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Indian newspaper says Amritpal Singh of Ravinder Dhanda Organized Crime Group is dead

AN Indian newspaper says that Amritpal Singh, for whom the FBI had issued a wanted poster on Tuesday for his alleged involvement in a transnational criminal organization known as the Ravinder Dhanda Organized Crime Group based out of Vancouver, Canada, died in India in a collision last year. The Times of India reports that Amritpal Singh died in a road accident on February 19 last year in his native village of Mowai in Jalandhar district in the state of Punjab. The newspaper said that his father, Harvinder Singh, a former village "sarpanch" (an elected leader of the village council) told them that Amritpal Singh had returned home from the U.S. just a few months before his death. His mother, Manjit Kaur, is the current village "sarpanch."

Amritpal reportedly told people that he was going to permanently settle down in India. He died late one evening, while returning from his fields when his scooter collided with his family tractor trolley ahead of him after the driver suddenly slammed on the brakes.

However, the report has yet to be confirmed by the FBI.

THE FBI alleges the Ravinder Dhanda Organized Crime Group engaged in a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, and conspiracy to export controlled substances.

This organization



Amritpal Singh Photos: FBI / U.S. Attorney's Office)

allegedly smuggled bulk quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine for drug trafficking organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. On June 23 a federal arrest warrant was issued for Amritpal Singh in the United States District Court, Central District of California, Los Angeles, California, after he was charged with "conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances" and "possession with intent to distribute controlled substances."

According to a news release on July 7 by the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Central District of California, Ravinder Singh Dhanda, 57, a.k.a. "Randy," "Rolex," and "John Wick," of Vancouver, Canada, Jaskarn Baghri, 50, a.k.a. "Baba," of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, Gurtej Singh Smagh, 43, a.k.a. "Simba," of Creston, British Columbia, Canada, and eight other defendants [Harmanveer Singh, aka



"Hari Gautam," aka "Harman Sandhu"; Prince Pal Singh; Narain Singh Gurm, aka "Naraw Singh Gurm," aka "Narayan Singh"; Javier Ureta Angulo; Justin Guzman; Bryan Moreno Rosales; Jaspreet Khara; and Amritpal Singh] are charged in an eight-count indictment returned June 23 alleging they transported, smuggled, and distributed hundreds of kilograms of cocaine and methamphetamine each week from the U.S. into Canada.

Just two days after a "Wanted by the FBI" poster for Harmanveer Singh was issued, he was arrested in Stockton, California, by officers with the California Highway Patrol on July 22.

IF you refer to the indictment "USA v Dhanda et al," it does appear probable that Amritpal Singh ("A. Singh") could have left the U.S. for India after September 2023. The last date where he figures in the events mentioned in the indictment is September 18, 2023.

The indictment states: "On September 18, 2023, defendant P. SINGH

delivered the approximately 79.4 kilograms of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine previously received from defendant ANGULO to defendants KHARA and A. SINGH in Rialto, California for purposes of transportation to the U.S.-Canada border."

Also: "On September 18, 2023, defendant P. SINGH loaded the approximately 79.4 kilograms of cocaine onto a long-haul semi-truck while defendants KHARA and A. SINGH acted as lookouts."

The indictment also states: "On September 18, 2023, defendants KHARA and A. SINGH transported, in four duffel bags in the rear of a long-haul semi-truck's trailer, approximately 79.4 kilograms of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, as depicted below:" [See photo]

An indictment is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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City of Vancouver welcomes the Aga Khan, celebrates Generations Vancouver

THE City of Vancouver on Saturday welcomed the Aga Khan V on the occasion of his first official visit to Vancouver as the Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims.

The visit coincides with Building Together, a special event celebrating transformative community initiatives across British Columbia, including Generations Vancouver. Generations is a national, community-led approach that brings together affordable housing, care and community. Projects are delivered through partnerships among community organizations, governments, non-profit organizations, philanthropists and private-sector partners, with each development shaped by local needs and priorities of the community it serves.

As part of the visit, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim presented the Aga Khan with a commemorative civic gift recognizing more than five decades of partnership between the City of Vancouver, the Ismaili community and the Ismaili Imam.

"It is a privilege to welcome His Highness the Aga Khan V to Vancouver for his first official visit as Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims," said Sim. "We recognize more than 50 years of the Ismaili community's remarkable contributions to Vancouver and express our gratitude for their enduring legacy of service, generosity, pluralism and community-building. Together, we celebrate a partnership that has helped make Vancouver a stronger, more inclusive city for everyone."

The Building Together event will also highlight

collaborative initiatives that support affordable housing, healthy aging, community well-being and social infrastructure throughout British Columbia. Among the initiatives is Generations Vancouver, a community-led development currently under construction at the corner of Drake and Richards streets. Led by MCYH Multi Generational Housing Society in partnership with Larco Investments Ltd., it will provide 193 homes for more than 530 residents while helping address housing affordability, social isolation and access to community supports.

When complete, Generations Vancouver will include:

- * 193 homes
- * Below-market housing opportunities
- * Community gathering spaces
- * Cultural, educational and social programming areas
- * Indoor and outdoor amenities designed to foster intergenerational connection

Expected to be completed by early 2027, the project represents one of the largest community-supported housing investments undertaken by the Ismaili community in British Columbia. During the event, the Aga Khan, alongside government and community leaders, will unveil a commemorative plaque recognizing the project's importance to Vancouver's future.

The City said it recognizes the



Prince Rahim Aga Khan

significant contributions the Ismaili Imam and the Ismaili community have made to the region through leadership in housing, health care, education, community development and pluralism.

As Vancouver welcomes the Aga Khan, the City said it celebrates a shared commitment to strengthening communities, expanding opportunity and building a more inclusive future for all.

Premier Eby on meeting with the Aga Khan upon his first official visit to B.C.

PREMIER David Eby on Saturday said in a statement following a bilateral meeting with the Aga Khan: "It was an honour to welcome His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan on his return to British Columbia. This marks his first visit as the 50th hereditary Imam of Shia Ismaili Muslims since he succeeded to the Imamate in February 2025.

"The Aga Khan and the Ismaili community have a global reputation for humanitarianism, for peace and human rights, for improving access to education and to health care, and for opening the doors of opportunity by reducing poverty.

"The Aga Khan and I share a strong commitment to delivering affordable housing, and I want to thank His Highness for the Ismaili community's Generations initiative. Three projects in Vancouver, Burnaby and Port Moody will soon support healthy aging, social connection and community well-being by providing affordable housing to individuals, families and seniors.

"Our province is a better place thanks to the hard work and the generosity of the Ismaili community."

Transit Police arrest man after 78-year-old woman assaulted in Surrey

A suspect was arrested by Metro Vancouver Transit Police after an alleged assault in Surrey left a woman in critical condition.

Just after 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, a 78-year-old woman was walking just outside Surrey Central Station when a man walked up behind her and allegedly aggressively shoulder checked her as he passed. The woman was violently knocked to the ground during the alleged assault, hitting her head on a concrete wall and the pavement. The suspect then left the scene.

The victim sustained

serious head injuries and was transported to hospital by BC Ambulance Service where she remains in stable, but critical, condition.

A man matching the description of the suspect was arrested later that evening. Evan Michael Scott Abbott has been charged with aggravated assault. He remains in custody awaiting a bail hearing.

"Transit Police would like to thank the two witnesses who each saw the incident unfold, called 9-1-1 and then remained on the scene to assist the victim and provide statements to police officers.

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Richmond mayoral candidate Kash Heed slams racist stereotyping against him

RICHMOND Councillor Kash Heed, the former solicitor general and West Vancouver Police chief, on Friday slammed the attempt by some in the Chinese Canadian community to try and divide people on the basis of race even as a poll shows that he is leading in the Richmond mayoral race.

An article in Chinese on mp.weixin.qq.com — “Why is Richmond, where the majority of the population is Chinese, most likely to elect an Indian mayor?” (translation by Google) — that is circulating around in the Chinese Canadian community spreads the usual stereotypes about South Asians while urging Chinese Canadians to support candidates from their own community. Jason Liu notes: “According to the 2021 census, Chinese Canadians make up 54% of Richmond’s population, the



Kash Heed Photo submitted

The portrayal in the image is being seen as an attempt to whip up prejudice against Heed and divide the Richmond community.

(This story was first published on our website voiceonline on Friday, July 24)

Female injured in targeted shooting in Surrey

SURREY Police Service (SPS) is investigating an early morning shooting in Surrey’s City Center, where one victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries. On Tuesday, July 28 at approximately 3:44 a.m., SPS frontline officers responded to reports of a shooting in the area of 106 Avenue and 135A Street where one person was injured and the suspect had fled. Police located one female with minor injuries and evidence of shots fired. Police said that the shooting is believed to be targeted and not extortion-related.

SPS’s Major Crime Section took over the lead on the investigation, and the Integrated Forensic Identification Services (IFIS) processed physical and digital evidence in the area. Anyone with information about this incident, including CCTV or dashcam footage, or who may know the identities of the suspects is asked to contact SPS’ non-emergency line at 604-599-0502, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or www.solvecrime.ca and quote file number 26-78965 (SP).

Person injured in targeted shooting outside Surrey residence

SURREY Police Service (SPS) is investigating a morning shooting on Saturday outside a residence in the East Clayton neighbourhood, where one person sustained non-life-threatening injuries. On July 25 at approximately 8:03 a.m., SPS frontline officers responded to reports of a shooting near a residence in the area of 74 Avenue and 184 Street in Surrey, “where one person was injured enroute to the hospital for treatment and the suspect had fled the scene,” police said. Upon arrival at the scene, police noted evidence of shots fired. The investigation is

in its early stages; however, it is believed to be targeted and not extortion related. SPS’s Major Crime Section has taken over the lead on the investigation, and the Integrated Forensic Identification Services (IFIS) processed physical and digital evidence in the area. Anyone with information about this incident, including CCTV or dashcam footage, or who may know the identities of the suspects is asked to contact SPS’ non-emergency line at 604-599-0502, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or www.solvecrime.ca and quote file number 26-77779 (SP).

highest percentage of Chinese Canadians in all of Canada; South Asians make up only 7.4%. However, in a Pallas Data poll released in mid-July this year, the mayoral frontrunner was none other than the Indian-Canadian candidate, former BC Minister of Public Safety Kash Heed, with 20% support. Sheldon Starrett,

from the conservative camp, came in second with 11.3%, and former MLA Rob Howard with 5.9%.”

He uses the image shown here to urge Chinese Canadians to vote for Chinese Canadian candidates.

Heed does not wear a turban and is as Canadian as a Canadian can be. He told The VOICE he has never used his race to gain any position but believes in qualification and competence.

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Surrey and Prologis advance proposed lease for major Campbell Heights development

THE City of Surrey and Prologis, a global leader in logistics real estate, are in advanced discussions on a proposed long-term lease that will support significant investment, create hundreds of local jobs and strengthen Surrey's position as a key economic hub in British Columbia.

On Monday, Surrey Council authorized the City to proceed with the proposed lease of 36 acres of City-owned land in Campbell Heights, subject to the completion of standard due diligence, execution of definitive agreements and satisfaction of closing conditions. Prologis, a San Francisco-based company that has operated in Canada for more than two decades, is evaluating plans for a major logistics development on the site. When completed, the proposed

lease is expected to approximately double the City's annual revenue from the property, creating significant long-term value for residents.

"When a global company like Prologis chooses Surrey, it sends a strong message about the opportunities in our city," Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke said. "This proposed investment reflects Surrey's strategic location, strong transportation connections, and reputation as a great place to do business.



Brenda Locke

It will create local jobs, boost our economy and help build a strong future for our city."

Prologis, whose customers include Lululemon, Amazon, Walmart, Home Depot and Coca-Cola, is considering the development of approximately 721,000 square feet of industrial space that could support logistics, warehousing, distribution, office and parking uses.

"Surrey is an important market with strong infrastructure, access to transportation

and a growing business community," said Matt Brock, VP and investment officer for Prologis. "We look forward to working with the City as this project moves forward."

The proposed agreement is projected to generate more than \$1 billion in combined lease and property tax revenue over its 62-year term. The City would also retain ownership of the land throughout the lease and beyond, preserving a strategic public asset for future generations. Campbell Heights is one of Metro Vancouver's leading industrial and business parks and one of the region's remaining opportunities for industrial growth. Investments by companies such as Beedie and Toyota reflect its growing importance as a major employment centre in Surrey.

Locke she will continue to press for Metro Vancouver reforms to get Surrey a fair deal

SURREY Mayor Brenda Locke on Monday said that she is deeply disappointed that Metro Vancouver has once again avoided the meaningful, systemic and bold governance reform this region requires.

"Capping every member jurisdiction at three directors may reduce the size of the board, but it does not address the longstanding representation issues. Metro Vancouver speaks of fairness, but Friday's decision fails to deliver it," she pointed out.

In a statement, Locke said: "Surrey has long argued that Metro Vancouver's weighted voting system falls far short of proportional representation. For example, Belcarra, with fewer than 1,000 residents, is guaranteed one vote, while

Surrey has a population hundreds of times larger but will still have only 29 votes.

"Real reform requires more than reducing a few seats at the table. It requires a governance model that accurately reflects the communities it serves, as well as a serious effort to confront Metro Vancouver's scope creep, rising costs, wasteful spending, and duplication of services. Friday's decision fundamentally avoids those issues. Surrey residents deserve a system that ensures they have a real seat at the table. They deserve a Metro Vancouver that gets back to its mandate and gets out of Surrey's way. I will continue to press for the reforms needed to achieve that."

Abbotsford Police investigating attempted child abduction involving South Asian suspect

ON July 22 at approximately 5:30 p.m., two girls under the age of 10 were playing outside their apartment complex located at 33538 Marshall Road when they were approached by an unknown man who attempted to lure them into his vehicle.

During the encounter, one of the girls called out for her parents, who were nearby, prompting the suspect to leave the area. The girls were not physically harmed during the incident.

The suspect is described as a South Asian male in his 50s, between 5'5" and 5'9" tall, with a heavy build and a noticeable belly.



The suspect.
Sketch: Abbotsford Police

Investigators believe he may be associated to a light-coloured sedan.

Abbotsford Police's Major Crime Unit is actively investigating this incident. Detectives are releasing a composite sketch of the suspect and are urging anyone who recognizes the man, or has information that may assist in identifying him, to contact police.

Investigators are also asking anyone who witnessed suspicious activity in the area, or

who may have dash-cam or surveillance footage from the vicinity around the time of the incident, to contact the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225.




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Canada expands online passport renewal to all eligible adults

LENA Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced on Tuesday that online passport renewal is now available to all eligible adult Canadians in Canada. By removing the limit on how many people can renew their passports online, the government is providing more Canadians with a convenient and secure option.

Online passport renewal makes it easier for Canadians to access the services they need, when and where it's most convenient for them. Canadians can complete their passport renewal application online by submitting their application, photo and payment digitally—instead of mailing documents or visiting a Service Canada Centre. Online passport renewal also benefits those who face barriers to in-person service, including people living in rural or remote communities and those with mobility challenges. In-person and mail-in services will continue to be available for Canadians who choose or need them.

This change builds on recent



Lena Metlege Diab
Photo: Diab's X

improvements to passport services, including the online passport application status checker; expanded access to in-person 10-business-day passport service at select Service Canada Centres; and the government's passport service guarantee that applications will be processed within 30 business days or the passport is free.

"Canadians expect passport services that work for their lives. Expanding online renewal gives eligible Canadians a simpler, more convenient

way to renew their passports, without unnecessary barriers or delays. This is part of the Government of Canada's ongoing work to modernize passport services and deliver public services that are responsive to the needs of Canadians today," said Diab.

"Accessible service means giving Canadians options, starting with more ways to renew a passport. We are removing the barriers between Canadians and the services they rely on by modernizing how we deliver them and shaping them around how people live. When Canadians can access services without added stress or lost time, they can focus on what matters, their families, their jobs, and their futures," said Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families.

"The Government of Canada is working to make services more efficient and better suited to the needs of Canadians. The online passport renewal service is a great example of modernizing our service delivery landscape and improving the passport program. In the long term, this online service will reduce wait

times at our points of service and benefit Canadians who can spend more time where it matters the most to them," said Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Jobs and Families, Annie Koutrakis.

Quick Facts:

- * All passport applications require commercially taken photos. Online renewal uses a digital photo file provided by a commercial photographer. Learn more about digital passport photo requirements.

- * The requirements for the online passport renewal service are slightly different from the ones for renewal applications submitted in person or by mail. Canadians should check the requirements before starting the application process.

- * Online renewals follow the same 20-business-day service standard as simplified adult renewals submitted in most Service Canada Centres and by mail. They include real-time status updates so applicants can track their application as it's being processed.

- * Canadians who need a passport sooner must apply in person at a Service Canada Centre or a passport office that offers the 10-business-day, express or urgent service.

- * Canadians applying for their passport outside Canada can do so by mail or by visiting a Government of Canada office abroad.

Federal NDP slams Liberal weakening of Online Streaming Act

FEDERAL NDP Heritage Critic Heather McPherson on Wednesday said that the party learned on Tuesday that the Carney government intends to cancel the fees that U.S. streaming companies pay to support Canadian media.

"This is nothing more than an act of appeasement to placate [U.S. President] Donald Trump and his tech billionaire supporters and it threatens the future of Canadian media and content," she said.

McPherson said in a statement: "This is a deeply troubling decision that raises serious questions about whose interests this government is prepared to defend."

"U.S. technology and streaming giants earn billions of dollars from Canadian consumers. The Online Streaming Act was designed to ensure that these companies, like Canadian media companies, contribute to the creation of Canadian content and support the Canadian workers who produce it. It was about fairness, a level playing field, and protecting Canada's cultural sovereignty."

"Now, the Carney Liberals are defying the Act and cancelling the fees charged to US companies, forcing Canadians to subsidize the US tech and media companies that directly compete with Canadian media."

"That means fewer resources for Canadian productions, fewer opportunities for Canadian creators and workers, and greater pressure on the Canadian media sector at precisely the time it is already facing enormous challenges."

"And this is not what Canadians want. Recent polling shows that 83 per cent of Canadians support the Online Streaming Act and its requirement that foreign streaming companies invest a portion of their Canadian revenues in Canadian shows and movies. "Canadians understand something this government appears to have forgotten: our cultural sovereignty



Heather McPherson
Photo: X

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Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey adds 462 skilled-trades training seats

KWANTLEN Polytechnic University (KPU) will receive 462 new skilled-trades training seats this year, ensuring people in British Columbia are first in line for in-demand careers as the province secures more major projects. This will bring the total number of trades-training seats available at KPU to 1,762 this year.

"By adding hundreds of new trades-training seats here in Surrey, we're making sure British Columbians are trained for the jobs of the future, that will allow them to support their families and their dreams," said Premier David Eby on Tuesday. "Skilled-trades training opens the door to rewarding careers and bigger paycheques, delivering the homes, infrastructure and major projects our province needs. That's how we build an economy that works better for people, creating more opportunities for British Columbians to get ahead."

The initiative is part of the Province's Look West strategy and commitment to create 5,000 new skilled-trades training seats in 2026-27. The new seats at KPU will help reduce wait lists, expand apprenticeship training opportunities and ensure British Columbians are first in line for the opportunities being created throughout the province.

New training spaces will reduce wait lists for in-demand apprenticeship programs, introduce more young people to trades and support training in a range of occupations that are essential to building homes, maintaining infrastructure and supporting industrial development, including but not limited to:

- * construction electricians
- * industrial mechanics

(millwrights)

* plumbers

* construction craft workers

* parts technicians

As one of Canada's fastest-growing regions, the Lower Mainland continues to see strong demand for skilled workers. Expanding training capacity at KPU will help more people access education sooner while supporting employers' needs for a highly skilled workforce.

"Surrey is one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada and the demand for skilled workers is growing with it," said Jessie Sunner, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. "These new seats at KPU will help more people access trades training closer to home and prepare for rewarding careers in the trades building projects across our province, including local infrastructure like hospitals, schools and the Surrey-Langley Skytrain. By investing in Surrey's workforce today, we're helping build our local workforce and meet the region's needs for years to come."

"We are grateful to the Province for its commitment to investing in the skilled trades," said Diane Purvey, president and vice-chancellor pro tem at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. "This funding creates certainty in a period of economic uncertainty, enabling KPU to be responsive to future growth potential and labour-market demands while training the tradespeople needed to support future provincial and national growth." Through the Look West strategy, government is investing \$241 million over three years to strengthen trades training across the province. The additional seats made available at KPU come from this fund.



Minister Jessie Sunner with Minister Jagrup Brar and Premier David Eby.

screenshot / Government of B.C.

Gary Begg, parliamentary secretary for Surrey infrastructure, MLA for Surrey-Guildford, said: "With 462 new skilled trades seats coming to KPU, Surrey residents will have more opportunities to train for the in-demand jobs that keep our region moving. As one of Canada's fastest-

growing communities, expanding trades training helps ensure British Columbians are first in line for the good-paying careers that build the homes and infrastructure our province relies on."

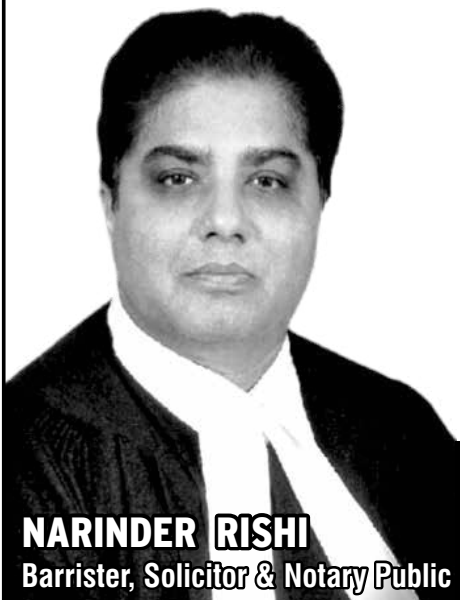
Amna Shah, MLA for Surrey-City Centre, said: "Surrey's growth demands a strong,

skilled workforce, and these new trades training seats at KPU will help people get the training they need, closer to home. By investing in trades programs and reducing wait lists, we're creating more pathways to rewarding careers and building an economy that works better for people."

Brandon Payne, first-year apprentice in construction electrical trades, KPU, said: "There is tremendous demand in the industry for skilled tradespeople, as AI and automation continue to transform the workforce. There are plenty of opportunities for new apprentices, and employers are actively seeking talent. Having the opportunity to begin that journey at KPU is a privilege, and this funding for trades training helps students like me advance to the next level."

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matters. Canadian stories matter. Canadian jobs matter. "New Democrats stand firmly with Canadian creators, media workers and homegrown production companies. We will oppose any attempt to weaken the Online Streaming Act or undermine Canada's ability to support its own cultural sector.

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CFSEU-BC dismantles synthetic drug lab, seizes illegal firearms in Surrey, Abbotsford, Enderby



Guns, drugs and coins seized by police. Photo: CFSEU-BC

THE Illegal Firearms Enforcement Team (IFET) of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) has arrested four individuals following the dismantling of a large-scale clandestine synthetic drug laboratory. Investigators determined the facility was still under construction; however, once completed, it would have been capable of producing a variety of drugs including fentanyl, methamphetamine, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), and gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB).

The investigation began in February after IFET identified an individual believed to be involved in firearms trafficking and the production of controlled substances. On May 21, investigators executed search warrants at multiple locations in Abbotsford, Surrey, and Enderby, dismantling the clandestine laboratory and seizing a significant cache of firearms, explosives, illicit drugs, and proceeds of crime.

Among the items seized were:

- * Firearms and Explosives
 - 44 firearms, including privately made firearms (PMFs) and prohibited firearms
 - Prohibited devices including 11 suppressors and a number of over-capacity cartridge magazines
 - 65 tubes of emulsion explosives
 - Ammunition
- * Drug Production and Trafficking
 - A sophisticated clandestine synthetic drug laboratory that was under construction and would have had the capacity to produce large amounts of fentanyl, methamphetamine, MDMA, and/or GHB
 - Approximately 2 kg of fentanyl

- Approximately 2 kg of methamphetamine
 - Approximately 64 litres of GHB
 - Cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, MDMA, oxycodone, benzodiazepines, psilocybin, cannabis products, and other controlled substances
 - Drug precursors, packaging materials, and trafficking ledgers
 - 315 cannabis plants
 - * Proceeds of Crime and Other Evidence
 - Approximately \$4,000 CAD cash
 - Precious metals, including four gold bars, one gold coin, 32 silver bars, and 74 silver coins of varying weights
 - A stolen Chevrolet Silverado Trail Boss
 - Five vehicles and a motorcycle
 - Multiple electronic devices
- During the investigation, four individuals were arrested. All individuals were released pending further investigation, and charges are anticipated.
- "Crime groups continue to evolve their methods, producing highly dangerous synthetic drugs while arming themselves with illegal firearms to protect and expand their criminal enterprises," says Sgt. Sarbjit K. Sangha, Media Relations Officer for CFSEU-BC. "By dismantling this sophisticated clandestine laboratory and seizing dozens of illegal firearms, explosives, and large quantities of illicit drugs, investigators have significantly disrupted an organized crime operation capable of causing widespread harm in our communities. This investigation highlights CFSEU-BC's continued commitment, alongside our policing partners, to targeting organized crime and enhancing public safety throughout British Columbia."

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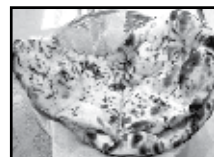
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Surjit Bhandal



Motorhome enters active runway at Abbotsford Airport



ON Saturday, July 25 at 4:36 p.m., Abbotsford Police patrol officers responded to the Abbotsford International Airport after a motorhome crashed through a perimeter fence along Threshold Drive and entered an active runway.

Airport staff immediately responded, while air traffic control implemented measures to safely reroute general aviation aircraft operating at the airport. Abbotsford Police officers arrived on scene at 4:41 p.m. and arrested a 53-year-

old Abbotsford man without incident. Airport operations were briefly disrupted as a result of the incident, but have since returned to normal operations. No injuries have been reported as a result of this incident.

The investigation remains in its early stages, and investigators are working to determine the circumstances that led to the man driving his motorhome through the airport's perimeter fence and onto an active runway. Investigators are asking anyone

Photos: Abbotsford Police

who witnessed the incident, observed the motorhome on airport property prior to the breach, or has relevant dash camera footage to contact the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225.

One man dead in Abbotsford Police officer-involved shooting

ON Sunday, July 26 at approximately 11:30 p.m., Abbotsford Police Department patrol officers attended the Petro-Plus Truck Stop located at 30586 Matsqui Place as part of an active property crime investigation involving a prolific offender. Officers observed two men, including the subject of their investigation, engaged in criminal activity. As officers moved in

to make arrests, the suspects attempted to flee the scene in a Dodge Ram pickup truck. During the interaction, one Abbotsford Police officer discharged their firearm. The suspects then fled the scene. A police pursuit was authorized as the suspect vehicle travelled westbound on Highway 1 from Mt. Lehman Road. Due to the manner in which the suspect

vehicle was driving and the associated public safety risks, the pursuit was terminated a short time later. The vehicle was last seen travelling into Langley. At approximately 3:12 a.m. on Monday, July 27, a resident in the 27200-block of 30th Avenue returned home and discovered a suspicious truck parked in their driveway with a man

inside. Langley RCMP and first responders attended and located the man, who was pronounced deceased at the scene. Investigators have confirmed that both the deceased man and the truck were involved in the earlier incident at Matsqui Place in Abbotsford. The second suspect remains on the run. The Abbotsford Police Department has notified the

Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia (IIO BC). Investigators are asking anyone who witnessed the incident at Matsqui Place, observed the suspect vehicle during the police pursuit, or has information regarding the outstanding suspect to contact the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225.

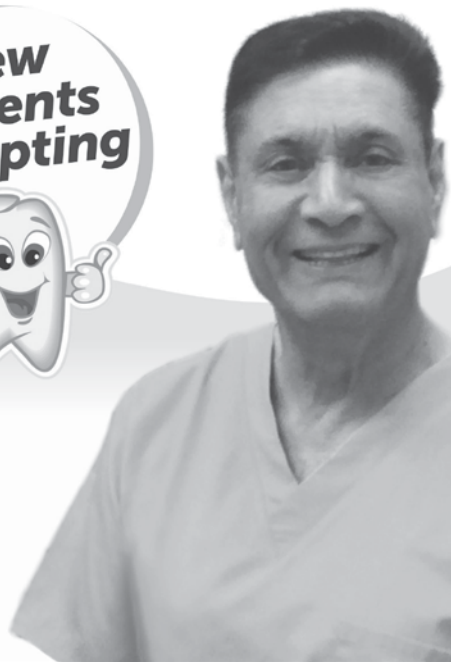
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New Westminster Police seize stolen vehicle and loaded firearm in collision investigation

AT approximately 2 a.m. on July 25, the New Westminster Police Department responded to a 9-1-1 call from someone who said he saw a truck hit a barrier on the Queensborough Bridge at a high rate of speed. An officer located the driver and a passenger in the damaged vehicle in a nearby parking lot. The officer determined the vehicle had been reported stolen and the two men were arrested. When searched by police, one suspect was in possession of a loaded firearm. "This underscores how the public serves as our eyes and ears," said Sgt. Andrew



Photo: New Westminster Police

Leaver. "They have trust that the New Westminster Police Department will attend and investigate. In this case, it

resulted in a dangerous weapon being taken off our streets."

One man was released at the scene and the second suspect was transported to cells. He was released with numerous conditions. It is anticipated that charges related to stolen property and firearms will be forwarded to Crown counsel.

The New Westminster Police Department thanked the witnesses who called police after observing the collision.

If you are witnessing a crime in progress, or fear for your safety or the safety of others, call 9-1-1.

Richmond RCMP are asking the public for help identifying suspect in alleged arson



Photos: RCMP

RICHMOND RCMP are seeking the public's assistance in identifying a suspect believed



to be responsible for a suspicious fire at a Richmond restaurant. In the early morning hours of March 3, Richmond RCMP received a report of a structure fire at a restaurant in the 2800-block of Sexsmith Road. Richmond Fire-Rescue was already on scene and quickly brought the fire under control. The fire caused significant damage to the exterior of the building, particularly the restaurant's patio area. No injuries were reported. Investigators have determined the fire is suspicious in nature and are seeking assistance from the public to identify an individual captured on surveillance footage in the area at the time of the incident. Police are aware of information circulated

on social media related to this incident, and asking the individuals who may have additional information, such as video footage, photographs, or knowledge related to this incident, to contact police directly as their information may assist the investigation.

"Even seemingly minor details may assist investigators in advancing this file. This includes individuals who have shared information about the fire on social media," said Cpl. Melissa Lui, Media Relations Officer for Richmond RCMP. "It is important to not just share on social media but to share directly with police."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Richmond RCMP at 604-278-1212, quoting file 2026-6800.

Richmond RCMP reminds motorists to slow down in construction zones

MEMBERS of the Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit (RSU) have been conducting enforcement in the construction zone at Westminster Highway and No. 2 Road to ensure drivers are complying with posted speed limits and turning restrictions. The ongoing nightly construction project includes complex lane closures and turning restrictions to accommodate major infrastructure work. Construction crews have been working on site and directing heavy traffic through the area.

While most motorists complied with the traffic controls, some drivers were observed speeding and ignoring posted signs. These actions created dangerous conditions for workers, motorists, and other road users, police said.

During enforcement, RSU officers issued several violation tickets for speeding, using an electronic device while driving, and disobeying traffic signs.

"Construction zones present unique hazards, particularly at night when visibility can be reduced

CONTINUED ON 11

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Number of blessing scams targeting elderly Chinese doubles in Vancouver

VANCOUVER Police say 13 blessing scams targeting elderly Chinese have resulted in victims losing more than \$300,000 in cash, gold, and jewelry so far in 2026.

By this time last year, VPD had recorded six such incidents and about \$200,000 in valuables stolen.

"The increase in incidents this year compared to last is deeply concerning to the VPD," said Inspector Shiv Gill. "The criminals behind these scams use fear to manipulate very vulnerable people into handing over large sums of money. It's cruel and it leaves victims and their families facing significant financial issues, not to mention the loss of cherished family heirlooms."

Investigators believe the suspects behind these crimes operate internationally and the department is liaising with other police agencies on these files. Criminals in these cases



The suspects. Photos: VPD

approach victims, engage them in conversation, and use deep-seated cultural fear and

manipulation to make them believe a terrible misfortune or curse will befall them if they don't have their valuables spiritually blessed.

Victims are typically escorted a few blocks away to meet another suspect who tells them to go home, gather up cash and jewelry and come back for the

blessing.

The fearful victims do what they're convinced they have to, and hand over their valuables. The criminals then use deception and sleight of hand to switch out the valuables for worthless items such as bags of cornstarch.

Victims often don't realize they been scammed until the scammers are long gone.

Suspects in these cases are generally older Asian people.

More than half of these crimes in 2026 have occurred in east and southeast Vancouver. Investigators believe there may be additional victims who have yet to come forward.

The VPD previously shared video of a blessing scam in progress to help identify the suspects.

Investigators are now sharing additional video and images of suspects wanted in relation to a blessing scam that occurred on June 24 at approximately 1:45 p.m. The victim in this case was a 78-year-old woman who

lost \$23,282 and three pieces of jewelry to the scammers. The offence occurred in the 2500 block of E. 20th Avenue Vancouver.

The suspects are described as: Suspect #1 – Asian female. Approximately 50 years of age, 160cm tall, with black hair and wearing a round sun hat, a grey jacket, white shirt, grey pants, a surgical mask and back support brace.

Suspect #2 – Asian male, approximately 60 years of age, 170 cm tall, wearing a grey baseball hat, dark coloured jacket, grey pants, carrying a black bag.

As VPD continue to investigate these cases, police are sharing the following tips to help keep the community safer:

* One or more strangers may approach you, and will speak your language.

* They may claim that your family will have misfortunes and say they can protect you.

* They may ask you to hand over money, jewelry, or valuables so they can "Bless" them.

* Do not give them anything. Trust your instincts, remember what they look like and walk away.

Vancouver Police issue distraction theft warning

THE Vancouver Police Department (VPD) is warning seniors in the city to be aware of distraction thieves after 11 incidents in June and July.

"These are criminals who think nothing of targeting elderly victims and stealing their valuable family heirlooms," said Sgt. Tim Russell, with the VPD's Robbery / Assault / Arson Unit.

"The victims are just out and about, living their lives when a person, or a group, approaches on foot or in a vehicle, distracts them and using practiced sleight of hand, replaces their jewelry with fakes. It happens quickly, in a matter of seconds, but the impact on the victims is long-lasting. Family heirlooms and their sense of safety is lost."

Where someone resists, it's not uncommon for the thieves to simply yank jewelry from them. As of July 16, 35 distraction thefts have been reported in Vancouver in 2026.

* 17 in District 3 – Sunset, Renfrew-Collingwood, Mount Pleasant, Killarney, Victoria-Fraserview, and Kensington-Cedar Cottage

* 9 in District 2 – Strathcona, Grandview-Woodlands, and Hastings-Sunrise

* 8 in District 4 – Point Grey, Kitsilano, Fairview, Dunbar-Southlands, Arbutus Ridge, Shaughnessy, South Cambie, Riley

Park, Musqueam, Kerrisdale, Oakridge, and Marpole

* 1 in the downtown core

The total value of items stolen in these thefts so far this year is \$245,000.

In 2025, 158 distraction thefts were reported with total losses of \$364,000.

The thieves involved in these incidents are part of organized crime rings, both of Canadian citizens and foreign nationals. They often criss-cross Canada in rented vehicles.

Police are asking seniors to:

* Conceal valuables: Keep jewelry and other valuables hidden underneath your clothing when out in public or working in your yard.

* Protect your space: Maintain physical boundaries. Do not let strangers approach you or enter your personal space, even if they seem friendly or are offering gifts.

* Draw attention: If you feel you are being targeted or you feel unsafe, make noise, yell, and attract the attention of bystanders.

* Report immediately: Call 911 right away if you are the victim or witness a distraction theft.

If you are a family member or friend of a senior, discuss the points above with them so they are aware.

avoid the area when possible and plan alternate routes. If travelling through the construction zone, motorists are reminded to slow down, pay attention to signage, and follow all traffic directions. Richmond RCMP say they will continue enforcement efforts to help keep workers and motorists safe.

CONTINUED FROM 10

and traffic patterns are altered," said Cpl. Niels Hermes of the Richmond RCMP RSU. "Drivers who ignore speed limits and traffic restrictions place construction workers, fellow motorists, and themselves at unnecessary risk." Motorists are encouraged to

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- Recruit, hire and oversee training of new employees;
- Resolve customer complaints and ensure high standards of customer service;
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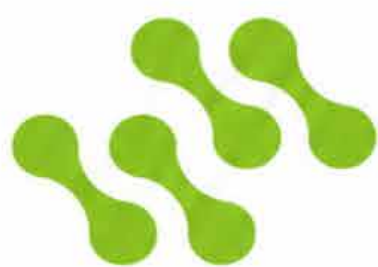
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TransLink breaks ground on Broadway-Arbutus development

TRANSLINK and PCI Developments (PCI) have officially broken ground on a new mixed-use development at West Broadway and Arbutus, marking the beginning of construction on the first project under TransLink's Real Estate Development Program.

TransLink says that as successfully implemented by other transportation agencies around the world, this project represents a significant step for it as it begins unlocking the value of transit-oriented development. By generating transit revenues through development, it is modernizing its approach to funding transit – creating a sustainable source of revenue to reinvest into Metro Vancouver's transit system.

Instead of selling valuable land near transit, TransLink is taking a long-term approach by partnering with experienced developers to build complete, connected communities while maintaining an ongoing interest in the value created. This allows transit investments to continue benefiting from the land surrounding the system for generations to come.

"Today's groundbreaking is a historic milestone for TransLink," says TransLink CEO Kevin Quinn. "Some of the world's most successful transit agencies have shown what is possible when transit development and community building go hand in hand. We are bringing that innovative approach to Metro Vancouver by building homes and businesses around transit, while creating a new long-term revenue stream that can be reinvested into our transportation system."

Situated directly across from the future Arbutus Station and alongside the



The project. Photo: TransLink

Arbutus Greenway, the development will bring housing, businesses, community amenities, and sustainable transportation together in one connected location.

Developed through a partnership between TransLink and PCI, the Broadway-Arbutus project will include:

- A 31-storey mixed-use residential and commercial development
- 256 rental homes, including 47 below-market suites

- Over 5,200 square feet of ground-floor retail space

- Over 9,800 square feet of community space for the Ohel Ya'akov Community Kollel

- A public plaza integrated with the Arbutus Greenway and future Arbutus Station

TransLink says that as Metro Vancouver continues to grow, connecting housing and transportation solutions will be

essential to building a more sustainable region. Projects like Broadway-Arbutus demonstrate how transit-oriented development can help create complete communities where people can live, work, and access reliable transportation, while making the most of land already connected to the transit system. Construction is expected to be completed in 2029.

The development aligns with the City of Vancouver's Broadway Plan and supports the goals of Transport 2050 and Metro 2050 by bringing housing, jobs, community amenities, and transportation options together.

Quick Facts:

The Broadway-Arbutus development is

the first project under TransLink's Real Estate Development Program.

Construction began in summer 2026 and is expected to be completed in 2029.

The project is located at the southeast corner of West Broadway and Arbutus Street in Kitsilano, directly across the street from the future Arbutus SkyTrain Station.

The development will include 256 homes, retail space, The Kollel, and a direct connection to the Arbutus Greenway.

The Real Estate Development Program is intended to create a new long-term source of non-taxation revenue that can be reinvested into transit.

The program draws on approaches used by leading transit agencies around the world, including Hong Kong's MTR.

Vancouver City Council rejects Villages Planning Program

VANCOUVER City Council on Tuesday rejected the proposed Villages Planning Program after determining that it did not provide the right balance between long-term planning, implementation, infrastructure, and community confidence. Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim said Council's decision reflects its responsibility to make



Ken Sim

Photo: abcvancouver.ca

practical, evidence-based decisions that put Vancouver residents first.

"Vancouverites should be the ones deciding what happens with their property, not City Hall," said Sim. "Moving forward with this proposal would have been a mistake. Today, Council made the decision to reject it."

Throughout the planning process, Council heard from hundreds of residents, businesses, community organizations, and housing advocates. While many supported the objective of creating more housing, they also raised thoughtful concerns about implementation, neighbourhood fit, infrastructure capacity, and the rate of change. Council carefully considered that feedback before making its decision.

The decision does not change the City's

ongoing work to remove barriers to housing delivery. Existing Council-approved housing policies remain in place, and the City will continue focusing on reducing red tape, streamlining approvals, and improving permitting so projects can move from approval to construction more efficiently.

Council also approved amendments to introduce

Single Egress Stair (SES) buildings independently of the broader Villages proposal. Separating SES recognizes that it is a building code modernization measure, not a land use policy. The change will allow more efficient and flexible building designs within existing zoning, supporting more livable, affordable, and financially viable housing while maintaining modern life-safety standards.

"I'm proud of the progress we've made over the last four years to reduce red tape and remove unnecessary barriers to housing construction," said Sim. "Today's decision doesn't change that. We'll continue advancing practical reforms that improve how the City delivers housing, while ensuring growth is supported by the infrastructure and services our communities rely on."

Surrey moves to ban the sale of invasive plants

THE City of Surrey is taking a significant step toward protecting local ecosystems and biodiversity by advancing a proposed ban on the sale of invasive plants.

On Monday, Surrey Council voted in favour of bylaw changes that would prohibit licensed businesses from selling identified invasive plant species in Surrey, including nurseries, large retail chains, aquarium suppliers, florists and other commercial vendors.

"Invasive plants pose a growing threat to Surrey's natural environment, drainage infrastructure, and waterways," said Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke. "By focusing on prevention and stopping invasive species at the point of sale, Surrey is taking a practical and proactive approach

that will help safeguard local habitats."

The proposed ban would apply to a range of invasive plants, including English ivy, Scotch broom, giant hogweed and knotweed. Many of these plants are attractive and easy to grow, but once established they can spread quickly beyond gardens into parks, forests, waterways and other natural areas. The full prohibited species list includes species identified by the province and the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver.

Staff will engage with businesses to gather feedback before submitting the proposed bylaw changes to the provincial government for approval, which is required before the ban can take effect.

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New renal facility at Surrey Memorial Hospital adds 21 new hemodialysis treatment stations

PEOPLE in Surrey and surrounding communities have greater access to dialysis with the opening of a new renal facility at Surrey Memorial Hospital. "People in Surrey and surrounding communities who rely on life-saving kidney care will benefit from this new renal facility," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. "It's an important step in our work to support a rapidly growing community, strengthen health services at Surrey Memorial Hospital and improve access to care across the province." The new renal facility operates seven days a week. Located on the northwestern corner of the Surrey Memorial Hospital campus, the standalone renal facility adds 21 hemodialysis treatment stations, increasing the hospital's total to 60 and increasing dialysis treatment capacity by approximately 55%.

"This new building makes a real difference for our patients," said Dr. Bradford Strijack, site lead of nephrology, Surrey Memorial Hospital. "Hemodialysis is not optional care. Patients need treatment three or

more times a week, for hours at a time, and that schedule is relentless. Having 21 additional stations in a purpose-built space means we can treat more patients and provide an environment designed around that reality." Surrey Memorial Hospital delivers approximately 42,000 dialysis treatments per year. With the new centre, the dialysis treatment number is expected to grow to approximately 65,000 annually.

"The new renal facility reflects what modern health care should be, care that is designed around the people who rely on it every day," said Dermot Kelly, president and CEO, Fraser Health. "Living with kidney disease can be challenging, and this new centre provides a welcoming, purpose-built environment where people can receive the treatment they need with dignity and confidence. This investment is about enhancing the experience of care, supporting our care teams and ensuring we are well-positioned to meet the needs of people for years to come."

The Province, with contributions from

the Surrey Hospitals Foundation, invested \$85 million in the new renal facility.

It is part of a broader plan to strengthen access to health care in Surrey, including the expansion of community-based services, a new medical school at Simon Fraser University, and a new hospital and BC Cancer Centre in Cloverdale.

Additionally, work is continuing at Surrey Memorial Hospital to renew and expand surgical services, with some renovations complete and work on the final operating room beginning in 2026. It also includes expanded medical imaging services, with construction underway for a second MRI scanner supported by new patient waiting areas and additional pre- and post-procedure spaces. And at the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre, a new CT scanner suite is expected to be complete in late 2026.

The projects build on other investments at Surrey Memorial Hospital, including new cardiac catheterization suites,

interventional radiology suites and a new acute care tower.

Nicole Robson, president and CEO, Surrey Hospitals Foundation, said: "The new Surrey renal facility represents a

significant expansion of the regional renal program on the Surrey Memorial Hospital campus. At its heart, this facility is about improving care for patients, while strengthening a more complete and resilient ecosystem of care across Surrey and serving the South Fraser region and beyond. We are deeply grateful to our donors, whose generosity is helping equip this facility and ensuring care teams have the tools they need to provide exceptional care for years to come."

Garry Begg, parliamentary secretary for Surrey infrastructure, said: "For people living with kidney disease and their families, being able to access



dialysis care close to home makes a meaningful difference in their daily lives. The new renal facility at Surrey Memorial Hospital expands access to life-saving treatment in our growing community and reflects our government's commitment to investing in the health-care infrastructure people need, today and for the future."

Amna Shah, MLA for Surrey City Centre, said: "This new dialysis centre means people in Surrey can get the care they need closer to home. It adds more treatment spaces and helps patients receive regular, life-saving care without having to travel far."

City exploring potential Major League Baseball expansion franchise in Vancouver

THE City of Vancouver on Wednesday confirmed The Show Vancouver Bid Corporation (TSV) will work with the City to explore a potential future Major League Baseball (MLB) franchise opportunity for Vancouver. In April, Vancouver Council directed staff to launch a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) process to identify a qualified proponent and potential ownership group to pursue an MLB expansion franchise in Vancouver.

The City received TSV's submission through the RFEOI process. The submission was evaluated against the qualification criteria established in the RFEOI, including financial capacity, relevant expertise, governance structure and the proposed approach to pursuing an MLB expansion franchise. Council directed staff to

enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TSV. The MOU will establish a framework for collaboration, including due diligence for potential ballpark sites, as TSV explores and develops a potential expansion bid. TSV will be responsible for all costs and financial risks associated with preparing and advancing its MLB bid.

No decisions have been made regarding a potential MLB franchise, ballpark location or associated development. At this stage, the City will collaborate with TSV as it explores and develops a potential expansion bid. Any future project agreements, site selection, land use decisions, development approvals, lease arrangements or other related matters would be subject to future Council consideration and approval.



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Driver charged for transporting dozer in Richmond without oversized vehicle permit

A commercial vehicle carrying an oversized dozer was stopped by Richmond RCMP officers on Garden City Road after being found operating without the required oversized vehicle permit, resulting in charges under provincial transportation legislation.

On July 22, Cpl. Hermes conducted a traffic stop of a commercial vehicle transporting an oversized dozer along Garden City Road. The combination measured approximately 3.8 metres (12.4 feet) in width, occupying nearly two full traffic lanes.

Under the Commercial Transport Act, the maximum allowable vehicle width is 2.6 metres. Vehicles exceeding this limit are required to obtain an Oversized Vehicle Permit, which outlines specific safety requirements, including approved travel routes and, where necessary, the use of pilot vehicles.

During the inspection, the driver was unable to produce a valid term oversize



Photo: RCMP

permit. As a result, the driver was issued violations for:

- * Fail to carry permit

- * Dimensions of load not conforming

Due to the inability to obtain the required permit roadside at that time and considering the vehicle's destination was only a short distance away, the driver was permitted to proceed directly to the destination.

The RCMP remind commercial vehicle operators that oversized load permits play a critical role in ensuring road safety for all users by regulating the movement of large or unusual loads and establishing appropriate safety measures before travel begins.

IHIT seeks public's help in investigation into death of Larry Greig of Langley

ON Wednesday, July 1 at approximately 9:48 p.m., Langley RCMP responded to reports of a man in distress near Park Avenue and Douglas Crescent in Langley. Upon arrival, police located a 75-year-old man suffering from serious injuries. The victim was transported to a local hospital in critical condition.

On July 9, the victim died from his injuries while in hospital. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) was called in to investigate and continues to work in close partnership with the Langley RCMP Serious Crime Unit, the Integrated Forensic Identification Services (IFIS) and the BC Coroners Service.



Larry Greig

IHIT is now identifying the victim as Larry Greig of Langley in hopes of furthering the investigation.

"Investigation to date suggests Mr. Greig became involved in a physical altercation shortly after leaving a licensed establishment," says Sgt. Freda Fong of IHIT. "Homicide investigators are looking to speak with the

following individuals who were in the area at the time of the offence and may have witnessed something important."

(For photos of the witnesses, please visit our website voiceonline.com)

Anyone with information is asked to contact the IHIT Information Line at 1-877-551-IHIT (4448), or by email at ihitinfo@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

Burnaby RCMP seek assistance to identify indecent act suspect

BURNABY RCMP are sharing a sketch of a

suspect with the public, following an indecent act that took place in Central Park earlier this month.

The incident was reported to police on July 9 at 5 p.m. The victim reported they had witnessed a man engaging in an obscene act behind a tree between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at a picnic area in the northwest section of the park.

Police have been pursuing a number of investigative avenues to collect evidence and identify the suspect and are now sharing a composite sketch and description as part of those ongoing efforts.

The suspect is described as a Black male in his late 20's to early 30's, approximately 6 feet tall, with an average build. At the time, the suspect was wearing a white hoodie, black pants, and a black baseball cap.

"We are asking anyone



The suspect.

Sketch: Burnaby RCMP

who may recognize the sketch or have information about the suspect to contact police," said Media Relations Officer Cpl. Laura Hirst. "The victim in this case did the right thing by contacting us. We want to encourage everyone to reach out to us to report any incidents of this nature, or any suspicious activity they may encounter."

Burnaby RCMP say they continue to investigate two other reports of indecent acts in the park from the same week, and officers have been conducting enhanced patrols in the area.

Port Moody Police kept busy at Sasamat Lake

PORT Moody Police were kept busy attending calls for service at Sasamat Lake on Friday, July 24.

Just before 7:30 p.m., officers were called to the lake's float walk for a fight involving numerous individuals. A bystander jumped in an attempt to stop the melee and unfortunately, sustained injuries – including the loss of several of his teeth. The suspects dispersed prior to police arrival and investigators would like to speak with any additional witnesses.

Police were also kept busy at the lake throughout the evening with other calls including the arrest of a very intoxicated female in a trail – who at one point had to be carried by officers. Frontline officers fielded a report of a male who went missing while out for a swim, but fortunately, was later located safely. As well, much later in the evening, officers assisted security guards with ejecting several trespassers who were refusing to leave the lake hours past its closing time.

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COMMON SENSE HEALTH – DIANA GIFFORD-JONES

When Standing Up Makes You Sick



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.

described soldiers who suffered from racing hearts, fatigue, chest discomfort, and poor exercise tolerance. The condition became known as “soldier’s heart.” Although it was not the same diagnosis as POTS, researchers believe these individuals may have had problems involving the autonomic nervous system.

Over the decades, doctors continued to encounter patients who became ill when upright. But it was not until the 1990s that researchers formally described and named POTS.

Scientists now understand that POTS is not one single disease. Different patients may have different underlying causes. In some,



nerves that regulate blood vessels may not function properly. In others, there may be abnormalities involving the immune system, blood volume, or the body’s response to infection.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented attention to POTS. Some people recovering from COVID developed persistent symptoms including rapid heart rate, dizziness, and exercise intolerance. Researchers began investigating whether viral infections could trigger autonomic disorders in susceptible individuals.

Although POTS is often associated with younger people, it can occur at any age. In older adults, symptoms may be mistaken for medication effects, dehydration, heart

problems, or the normal challenges of aging. For my roommate and her daughter, and similar to many other families, it was a long and frustrating journey to the diagnosis of POTS. Ultimately, it took a team of specialists at the Mayo Clinic to design and initiate a four-week intensive program of physical, mental, and behavioural changes to daily routines that enabled them to return to normal life.

With better knowledge about what’s going on, there comes an appreciation for the extraordinary things the human body does, even when just standing up.

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.

It was like opening a time capsule when I met up with my college roommate after 35 years. We laughed about our good times together and recalled all the confidence we had about our futures at age twenty. Then the conversation turned to our children, and she told me about her daughter’s long struggle to obtain a diagnosis of postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, or POTS.

Once that diagnosis became clear, it is easy to point to a distinguishing symptom. For people with POTS, standing upright triggers a debilitating racing of the heart. But for the 2-3 million people in North America estimated to have the condition, figuring it out is no easy job.

Experts are not sure why, but it’s a condition that tends to strike young women, aged 15-35, most often from comfortable, and white, families. This fits my roommate’s situation. It may be that POTS could be found in other segments of society, but neither patients nor doctors are making the connection.

The root cause of POTS lies in the body’s remarkable automatic control system – the autonomic nervous system – which manages heart rate, blood pressure, circulation, digestion, and temperature control. When we stand, gravity pulls blood toward our legs. A healthy nervous system immediately responds. Blood vessels tighten, the heart adjusts, and enough blood continues to reach the brain.

In someone with POTS, that response does not work properly. The body struggles to maintain circulation when upright, and the heart often speeds up dramatically to compensate.

The result can be dizziness, fatigue, weakness, exercise intolerance, difficulty concentrating, and a pounding heartbeat. Some sufferers feel better when they lie down – but not all. When the autonomic nervous system is out of whack, all bets are off.

Historically, and to date, many patients have struggled to find an explanation. Because routine heart tests and blood work may appear normal, some are told their symptoms are due to stress or anxiety.

During the American Civil War, physician Jacob Mendes Da Costa

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New Roberts Bank Terminal 2 community investment program launched

THE first round of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 community investment program launched Monday, with Delta organizations invited to apply for funding to support initiatives that create lasting local benefits or strengthen conservation efforts.

The first intake for the community investment program comes as momentum continues to build for Roberts Bank Terminal 2, with the federal government referring it to the Major Projects Office and a preferred construction partner for the landmass and wharf selected. Roberts Bank Terminal 2 is a generational, nation-building project that will fuel the local and national economy through new jobs and business opportunities, and increased community investment. "At the Port of Vancouver, we know strong communities make us a better port and we're proud of the work we do to help local families, businesses and organizations thrive through



Jill McKnight Photo: X

well-paid local jobs, purchasing of goods and services, and community funding programs," said Alexa Young, Vice President, Government, External and Environmental Affairs at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority. "Roberts Bank Terminal 2 and its new community investment program will build on our legacy of enriching the lives of those who live and work by the port, providing Delta organizations and residents with new support to build a vibrant and resilient community." The three-berth container terminal will unlock \$100 billion of trade capacity

annually and help the Port of Vancouver move more of what Canadians make, mine, harvest and grow, supporting Prime Minister Mark Carney's goal of doubling non-U.S. exports in the next decade.

"Roberts Bank Terminal 2 is an investment in Canada's future, building the infrastructure needed to strengthen our economy, support good jobs, and diversify trade," said Jill McKnight, MP for Delta and Minister of Veterans Affairs

and Associate Minister of National Defence. "Through this community investment program and ongoing work with First Nations, we are ensuring the benefits of local initiatives and community organizations are shared across neighbouring communities in Delta as well as Tsawwassen First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band—creating stronger, more connected and thriving communities for tomorrow." There will be further opportunities to apply for funding through the community investment program in coming years, with the pre-

construction funding available including:

- * Community funding of \$300,000 across 2026 and 2027

- * Community spaces enhancement funding of \$200,000 for enhancing or creating community spaces, with projects identified with community leaders in Ladner, Tsawwassen and North Delta

The port authority will continue to engage with local stakeholders to refine community investments that will be distributed during project construction, which is expected to include a \$500,000 community education fund and \$5 million in funding for community projects and initiatives. Roberts Bank Terminal 2 is uniquely poised to deliver for Canada, with key environmental approvals already in place and mutual benefit agreements signed with 27 First Nations. These mutual benefit agreements will ensure the project delivers benefits like jobs, environmental initiatives, and training and contracting opportunities to First Nations including Tsawwassen First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band. The port authority will also continue its engagement with First Nations over the fall on a Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Indigenous legacy

benefit fund, intended to support initiatives of importance to First Nations in addition to other benefits resulting from the project.

The Port of Vancouver's long-standing commitment to the local community includes support for events like the Luminary Festival, Tsawwassen Sun Festival and local National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations.

The new terminal will provide a powerful economic boost both locally and regionally, including creating more than 7,400 construction jobs and over 1,000 ongoing jobs in Delta, giving businesses competitive access to international markets and supporting affordability through more reliably available imported goods for Canadian families.

The project's award-winning environmental plan is based on more than 15 years of study and created in partnership with First Nations. Designed to support a thriving local community, it includes the delivery of new habitat projects in Delta to support key species like juvenile Chinook salmon and Dungeness crab.

Applications for the initial \$150,000 in community funding available must be submitted online by 4 p.m. on September 10.

Three federal by-elections in B.C., Ontario, Quebec

FEDERAL by-elections will be held on Monday, August 31, 2026, in the electoral districts of Beaches-East York (Ontario), Chicoutimi-Le Fjord (Quebec) and North Vancouver-Capilano (British Columbia) to fill vacancies in the House of Commons, Elections Canada announced on Sunday.

The Elections Canada offices in Beaches-East York, Chicoutimi-Le Fjord and North Vancouver-Capilano will open soon.

Electors in Beaches-East York, Chicoutimi-Le Fjord and North Vancouver-Capilano can:

- Vote on election day (Monday, August 31) at

their assigned polling station.

- Vote on advance polling days (Friday, August 21; Saturday, August 22; Sunday, August 23; and Monday, August 24) at their assigned polling station.

- Vote early at the Elections Canada office in Beaches-East York, Chicoutimi-Le Fjord or North Vancouver-Capilano anytime between now and Tuesday, August 25, 6 p.m.

- Vote by mail: Electors must apply by Tuesday, August 25, 6 p.m. and return their special ballot by mail (deadlines apply) or in person at their local Elections Canada office before polls close on election day

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11956 98 AVENUE, SURREY



7 BED - 5 BATHS - 6,600 SF

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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.

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10095 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, CHILLIWACK



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ASKING 589,000

5748 123 Street Surrey



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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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175 refugee claims made so far from FIFA World Cup visitors

MORE than 20,000 visas to FIFA World Cup were refused by Canada's immigration department. Yet, in spite of all the refusals, 175 World Cup visitors have claimed refugee status so far, says the Globe and Mail.

Many of the refugee claims were from countries whose teams did not take part in the tournament, including 15 from Kenya, 10 from China, 10 from Bangladesh, 10 from Nigeria and five each from Burundi, Nepal and Pakistan. Ghana, whose team played in the tournament, has had the highest number of people who have claimed asylum – 25.

Also, Canada refused another 20,845 visa applications related to the tournament. It refused an additional 205 electronic travel authorizations for visa-exempt foreign nationals.

Pakistan and India, whose team did not



Soccer fans celebrate on Granville Street in downtown Vancouver.

play, had far more visitor visa refusals than approvals, the immigration department figures show, with 2,245 Pakistani nationals denied applications to come here for the World Cup, and 195 approved. For Indian nationals, almost 2,000 were refused, while 665 were approved.

Canada also refused applications from 805 nationals of Bangladesh, while approving visas for 120 Bangladeshi soccer fans.

Canada refused applications from 1,965 Nigerians who wanted to come to Canada for the international soccer tournament. Only 220 Nigerian fans who applied for visas were approved to come here for the World Cup.

Among the refused visa applications were 3,135 from Ghanaian fans. IRCC approved only 470 visas for Ghanaians, whose national team played

Panama on June 17 in Toronto.

On July 7, Vancouver hosted a World Cup match between Colombia and Switzerland. Canada approved visitor visas for 1,795 Colombians, while refusing 815.

Indian student from Canada sentenced in U.S. in fraud case after collecting over \$3.7M from 15 victims

UNITED States District Judge Brett Ludwig this week sentenced Roshan Shah, 22, to 48 months' imprisonment for conspiring to commit money laundering, according to a press release by the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

According to court records, Shah is a citizen of India who was attending college in Canada on a student visa. He entered the United States on a visitor visa to collect fraud proceeds.

Co-conspirators in India called victims and convinced them that their identities had been used to commit crimes. The victims were led to believe they had to surrender cash or gold to a federal agent, impersonated by Shah, for safekeeping.

In total, Shah collected more than \$3.7 million from 15 victims throughout the United States.

He was arrested while attempting to collect what he believed to be fraud proceeds in New Berlin, Wisconsin, using the same fraudulent scheme.

At sentencing, Ludwig emphasized the seriousness of Shah's misconduct and the devastating impact his actions had on the largely elderly and vulnerable victims.

"This case highlights the danger faced by Americans from fraudsters both here and overseas," said Brad D. Schimel, First Assistant United States Attorney. "This conviction and sentence are the result of the intensive efforts of federal law enforcement working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office to combat the scourge of fraud targeting our seniors. This case should serve as a reminder that we will continue to devote substantial resources to fighting fraud, holding scammers accountable, and protecting Americans from these schemes."

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, and the New Berlin Police Department.

Woman charged in unprovoked attack on another woman in Vancouver downtown

A suspect has been arrested by Vancouver Police and charged following a report of an unprovoked attack on a woman in the downtown core Wednesday morning.

The victim was reportedly walking to work near Robson Street and Homer Street shortly before 9:15 a.m. when she was assaulted by a stranger. She was allegedly choked, bitten on the face and hand, and pulled to the ground. The suspect left the area and was quickly located by police a block away.

"The suspect and victim did not know each other, and the assault was unprovoked," says Constable Megan Lui. "The motive is unknown at this time."

The victim was transported to hospital for further medical treatment.

The B.C. Prosecution Service has charged 34-year-old Jayleen McKay with one count of assault causing bodily harm and one count of assault by choking. She remains in custody.

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FortisBC moves forward on expansion at the Tilbury LNG Facility

THE Province of B.C. announced on July 24 that it has taken a key step to enable FortisBC to move forward with the expansion of its Tilbury Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Facility in Delta, another step forward in B.C.'s Look West strategy.

"The expansion of the Tilbury LNG Facility is an investment in B.C.'s future, creating jobs, growing our economy and helping reduce emissions through an investment of more than \$2 billion," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions. "By helping move this project forward, we're also creating an opportunity for Musqueam Indian Band to become an equity partner, advancing economic reconciliation while supporting a cleaner alternative to

traditional marine fuels like diesel."

The Tilbury Phase 1B expansion is expected to provide significant revenues to all levels of government, create highly skilled employment for B.C. residents and reduce emissions by offering a cleaner alternative to conventional marine fuels. Recognizing the project's significant economic and reconciliation benefits, the Province has issued an Order in Council (OIC) that exempts the Phase 1B expansion from the need to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under the Utilities Commission Act. It provides greater regulatory certainty and optimizes the overall investment to be made by FortisBC.

The amendments establish a framework to support the expansion and enable Musqueam Indian Band to acquire interests in the project through a partnership with FortisBC.

It represents a step forward for a project that will deliver significant economic and environmental benefits for



Adrian Dix

B.C., and to meeting the Province's 10-year goal of attracting \$200 billion in major-project investment, as outlined in the Look West strategy.

Phase 1B of the expansion of FortisBC's Tilbury LNG Facility will increase the facility's capacity to produce LNG. The expansion helps meet rising demand for

LNG fuelling service at the Port of Vancouver and improves access to LNG fuelling for vessels travelling along the western coast of North America and across the Pacific.

Using LNG in place of traditional bunker fuels, such as diesel, can play a significant role in decarbonizing the domestic and global shipping industry while improving air quality for coastal communities. Compared to conventional marine fuels, LNG can reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by as much as 25%, reduce nitrous oxide by 76%, sulfur oxides by 90% and particulate matter by 90%.

The expansion also represents an opportunity to create good-paying jobs, strengthen B.C.'s economy and advance economic reconciliation through First Nations ownership opportunities. The project helps

position the Port of Vancouver as a leading LNG marine fuelling hub, supports the transition to lower-emission marine fuels, strengthens B.C.'s role in a growing global market and will deliver long-term economic benefits for communities throughout the province.

Surrey's popular \$20 tree sales return this summer

THE City of Surrey's highly popular \$20 tree sales return this summer, giving residents an affordable way to add trees to their properties while helping grow Surrey's urban forest. The first online sale opens August 18 at 9 a.m., with pickup scheduled for September 13 at the Surrey Operations Centre. The second will open September 29 with a pickup date of October 25.

"Trees planted today will benefit Surrey for decades to come," said Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke. "It's exciting to see so many residents take part in this program, with more than 25,000 trees purchased since it began. These affordable sales make it easy for people to beautify their properties while helping build a greener, healthier and more resilient city." A thousand trees will be available during each sale on a first-come, first-served basis, and they often sell out

quickly. To help more Surrey households participate, the purchase limit has been set to two trees per sale.

"Fall is one of the best times to plant trees, and the City's tree sale program is a meaningful and effective way for residents to help protect and grow Surrey's urban forest," said Rob Landucci, urban forestry manager. "More than half of Surrey's tree canopy is located on private property, so homeowner participation plays an important role in growing and protecting our urban forest."

Residents can choose from a variety of fruit and ornamental trees, including apple, cherry, plum, dogwood, maple, and magnolia. Trees offered are selected for their popularity with residents, suitability for Surrey's climate, and ability to support local biodiversity.

For more information, visit surrey.ca/treesale.

Medical emergency at Whonnock Lake in Maple Ridge

ON Monday, July 27 at approximately 8 p.m., Maple Ridge RCMP were dispatched to assist with a medical emergency in the 27800-block of 113 Avenue at Whonnock Lake.

Officers arrived on scene and immediately assisted in life-saving measures for a child who was in medical distress after allegedly falling into the water. Officers were later relieved by attending emergency health services and the child was eventually

transported to hospital via air ambulance. Police secured the area and took a number of statements from witnesses and individuals on scene and are continuing to investigate.

Anyone with more information, who has not already spoken to police, is asked to contact Maple Ridge RCMP at 604-463-6251 and quote file# 2026-14366. Victim Services support is also available to those who may be impacted.

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Paddle boarders bring in \$213,545 for youth mental health programs at Surrey Memorial Hospital

HUNDREDS of paddle boarders from 25 teams competed at this year's Surrey Hospitals Foundation's "Champion of the Crescent" paddle board event and raised \$213,545 for youth mental health programs at Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH). The foundation's signature summer fundraiser was held this past Thursday at Blackie Spit Park on Crescent Beach in Surrey.

Surrey Memorial Hospital is the regional centre for acute youth mental health care, supporting children and youth from all over the Lower Mainland through specialized programs including the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Stabilization Unit (CAPSU), the Adolescent Day Treatment Program (ADTP), and the Adolescent Psychiatric Unit (APU). Champion of the Crescent, presented by



Photo submitted

EllisDon, contributes to youth mental programs at SMH, improving early intervention so young people can receive timely care, and expanding access to specialized services and critical transition support, such as follow-up care, school reintegration, and access to community programs are available when they return home.

teams better support children and youth experiencing mental health challenges. Together, we are ensuring they have access to the specialized training, resources, and programs needed to meet the growing demand for mental health services in our region and provide young people with the care they need, when they need it most." Surrey is one of the youngest and fastest

growing cities in the province, on track to being the largest city in BC by 2030. Surrey is also home to one of the largest youth populations in the province, with more than 129,000 children and youth under age 19 (or about 23 percent of the city's population). And with 6,000 babies being born each year at Surrey Memorial Hospital there is a greater need than ever to support this region's children and youth. An estimated 1.2 million children and youth in Canada are affected by mental illness, and by age 25, that number rises to 7.5 million (about one in five Canadians). Poignantly, 70 per cent of people living with a mental illness see their symptoms begin before age 18.

"Our child and adolescent mental health teams at Surrey Memorial Hospital support thousands of children and youth each year. Caring for youth during moments of crisis requires specialized skills, training, and compassion," explains Paula Sandhu, Manager of Clinical Operations for Child, Youth and Young Adult Mental Health and Substance Use Services at Surrey Memorial Hospital. "This year, we are investing in scientifically supported, trauma-informed, evidence-based training programs, mentorship opportunities, and peer coaching for our multidisciplinary care teams. These initiatives will help equip our staff with the tools and confidence they need to respond effectively to complex situations involving children and youth."

Families like the McLaren's know firsthand the life-changing impact of the youth mental health programs at Surrey Memorial Hospital. When their child experienced a mental health crisis, the family turned to Surrey Memorial Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Department before their child was admitted to several youth mental health programs over the course of several months.

"Our child needed help, and Surrey Memorial Hospital was there for us," says Vince McLaren. "She participated in several youth mental health programs, but the Adolescent Day Treatment Program (ADTP) made an especially profound difference."

Surrey Police notify IIO of fatal pedestrian-involved collision

SURREY Police Service (SPS) has notified the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) following a fatal pedestrian-involved collision that occurred shortly after 11 p.m. on Thursday.

On July 30 at approximately 11:04 p.m., SPS officers conducted a traffic stop of a westbound vehicle in the 15600-block of 56 Avenue (Highway 10). The driver of the stopped vehicle ran from the traffic stop on foot and was struck by a vehicle travelling eastbound.

Despite emergency medical attention from SPS officers, Surrey Fire Service firefighters, and BCEHS paramedics, the driver, an adult male, tragically passed away at the scene of the collision.

SPS informed the IIO of the incident and they asserted jurisdiction.

Highway 10 was closed overnight as investigators from both the IIO and SPS's Collision Investigation Unit (CIU) examined the scene for evidence.

As this incident is now under investigation by the IIO BC, no further information will be released by Surrey Police Service.

For more information about the IIO BC, visit www.iiobc.ca.



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