entertainment district."

However, he noted: "BC Place is owned and operated by the Provincial Government. In fact, it's the only stadium owned and operated by a government found anywhere in the MLS. In order for the team to stay in Vancouver, the Whitecaps and Province must sign a bridge deal that will allow BC Place to become viable in the near term while a new stadium can be designed and built."

Sim added: "That's why today, we are calling on the team's ownership to publicly and clearly articulate what they need



Ken Sim Photo: abcvancouver.ca

to stay here in Vancouver, and we are calling on the Provincial Government to come to the table and make that a reality."

Sim said: "To all Vancouver Whitecaps fans, to the Southsiders, and to all of the

supporter groups, we need you to keep the fight going. We need you to stay strong, and we need you to stay loud. Losing the Whitecaps is not an option. #SAVETHECAPS."

The mayor noted: "The Whitecaps have been Vancouver's club since 1974. Many things have changed throughout the years: the players, the logos, the kits, and the stadiums, just to name a few. The one thing that has never changed is Vancouver's love of this team."

"The Whitecaps are one of the top teams in the MLS, they were the runners up in last year's championship, and they sit in the top ten of league attendance at an average of 24,000+ per game. While we understand that professional sports is a complex business, it would be a mistake for any team to leave a market with such a longstanding history and ready-made fanbase."

Conservative Party of BC is now debt-free

THE Conservative Party of BC announced on Monday that it is officially debt-free, following the final instalment to pay off the entire \$5-million 2024 campaign debt. The party said that less than 3% of the \$5-million debt was paid off through leadership fees and remittances.

"I am incredibly proud to see our organization continue to scale

up. Thanks to our grassroots donors, we are now a debt-free organization, with a growing war chest for the next election," said Executive Director Angelo Isidorou. "We are further excited to share that thanks to our efforts in fiscal prudence, this debt is now paid a year ahead of schedule."

He added: "We are already ahead of where our organization was in the 2024 election, where we lost a majority government by only

395 votes. In just a few years, our party has grown from hundreds to over 42,000 members, borrowed and repaid millions of dollars, contested and nearly won a majority government and is now building an election fund capable of defeating the BC NDP and electing the first Conservative government in 100 years. Our mandate is clear: The next Leader will become the next Premier. None of this would have been possible without our grassroots supporters."

"My goal as Interim Leader was to leave the party better than I found it," said Trevor Halford. "I am excited and motivated to see our party grow on the heels of this Leadership election."



Trevor Halford, Interim Leader of BC Conservative Party.
Photo: BC Conservatives

60-plus free performances announced for FIFA Fan Festival Vancouver

ORGANIZERS on Monday announced more than 60 free performances at the Park Stage during FIFA Fan Festival Vancouver, expanding the festival's music lineup. Together, the programming will deliver 28 days of live entertainment throughout the FIFA World Cup 2026 at Hastings Park.

From international headliners to emerging local artists, the festival will offer two distinct music experiences: free daily performances open to all visitors and premium ticketed amphitheatre concerts featuring major acts.

"British Columbia is home to extraordinary artists and performers, and the FIFA Fan Festival Vancouver provides a global stage to showcase their talent," said Anne Kang, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. "This celebration will bring communities together, support our creative industries, and welcome visitors from around the world to experience the rich cultural diversity that defines B.C."

Combined with the previously announced amphitheatre concert series, the program will deliver 28 days of live entertainment throughout the FIFA World Cup 2026, positioning the FIFA Fan Festival Vancouver among the largest live music experiences ever staged in the city.

The newly announced Park Stage lineup includes 60+ free performances by local, national and international artists spanning a wide range of genres, including rock, pop, indie, jazz, hip-hop, electronic, Latin, roots and global music, alongside Indigenous artists.

Performances will take place daily across the 28-day festival, creating a continuous program of live entertainment between FIFA World Cup match live broadcasts.

The full Park Stage lineup is available at: www.vancouverfwc26.ca/fifa-fan-festival/entertainment

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Townhouse site available in Langley. For more information please call Vipin Sharma

Shina Vermani joins Surrey First team as council candidate

SHINA Vermani of Newton has joined the Surrey First team as a council candidate, Vermani, a research and policy analyst with B.C.'s Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, has a Master of Commerce degree, a Bachelor of Education degree, and a postgraduate diploma in computer applications. Prior to joining the Ministry of Post Secondary Education, Vermani was a research and policy analyst with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.



Shina Vermani
Photo submitted

"Shina's experience in education and public safety, and her years of community service with seniors, youth and new Canadians, make her a strong addition to our Surrey First team," said Surrey First Councillor and candidate for mayor Linda Annis.

Vermani said: "I'm looking forward to reaching out to local neighbourhoods and earning every vote. I'm also excited about serving our growing community as we get ready to be our province's largest city."

Vermani joins Debra Antifae, Councillor Mike Bose, Janet Brown, Bilal Cheema, Jasroop Gosal, Gagan Nahal, and Clint Stewart on the Surrey First slate headed by Annis.

Canada becomes first G7 country to approve a generic version of semaglutide

HEALTH Canada on Tuesday authorized a generic semaglutide injection. This is the first generic semaglutide authorized by Health Canada, and the first to be approved in the G7.

Health Canada is currently reviewing eight other submissions for generic semaglutide by different companies. The department expects to make regulatory decisions on more of these submissions in the coming weeks and months.

The semaglutide injection submission filed by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories is a generic version of the brand name drug Ozempic. Health Canada authorized the drug after a thorough review of evidence provided by the company, demonstrated that the drug meets Health Canada's criteria for safety, efficacy and quality for generic drugs.

Like existing products, this semaglutide injection is indicated for the once-weekly treatment of adult patients with type 2 diabetes to manage blood sugar levels.

The generic versions of semaglutide are complex synthetic products that are pharmaceutically equivalent to the brand name biologic drug. Health Canada's review ensures that differences between these products do not affect the safety, efficacy, or quality of the drug. The availability of generic drugs is expected to have a positive impact in Canada, including potential cost savings for patients and the healthcare system.

As it does with all drugs authorized in Canada, Health Canada says it will continue to monitor the safety and effectiveness of all generic semaglutide products. Should any unexpected safety or effectiveness concerns arise, it will take appropriate action to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

Surrey Libraries caring for NICU families with early literacy support

SURREY Libraries on Wednesday announced a new partnership with Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH) to support families with babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The Gentle Start Library project provides each of the NICU units at SMH with a collection of board books, giving families access to engaging literacy activities for all ages during their stay at the hospital. This initiative aims to share the joy of early literacy and foster a sense of belonging for families as they look ahead to life after the NICU.

"Surrey Libraries is committed to supporting our youngest residents and their families," said Lisa Werring, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Surrey Libraries. "By bringing books and library services directly to the NICU, we are helping parents nurture their babies' development from day one. This partnership is a testament to the power of community collaboration



Chloe Humphreys, Manager Youth Services, Surrey Libraries; Priya Nebin from Surrey Memorial Hospital; Yasenia Ricardo, Youth Services Librarian, Surrey Libraries; and Kelly Jackson from Surrey Memorial Hospital standing in front of the Gentle Start Library book cart.
Photo submitted

and we are thankful to our donors whose support made this project possible."

In addition to small collections of board books in each NICU room, the Gentle Start Library features a roaming cart to provide many extra books for older siblings and books in other languages, allowing rooms to be customized and updated according to families' specific needs. Library staff will also provide outreach, lead early literacy classes for caregivers, and create baby's first library card.

Surrey has one of the highest birth rates in BC, with an average 6,000 babies born annually and a large population of children and youth. This program responds to the growing need for early literacy support and aims to create a welcoming and caring environment for families facing the stressors of a NICU stay.

Funding for this project was made possible through generous Surrey Libraries donors.

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B.C. urges federal government to table online harms legislation before another tragedy strikes

ATTORNEY General Niki Sharma is urging the federal government to table online harms legislation before another tragedy strikes. Sharma and Rick Glumac, Minister of State for AI and New Technologies, on Tuesday issued statements about B.C.'s ongoing advocacy to the federal government about online harms legislation and AI regulation. Sharma said: "In recent months, B.C. has witnessed firsthand the devastating impacts that unregulated use of social media platforms and AI chatbots can have on individuals, families and our society as a whole. Those of us who are parents have watched with horror as story after story has come out about the harms being caused to our children's long-term health and well-being. "For too long, the biggest tech companies in the world have been given free rein that has resulted in experimentation on the minds of young, vulnerable

people. From the Tumbler Ridge tragedy to people using AI to generate explicit deepfake images of minors; from shadowy tech algorithms shoving triggering content in the faces of young people struggling with eating disorders, to chatbots providing teens with tips on how to take their own lives, it has become abundantly clear that we can no longer rely on companies to police themselves. "That is why my ministry and I have been so persistent in advocating the federal government to take stronger, immediate, enforceable action to protect people, especially children and youth, from online harms.

"Last month, I travelled to Ottawa to meet [federal Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation] Evan Solomon and [federal Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture] Marc Miller to discuss this issue. Last week, I

followed up with a letter outlining the exact legislative action B.C. believes must be taken at once. In particular, I am calling for federal online harms legislation to be introduced that sets minimum safety standards for youth. What form that takes – a total ban for users under a certain age, or guidelines on types of content that should be restricted by age – will be determined by experts, but it is evident that stronger guardrails are needed.

"Recent polling has found an overwhelming majority of British Columbians and Canadians support social media bans for youth. Our role is to meet the needs of the people in this province and address their concerns. British Columbia has proudly led national and global fights to protect people from harms caused by bad-faith actors, like the biggest tobacco, opioid and vaping manufacturers. We have enacted provincial

legislation like the landmark Intimate Images Protection Act to help keep young people safer online.

"While we applaud Manitoba for moving forward with its own ban and are monitoring its implementation with keen interest, we believe that for these safety measures to be effective, they must be led by the federal government. I have been encouraged by how willing ministers Fraser, Solomon and Miller have been in engaging with us, and I urge them to table online harms legislation before another tragedy strikes.

"For too many parents, families and communities, it is too late to act preventatively. But for countless more, we still have the opportunity to make sure they don't have to learn what it means to lose a child."

Glumac said: "Artificial intelligence is changing how we work, learn and connect, and B.C.



Niki Sharma

Photo: BC Government

has the talent and infrastructure to be a global leader in this space. But innovation must be matched with responsibility, especially when it comes to protecting children and young people.

"We need consistent, Canada-wide standards for all AI companies, including clear reporting thresholds when serious safety concerns or credible risks are identified. In the wake of the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge, and reports related to the use of AI technologies, I wrote to the federal government to reinforce B.C.'s call for clear national guardrails."



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Name: ORTLOFF, Zachary
 Age: 24, Height: 5'9"
 Weight: 311lbs
 Hair: Brown, Eyes: Brown
 Wanted: Aggravated Assault x2, Assault with a Weapon, and Assault Causing Bodily Harm
 Warrant in effect: April 21, 2026
 Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, BC



Name: BEVIN, Patrick John
 Age: 57, Height: 5'9"
 Weight: 205lbs
 Hair: Blonde, Eyes: Blue
 Wanted: Unlawfully at Large
 Warrant in effect: April 24, 2026
 Parole Jurisdiction: Vancouver, B.C.



Name: DWINNELL, Angela
 Age: 43, Height: 5'5"
 Weight: 155lbs
 Hair: Brown, Eyes: Blue
 Wanted: Driving While Prohibited of License Suspended
 Warrant in effect: April 21, 2026
 Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, BC

WANTED

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Richmond RCMP release video and images in kidnapping investigation
Location: Richmond, BC




RICHMOND RCMP are continuing to investigate a reported kidnapping that occurred on April 24, 2026, at approximately 10:10 p.m., in the parking lot of the Bamboo Grove Restaurant located at 6920 No. 3 Road in Richmond, B.C. Police were called after a witness reported seeing a man being forced into a pickup truck by two males shortly after leaving the Bamboo Grove Restaurant. Officers responded to the area and reviewed available surveillance footage. Investigators have now obtained updated images of the suspect vehicle. The vehicle is believed to be a grey 2013 Dodge Ram 1500. A Ford F-150 was reported previously in error. The truck is described as having a sunroof, mud flaps, and a triple ball hitch. At the time of the offence, the vehicle is believed to have been displaying B.C. licence plate RF541V. The vehicle was reported stolen out of Maple Ridge on September 27, 2025. The photos released are actual depictions of the stolen Dodge Ram 1500 believed to be involved in the incident and are attached to this release.

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You could be eligible for a reward of up to \$5,000 upon arrest and charge. You will never be asked your name or have to appear in court



COMMON SENSE HEALTH – DIANA GIFFORD-JONES

The Easiest Thing to Fix in a Struggling Healthcare System



Diana MacKay is Special Advisor with The Aga Khan University. She worked for ten years in the Human Development sectors at the World Bank, including health policy and economics, nutrition, and population health.

technical, but healing still begins with a person looking you in the eye and explaining what is happening. Patients want two things from a physician: competence and caring. They hoped for the first, but they remembered the second. And caring means diligent communication – in both directions, with give and take, until there is a common understanding.

Hospitals measure everything – wait times, readmissions, staffing costs, infection rates. All important. But do we measure whether families are actually informed? Whether discharge instructions are understood? Whether patients know who is responsible for their care?

Imagine if every emergency department



had one person whose sole role was to keep patients and families informed. Not to provide treatment, but to explain delays, next steps, and realistic expectations.

There is an old saying in medicine: “Cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always.”

We seem to have forgotten the last part.

Comfort is not a complex concept. It is clarity. It is dignity. It is the assurance that someone sees you not as a chart number, but as a human being who may be frightened and trying to make sense of what comes next.

Can communication alone fix health care? Of course not. But if we are looking for the easiest place to start, it may be right there.

For a lot of things in life, it might help to lay it out. “Here is what is happening, and here is what happens next.”

This column offers health and wellness, not medical advice. Visit www.docgiff.com to learn more. For comments, diana@docgiff.com. Follow on Instagram @diana_gifford_jones.

NO country has it perfect. But a few give us envy. Switzerland combines universal health coverage with rapid access and strong patient choice. People are required to buy private insurance, but the system is tightly regulated, and wait times are generally far shorter than in Canada by comparison.

The Netherlands is another standout. It has universal coverage, strong primary care, and insurers compete within strict public rules. It ranks high for patient satisfaction and access. Germany is praised for its social insurance model – broad coverage, quick specialist access, and a large hospital network. Singapore is admired for efficiency and outcomes. It spends far less of GDP on health care than many Western countries while maintaining excellent results, though its system relies more heavily on personal savings and individual responsibility. Among Nordic countries, Denmark is praised for integration and digital health systems, while Sweden is respected for quality but can struggle with wait times.

Canada adheres to the principle of universal access. No one should go bankrupt because they got sick. But universal coverage is nothing to celebrate if you can't see a doctor. And Canadians are frustrated by access delays, and increasingly, by service quality too.

In the U.S., money talks. Those with means can get world-class care. For those without insurance, and there are many, it's a lot harder and the statistics tell a grim story.

Regardless of where in the world, or socioeconomic status, no senior citizen should wait 14 hours in emergency with a fractured wrist. No individual with chest pain should sit in a hallway because there are no beds. No one should have to wait eight months to see a specialist, only to be told they need another referral because the original one expired while waiting.

We hear promises of “transformational reform” when parts of our systems breakdown. Yet patients continue to experience delay, frustration, and the sense that no one is in charge.

What's the one thing we could easily fix? That would be communication.

What drives people to frustration is often not the illness itself but feeling invisible inside the system. Even when right in the middle of it.

Medicine has become highly

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Mark Carney

PRIME Minister Mark Carney on Wednesday outlined a new \$6 billion nationwide effort — Team Canada Strong — to recruit, train, and hire 80,000 to 100,000 new Red Seal trades workers in the next five years.

The government says the global trade landscape is rapidly changing. In response, it is focused on what it can control: building a stronger, more resilient, more independent Canadian economy. At the core of this strategy is an ambitious plan to build nation-building projects, more affordable homes, new defence industries, and stronger local infrastructure.

To build the next port, bridge, mine, or data centre, Canada needs more welders, crane operators, and electricians — a strong skilled trades workforce. Many young Canadians

want to join the trades, but are discouraged by the long wait times, lack of opportunities, and high cost of training.

Announced as part of the Spring Economic Update, Team Canada Strong will:

* Recruit:

– The government will deploy \$2 billion to support young Canadians with paid, job-ready placements that lead directly into registered apprenticeships.

– This investment will also support the launch of the Build Canada Apprenticeship Service to provide up to \$10,000 for an apprentice's first-year salary, match apprentices to job opportunities, and offer direct navigation and support to help employers hire, train, and retain apprentices.

* Train:

– The government will boost and modernise apprenticeship training to expedite Red Seal certification with \$331 million in funding over five years, starting in 2026-27, and \$18 million

ongoing.

– It will digitise the Red Seal Program, introducing online exams, digital logbooks, and secure credentials to reduce certification timelines, including by creating a single national registered apprenticeship number.

– It will expand the Union Training and Innovation Program to enable union-run training centres to upgrade facilities, expand capacity, and invest in modern equipment.

* Hire:

– The government will provide \$3.4 billion over five years, starting in 2026-27, and \$468 million ongoing to address the challenges that can stop apprentices from completing their training and moving into permanent jobs.

– It will offer a one-time \$5,000 apprenticeship completion bonus to those that obtain certification in a Red Seal trade.

– With the Apprenticeship Training Grant, we will provide a \$400 weekly top-up while apprentices attend mandatory in-class technical training.

This represents a total payment of up to \$16,000 per apprentice, paid in addition to Employment Insurance.

* Team Canada Strong will deliver:

– End-to-end support: Supporting young Canadians every step of the way, from first interest to first job to Red Seal certification.

– Faster results: Goal of cutting the time it takes to get certified by 50%.

– A multi-channel approach: The government will train more workers, faster, working with its partners — other orders of government, Indigenous partners, unions, businesses, and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

– The scale to deliver: An ambitious \$6 billion investment in Team Canada Strong.

In addition, the government will expand Canada's skilled trades training capacity through the CAF with \$250 million in funding. It will enhance the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers programs to provide hands-on training and early exposure to the trades. It will launch the Reserve Trades Experience Pilot Program, offering fully funded trades training for Canadians who commit to serve in the Primary Reserve.

Carney said that with rapid-scale, high-quality training and end-to-end supports, Team Canada Strong will transform the skilled trades, bring more apprentices into the workforce, and ensure young Canadians are ready to build the homes, energy projects, ports, arenas, and defence industries we need. The government is creating clear, paid pathways for young Canadians into good careers, strengthening Canada's future workforce, and ensuring it can build Canada strong for all.

Day of Mourning: Last year in B.C., 138 workers lost their lives due to workplace injury and illness

ON Tuesday, April 28, WorkSafeBC joined workers, employers and communities across British Columbia to observe the National Day of Mourning, a time to remember those



At a Day of Mourning ceremony.
Photo: WorkSafeBC

who have been killed, injured or suffered illness due to work-related incidents.

In 2025, workplace injuries and illnesses tragically claimed the lives of 138 B.C. workers. Of these workers, 79 died from occupational diseases (36 due to asbestos), with exposures often occurring decades ago. Forty-one workers lost their lives due to traumatic workplace injuries, which included falls from heights, being struck by objects, and being caught in equipment or machinery. Additionally, 18 workers died in motor vehicle incidents.

"Behind every number is a person, a family, coworkers, and a community that are forever changed. The Day of Mourning is a time to remember the workers we've lost and reflect on what we can all do to make workplaces safer," says Todd McDonald, Head of Prevention Services at WorkSafeBC.

WorkSafeBC is reminding workers and employers that safe and healthy workplaces are a shared responsibility — including both physical and psychological safety. Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace, including the training, supervision, and equipment needed to do work safely, and for taking steps to prevent psychological injuries. Workers have the right to refuse unsafe work, to know about hazards, and to participate in workplace health and safety.

Visit worksafebc.com for resources on how to keep workplaces healthy and safe.



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6 BED - 4 BATHS - 10,318 SF

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ASKING 1,599,000

5758 131 A STREET SURREY



11 BED - 11 BATHS - 20,255 SF LOT

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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 at 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



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- Cochette 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 Bedrooms 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

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Historic breakthrough at BC Ferries opens doors for Sikh workers: WSO

KARAMBIR Singh has become the first Sikh marine engineer with a full beard to secure a position with BC Ferries, while Gurpreet Singh Bajwa is the organization's first turbaned Sikh Deck Officer and Captain. The World Sikh Organization of Canada said on Thursday that this is the result of nearly four years of sustained advocacy by it and the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union to remove discriminatory barriers affecting Sikh workers in the marine sector.

BC Ferries conducted a comprehensive risk assessment and determined that several positions did not require immediate "self-contained breathing apparatus" readiness. As a result, the organization removed the clean-shaven requirement for Deck Officers, Chief Engineers, and most First Engineer roles.

This breakthrough represents a significant step forward in ensuring Sikh Canadians can fully participate in maritime professions without compromising their religious identity, said the WSO.

For years, Sikh workers faced systemic barriers due to clean-shaven requirements tied to self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) policies. These requirements effectively excluded individuals who maintain unshorn hair as part of their faith, despite the availability of safe alternatives and evolving international standards.

These policies created a "no shave, no shift" reality, denying qualified workers employment opportunities based solely on religious observance. Such requirements imposed a de facto exclusion of Sikh workers, contrary to protections under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the BC Human Rights Code, which require accommodation to the point of undue hardship.

BC Ferries confirmed that this fleet-wide decision will positively impact employees who wear beards for religious, medical, or personal reasons, while maintaining a high standard of safety across operations.

While this milestone marks meaningful



Danish Singh Photo: WSO

progress, WSO emphasized that the broader issue remains unresolved. Current regulatory language continues to prioritize "skin-to-seal" assumptions, effectively maintaining a clean-shaven standard even where safe and effective alternatives exist.

These barriers extend far beyond the marine sector, affecting workers across emergency response, firefighting, oil and gas, construction, healthcare, and other industries requiring respiratory protection.

WSO said it continues to advocate for regulatory reform through WorkSafeBC, calling for a shift toward performance-based standards that assess whether respirators achieve an effective seal, rather than requiring workers to be clean-shaven. As outlined in WSO's formal submissions, modern safety standards must focus on outcomes, not appearance.

In parallel, WSO is supporting ongoing research and validation of the Singh Thattha Method (STM), an emerging evidence-based beard management technique that may allow Sikh workers and others with beards to safely use respirators without exclusion from entire professions.

WSO President Danish Singh said: "This marks a significant step forward for equality and inclusion in British Columbia. For too long, Sikh workers have been forced to choose between their faith and their careers. Blanket clean-shave requirements are neither appropriate nor consistent with the law. This decision shows that with evidence-based policy, collaboration, and persistence, safety can be fully maintained while respecting fundamental rights."

Describing his experience, Karambir Singh said: "I had the required Marine Engineering credentials and consistently reached the final stages of hiring, but each time I was told I would need to be clean-shaven. Because of my faith, that was not an option. This is a proud moment. It shows that change is possible, but there is still work to be done to ensure full and equal access for everyone."

Bajwa joined BC Ferries in 2023 as a Deck Officer. At the time of his hiring, the turban was not recognized within the organization's uniform policy. Through sustained, constructive engagement with leadership and the union, he played a key role in advancing a landmark policy change in July 2024 that formally accommodated the turban as part of the uniform.

Bajwa later represented union workers during BC Ferries' comprehensive risk assessment process, where he advocated for inclusive, alternative approaches to the clean-shaven policy, helping ensure that safety standards are upheld while respecting the religious identity of Sikh employees.

"I stood my ground for my faith, not just for myself, but so that no one after me has to choose between who they are and the career they deserve," said Bajwa.

While this breakthrough represents a major step forward, WSO emphasized that full equality will require broader regulatory reform to ensure Sikh workers are not excluded from any profession due to outdated assumptions.

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Vancouver man steals Kamloops city bus

AT approximately 9:50 p.m. on Saturday April 25, frontline officers from the Kamloops RCMP were called to the 500-block of Lansdowne Street for a report of a collision between a Transit Bus and pick-up on April 25.

When officers arrived, they learned a 55-year-old man from Vancouver had stolen the bus while the driver had temporarily stepped away. Soon after, the suspect drove into the back of a pick-up truck. No one was injured.

The accused, Steven Mehlenbacher, was held in custody.

Nurses hold rally to send message of unity ahead of historic strike vote

NURSES from across the province marched in downtown Vancouver on Thursday, sending a clear message to government and health employers that they want to be respected at the bargaining table, and they deserve a fair collective agreement.

Representatives from the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, Nova Scotia Nurses' Union, United Nurses of Alberta, BC General Employees' Union, Health Sciences Association and other labour unions were also in attendance to show solidarity with nurses on the front lines.

The rally comes at a critical moment after the Nurses' Bargaining Association (NBA) provincial bargaining committee declared an impasse and stepped away from the bargaining table on April 20. More than 50,000 BCNU members will take a strike vote between May 8 and 11, giving the union the legal authority to initiate province-wide job action.

"Nurses are not taking this step lightly," said BCNU President Adriane Gear. "This is about achieving a fair contract—while

continuing to prioritize patient care every step of the way. We have been at the bargaining table since October and have put forward real solutions to stabilize the health-care system."

Instead of meaningful progress at the table, the Health Employers Association of BC (HEABC) has rejected a majority of the NBA's proposals to address workload, workplace violence and occupational health and safety. Further, they chose to pursue arbitration to impose changes to nurses' benefits rather than negotiate changes through the bargaining process.

Gear noted that since 2019, injury claims across health care have risen by nearly 25 percent, and psychological injuries have tripled. "Taking anything away from nurses right now doesn't make sense."

There are currently more than 4,500 nursing vacancies across the province, with tens of thousands more nurses needed in the coming years.

Surrey awards contract for 24 Avenue improvements

SURREY City Council has approved an \$11.6-million contract to install new water mains and upgrade 24 Avenue in South Surrey to support future housing in the area.

"As Surrey continues to grow, it's essential that we invest in the infrastructure needed to deliver more homes and support complete communities in our city," said Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke on Thursday. "These upgrades will ease pressure on our roads and provide reliable water services for current and future residents."

The project includes two kilometres of new water mains along 24 Avenue (166 Street to 172 Street) and 172 Street (24 Avenue to 20 Avenue), serving Grandview Heights' neighbourhoods including Darts Hill and Redwood Heights.

To minimise disruptions, the contract also includes coordinated upgrades along 24 Avenue to improve safety and traffic flow:

* Widening from two to four lanes, with pedestrian and cycling paths, between the 16500 Block and 168 Street

* Widening from two to three lanes, with the additional lane, as well as pedestrian and cycling paths, on north side, between 168 Street and 172 Street

The work is part of a broader effort to accelerate housing supply and build critical infrastructure, supported in part through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Accelerator Fund.

Construction is expected to start in July and be completed by summer 2027.

Learn more about the project at surrey.ca/24Ave.

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OBITUARY MRS. AMAR KAUR NIJJAR

IT is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved mother Mrs. Amar Kaur Nijjar, wife of the late Piara Singh Nijjar. Born in Cheema, located in the district of Jalandhar, Punjab on June 22, 1930. She came to Canada in 1982 where she worked in agriculture until she retired as a homemaker.

She leaves behind her children: Manjit (Piara), Balbir (Jaswinder), Balbiro (Pall), and Makhan (Jasbir) along with 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. After a long and fulfilling life, she battled a few years of declining health until she took her last breath on Monday, April 27th, 2026 at the age of 95 surrounded by family. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

The funeral ceremony will take place at Riverside Funeral Home (7410 Hopcott Road, Delta) at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 3rd, 2026



followed by prayers at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara (8115 132 Street, Surrey).

For further information, contact the Nijjar family at 778-628-1790.

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Panel's recommendations aim to reduce deaths related to intimate-partner violence

A death review panel of subject-matter experts convened by the chief coroner has co-authored a report focused on reducing deaths from intimate-partner violence in British Columbia.

"Tragically, deaths resulting from acts of intimate-partner violence remain far too common in communities everywhere, including here in B.C.," said Ryan Panton, panel chair. "This report contains practical recommendations that, when implemented, will ensure efforts to address intimate-partner violence are undertaken in a consistent, centrally co-ordinated manner, and addressed with the urgency that this crisis demands." The report, *Our Time to Act: A Review of Intimate Partner Violence-Related Deaths in British Columbia, 2016-2024*, was created in consultation with experts in medicine, public health, Indigenous health, rural health, law enforcement, justice, gender equity, child welfare, victim services and community-based supports.

"Among its many key findings, one panel declaration is unequivocal: Intimate partner violence related deaths are overwhelmingly preventable," said Dr. Jatinder Baidwan, chief coroner. "The recommendations in this report offer a realistic and necessary path forward. We owe it to every person whose life was taken by intimate-partner violence – and to every person who fears it today – to act decisively, collaboratively and immediately."



Dr. Jatinder Baidwan

The panel reviewed, in aggregate, information about the deaths of 135 people in British Columbia who died between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2024, and whose deaths were determined by coroners to be related to intimate-partner violence.

The panel report includes five recommendations intended to prevent future deaths, and improve public health and public safety, for youth and young adults in British Columbia:

1. Implement a clear, transparent and measurable strategy that ensures a centrally co-ordinated provincial response to addressing intimate partner related violence and deaths in British Columbia
2. Create and resource a standing committee mandated to individually review all intimate partner violence related deaths in an effort to identify existing systemic gaps and enhance the Province's response
3. Enhance training for law enforcement, first responders, emergency department staff and front-line service providers to ensure instances of intimate partner related violence are more

readily identified, and survivors are more consistently supported

4. Establish and resource an evidence-supported model that promotes grassroots and community-led approaches to preventing intimate partner related death and supporting survivors of intimate partner related violence

5. Create and implement a public awareness campaign to increase knowledge of intimate-partner violence and pathways to support for people who experience and use violence

In addition, the panel reaffirmed and requested an update regarding progress on a recommendation that was included in a previous death review panel report on deaths by suicide of youth and young adults: to improve data collection, information sharing and reporting processes to better understand and support diverse communities throughout British Columbia.

IN response to the report, Niki Sharma, Attorney General, said: "The BC Coroner's Service death review panel report is a valuable contribution to our understanding of the shape and scale of intimate-partner violence in B.C. Coupled with the government-commissioned review by Dr. Kim Stanton of how victims of intimate-partner and sexual violence are treated in our justice system, we have a clearer picture of where action is needed and how our government must respond.

"The overlap between the recommendations in the final report of Stanton and the death review panel report confirms that we are moving in the right direction. We have already identified the need for a central accountability mechanism to co-ordinate and oversee government's response, and work is underway to determine the most effective structure for that. Similarly, both reports call for government to create a standing committee to individually review deaths related to intimate-partner violence. We will work with the BC Coroners Service to determine the best way to establish this committee.

"Two additional priority actions we identified last fall also closely align with the death review panel's recommendations: updating guidance for all actors within the justice system responding to intimate-partner violence, starting with the existing Violence Against Women in Relationships policy, and exploring how to improve risk-related processes, such as screening, assessments, safety planning and management across the legal system. The first roundtable on risk assessment bringing together government representatives and anti-violence sector experts will take place in May 2026, and we look forward to sharing updates about this work in the future.

"The kinds of reforms recommended by experts cannot be implemented overnight, but we remain committed to

steady, meaningful progress. We continue investing in services and programs that directly help people. Just earlier today, we announced the extension of our Safe Supports Project, which supports people impacted by family and intimate-partner violence as they navigate the legal system in some northern and rural B.C. communities." Nina Krieger, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, said: "I want to thank the BC Coroner's Service and panel members for the care they brought to reviewing dozens of intimate-partner violence cases. Their thoughtful recommendations represent a commitment to learning from tragedy in order to protect lives. The recommendations complement and will be integrated into work already underway across government to enhance public safety responses, strengthen co-ordination and improve how risk is identified and addressed.

"We know that behind every statistic is a person whose life, sense of safety and well-being have been profoundly affected, and I acknowledge the pain, fear and loss experienced by survivors and their families.

"The Province recognizes the devastating impact of intimate-partner violence, and that's why we provide more than \$60 million annually to support over 475 victim service and violence against women programs, including sexual-assault services and Indigenous-led supports."

Carney announces the Canada Strong Fund – Canada's first sovereign wealth fund

PRIME Minister Mark Carney on Monday announced the Canada Strong Fund – Canada's first national sovereign wealth fund. Through an initial federal contribution of \$25 billion, the fund will strategically invest, alongside the private sector, in Canadian projects and companies driving economic transformation. This includes projects in clean and conventional



Prime Minister Mark Carney

energy, critical minerals, agriculture, and infrastructure. The returns will be reinvested to grow the Canada Strong Fund, strengthening its capacity over time. As the fund grows, it will direct capital toward investments with the highest potential return for Canada and Canadians.

To ensure Canadians have the option to invest in the growth of the nation and share in the returns, the government will launch a retail investment product. This will give Canadians a direct stake in the nation's long-term prosperity and help build long-term national wealth. The federal government will consult over the coming months on the specific design of this new instrument. Additional details on the Canada Strong Fund will be outlined in the government's Spring Economic Update

2026, with further updates to follow in the coming months.

Carney said: "Canada's new government is catalysing a series of nation-building projects in energy, trade, critical minerals, transport, data, and beyond – projects that will make Canada stronger, more resilient, and more independent. Through the Canada Strong Fund,

all Canadians will have the opportunity to share directly in these benefits. This is our country, this is your future, and we are building it together."

François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue, said: "Canada's next chapter of growth starts with investing at home. The Canada Strong Fund will invest in key, strategic Canadian projects and companies, creating good-paying jobs, supercharging innovation, and keeping Canada competitive in a rapidly changing world. Importantly, Canadians themselves will have the opportunity to invest in the Fund, giving them a direct stake in our country's growth and the ability to share in its success. This Fund is a powerful example of how we're investing today to build tomorrow's productivity, growth, and shared prosperity."




Khalsa Diwan Society

GURDWARA SAHIB SUKH SAGAR (EST. 1906)

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KHALSA DIWAN SOCIETY – NEW WESTMINSTER (the "Society")

Notice Date: April 30, 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on:

May 24, 2026 at 11:00 am

at:

Khalsa Diwan Society, New Westminster
Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar
Main Darbar Hall
347 Wood Street,
New Westminster, BC
V3M 5K6

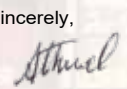
Business of Annual General Meeting:

- a) Review of the Annual Financial Statements for the Society's fiscal year ended December 31st, 2025
- b) The annual report of directors to the members

A copy of the Society's Annual Financial Statement is available at the Gurdwara, upon request.

This notice is being given by publications and postings in accordance with Society's VII-3 By-Law.

Sincerely,



Harbhajan Singh Athwal
President

info@sukhsagar.ca
www.sukhsagar.ca
gurdwarasahib.sukhsagar

347 Wood Street,
New Westminster, BC
Canada V3M 5K6

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Surrey, BC V3V 4B9



NAME CHANGE

I, MICHAELJEROME MARIAJOSEPH (DoB: 01-Jun-1992), son of MARIA JOSEPH, resident of 2/285, South Street, Arulambadi, Kallakurichi, 605702, India and presently residing at 301-11077, Ravine Road, Surrey, BC, V3T 0R7, Canada, do hereby change my name from MICHAELJEROME MARIAJOSEPH to MICHAEL JEROME, with immediate effect.

NAME CHANGE

I, Navpreet Singh, S/o Pargat Singh, permanent resident of house No. 596 Gobind Nagar, Chhoti Karoran, Naya Gaon Mohali, SAS Nagar, 160103 Punjab, India, holder of Passport No. V3084945, issued at Vancouver, on 06 December 2021, and presently residing at Unit 26, 6383 140 Street Surrey BC V3W0E9, do hereby change my name from Navpreet Singh, to Navpreet Singh Bhullar, with immediate effect.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Swati Joshi of Surrey, British Columbia, previously recognized as female, have legally changed my name to Swastik Joshi and am now legally recognized as male, effective February 25, 2026.

NAME CHANGE

I, SINDHYA IROUDAYARAJ (DoB: 08-Apr-1993), wife of MICHAEL JEROME, resident of 2/285, South Street, Arulambadi, Kallakurichi, 605702, India and presently residing at 301-11077, Ravine Road, Surrey, BC, V3T 0R7, Canada, do hereby change my name from SINDHYA IROUDAYARAJ to SINDHYA JEROME, with immediate effect.



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NAME CHANGE

We, MICHAEL JEROME (DoB: 01-Jun-1992) and SINDHYA JEROME (DoB: 08-Apr-1993), parents of minor child, resident of 2/285, South Street, Arulambadi, Kallakurichi, 605702, India and presently residing at 301-11077, Ravine Road, Surrey, BC, V3T 0R7, Canada, do hereby change the name of our son from IAN JOEL MICHAELJEROME to IAN JOEL JEROME, with immediate effect. His DoB is 16-Jun-2020.

GROOM FAMILY SEEKS SUITABLE MATCH for groom, hindu, 31 yr-old, 6 ft height, canadian citizen. For more information email at ayyar_07@hotmail.com or call 604 880 9452

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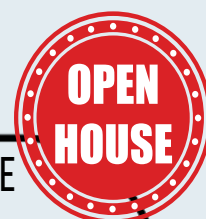


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