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## BC RCMP Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald relieved of his duties following allegations

**RCMP** Commissioner Mike Duheme announced on Thursday that Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald has been relieved of his duties as Commanding Officer of the RCMP in B.C. following allegations dating back to 2016-2018.

(McDonald was the Surrey RCMP's top cop from 2016 to 2020.)

He said: "These allegations were recently brought to the attention of the RCMP. Investigations are ongoing. We are treating this matter with the attention and diligence it requires. We will not be providing further details at this time."

John Brewer has been appointed as interim Deputy Commissioner and Commanding Officer of the RCMP in B.C.

Duheme said: "I recognize that changes of this nature may be concerning for our employees, partners, and the communities we serve. Commanding Officers play a critical role in the



**Dwayne McDonald at the formal ceremony in Langley in September 2022 to recognize him as the Commanding Officer of the BC RCMP although he had been in command of the province's provincial police force since July 1, 2021. Photo: RCMP**



**John Brewer –  
the interim BC RCMP top cop**

delivery of policing services, and it is important that we maintain continuity and stability in leadership. John Brewer is a respected member of the RCMP's senior leadership team and is fully aware of the policing priorities and engaged in the policing needs of British Columbia. He has my full confidence as interim Commanding Officer, as well as the confidence of the Senior Executive Committee."

**MCDONALD** has three decades of experience in law enforcement having served both the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Before taking over as the BC RCMP top cop in 2021, McDonald served as the Assistant Commissioner and Criminal Operations Officer for Federal, Investigative Services and Organized Crime for the province of B.C. He had oversight of a large portfolio of including RCMP Major Crime, Police Support Services, Criminal Intelligence, Federal Policing, National Security, and the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC).

Prior to being appointed the Criminal Operations Officer, he was promoted to the rank of Chief Superintendent and named the Officer in Charge of the RCMP Detachment in Surrey, the largest RCMP Detachment in Canada, in 2016 and served in that position until 2020. In 2014, he was promoted to

Superintendent and the Officer in Charge of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT), the largest homicide unit in Canada. IHIT is the integrated unit comprised of Municipal Police Agencies and the RCMP, which is responsible for all homicides, suspicious deaths and high risk missing person investigations throughout the Lower Mainland District of B.C.

He was commissioned in 2011, to the rank of Inspector as the Senior Investigating Officer in the CFSEU-BC, the integrated Provincial anti-gang unit comprised of RCMP, Municipal Police Agencies and the Organized Crime Agency of BC.

Some of his earlier postings included: Team Commander, Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, Sergeant, Major Crimes, Burnaby RCMP Detachment, 2 i/c Burnaby and North Fraser Emergency Response Team (ERT), Assaulter, Sniper/Marksman, Team Leader, Strike Force Robbery Unit – surveillance and tactical intervention Patrol, Field Coach/Trainer.

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# Vancouver Whitecaps FC's Jeevan Badwal scores his third goal of the season

*Whitecaps FC BMO Academy graduate Jeevan Badwal scored his third goal of the season across all competitions, and fifth goal contribution (3G, 2A). Badwal is the only 'Caps play to score in the Concacaf Champions Cup, MLS regular season, and Leagues Cup*

**VANCOUVER, BC** – Vancouver Whitecaps FC put in another effort where they dominated the ball and controlled proceedings, but were bitten by three goals against the run of play, falling 3-1 to FC Juarez on August 7.

Both sides had looks on goal in the opening stages, with Juarez's José Luis Rodriguez and J.C. Ngando flashing efforts past the goal frame.

Whitecaps FC thought they opened the scoring inside the first 10 minutes, after Thomas Muller tapped in from the six-yard box, but the goal was chalked off as it was adjudged to have gone out of play.

That would not slow down the 'Caps, as Jeevan Badwal scored his third goal of the season in the 12th minute. Edier Ocampo made a dashing run into the box from the right and cut it back for Badwal to drill inside the far post.

Ocampo nearly made it a quick-fire second minutes later, poking a loose ball towards goal but it was well saved by



**Jeevan Badwal**

Photo: whitecapsfc.com

Juarez 'keeper Sebastian Jurado. Müller kept the pressure on in the 16th minute, latching onto a great threaded ball from Emmanuel Sabbi down the middle, but his side-footed shot was once again saved by Jurado. White followed that up with a power shot in a similar position four minutes later, but his effort went over the crossbar.

Whitecaps FC continued to control the match as the half wore on, searching for the second goal.

However, Juarez equalized from a rare foray into the 'Caps end in the 34th minute, as Ettson Ayon found the back of the net after a run in behind.

The Blue and White nearly retook the lead in the 40th minute after Ngando slipped Brian White into the box, but the American's shot was kick-saved by Jurado, with Müller's follow-up effort cleared off the line.

White would be forced to leave the match minutes later. Rayan Elloumi, fresh off the bench, almost got the go-ahead goal right at the end of the half, after 18-year-old WFC2 winger Johnny Selemanni curled a great cross into the box, but Elloumi's headed effort bounced agonizingly wide.

That meant that both sides would go into the break level.

Whitecaps FC started the second half with intent, as Ngando had a shot parried inside the box within the first five minutes of the restart.

Second half substitute Ryan Gauld was a whisker away from getting a superb assist in the 58th minute after diving for a cross on the left, but his pass flashed a fraction ahead of the onrushing Elloumi.

In the 68th minute, Ngando had another chance at the edge of the box, trying to curl an effort towards the far post, but it was once again parried wide by Jurado.

Despite keeping Juarez camped in their half for the majority of the game, the Mexican team got their second on the counter-attack after Oscar Estupinan streaked behind the 'Caps back line and fired in to make it 2-1 in the 74th minute.

Ocampo came close to equalizing in the 80th minute after a loose ball in the box, but his half-volley spun wide of the mark.

Whitecaps FC kept pushing hard as the game ticked close to the 90-minute mark, with the 'Caps overloading the Juarez box with players, but the Mexican team kept doing just enough to deter the equalizer.

Tristan Blackmon tried to flick a cross into the roof of the net in added time, but it popped up into the hands of Jurado. Tate Johnson followed that up with a stunning volley that was tipped just over the crossbar.

In the end, with Boehmer pushing forward, Juarez would add one more to seal a surprising victory.

IN February 2024, Vancouver Whitecaps FC signed Whitecaps FC BMO Academy midfielder Jeevan Badwal to a professional contract with Whitecaps FC 2 (WFC2). The product of Surrey first joined the Whitecaps FC BMO Academy as a 13-year-old in 2019, and became the 12th Canadian teenager to be signed to a professional contract since WFC2 began play in MLS NEXT Pro in 2022. Badwal made his first Vancouver Whitecaps FC and MLS start in April 2025.

(For reports of all Vancouver Whitecaps FC games, please visit the SPORTS section of our website [voiceonline.com](http://voiceonline.com))

## Man charged in street disorder incident in downtown Vancouver

A 19-year-old man is facing weapons charges after an incident in the Granville Entertainment District.

Shortly before 1:50 a.m. on Wednesday, a shop employee intervened after observing a man knocking over tables and showing people a knife. The suspect then started stabbing the store sign so the employee walked away and called police.

Officers located a man matching the suspect's description about two blocks away and took him into custody. Police also recovered a knife.

Noah Kawerninski, 19, has been charged with one count of assault with a weapon and one count of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose. He remains in custody pending a bail hearing.

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# Correctional Officer Ramandeep Kaur Maan of Edmonton Institution for Women killed in car crash

## GoFundMe set up for Maan raises more than \$41,000



**THE** Correctional Service of Canada on August 7 identified those who were killed a day earlier in a rural Alberta crash as Correctional Officers Ramandeep Kaur Maan and Nicolae Serban of Edmonton Institution for Women and inmate Kiara Mooswa.

A member of the South Asian community told the media that Maan, 25, had come to Canada as a student. After completing her studies in Manitoba, she moved to Alberta.

A member of the South Asian community told the media that Maan, 25, had come to Canada as an international student. She moved to Alberta after completing her studies in Manitoba.

Police say that a box truck collided with a Correctional Service Canada minivan that was transferring an inmate at an intersection about 200 kilometres southeast of Edmonton. All three in the van died at the scene. The driver of the box truck sustained minor injuries.

The Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada said in a statement: "It is with profound sadness that we mourn the loss of Correctional Officers Nicolae Serban and Ramandeep Kaur Maan of Edmonton Institution for Women, who tragically lost their lives yesterday while carrying out their duties in service to Canada. Their commitment to public safety, professionalism, and dedication to their work exemplified the values of the Correctional Service of Canada."

"Today, our thoughts are with Nick and Ramandeep's families, friends, and colleagues, who are facing an unimaginable loss. We honour them not only as Correctional Officers, but as valued members of our CSC family whose lives, service, and contributions have made a lasting impact on those who knew and worked alongside them."

"This tragedy has affected many families and communities. We also mourn the loss of Kiara Mooswa, who was in our care and custody at the time of the accident, and extend our condolences to her family, friends, and community."

**MEANWHILE**, Maan's brother Kamalpreet Singh Maan organized a GoFundMe to support their family. It had raised more than \$18,500 of its goal of \$40,000 by Saturday night and more than \$36,000 by Sunday afternoon. On Monday, Kamalpreet announced: "We have received enough support to help our family get through the initial expenses, so we will now be closing the fundraiser." He thanked everyone who had helped raise the money: \$43,663. He wrote: "Ramandeep was only 25 years old. Born and raised in Gudhe village, Ludhiana, Punjab, she came to Canada as an international student with big dreams, a strong work ethic, and a determination to build a better future. Through years of hard work and sacrifice, she completed her education, established herself in Alberta, and recently began her career as a Correctional Officer with the Correctional Service of Canada."

Kamalpreet said: "To the public, she was a

correctional officer. To us, she was so much more.

"She was a loving daughter who spoke to our parents every day, a caring sister who always put family first, and a loyal friend who touched countless lives with her kindness, humility, and beautiful spirit. Ramandeep was the pride of our family and an inspiration to many young people who leave their homes in pursuit of education and opportunity abroad."

"The sudden loss of Ramandeep has left our family devastated emotionally and financially. We are now facing unexpected expenses related to funeral and memorial arrangements, family travel, and other costs associated with this unimaginable tragedy."

"On behalf of my family, I am humbly



**Kamandeep Kaur Maan** Photos: Correctional Service of Canada's X / GoFundMe)

asking for your support during this difficult time. Any contribution, no matter the amount, will help ease the financial burden and allow us to focus on honoring Ramandeep's memory.

"If you are unable to donate, we kindly ask that you share this fundraiser and keep our family in your prayers."

"We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming love, support, and condolences we have received from friends, CSC colleagues, the Punjabi community, and people across Canada. Your kindness reminds us that Ramandeep's life made a lasting impact on so many people."

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# Former councillor Vera LeFranc and realtor Michael Dunn are Surrey Connect's new candidates

**SURREY** Mayor Brenda Locke and Surrey Connect on Tuesday announced two experienced community leaders as candidates for Surrey City Council: Vera LeFranc and Michael Dunn.

LeFranc is a former city councillor first elected in 2014. She holds a degree in business and has served as CEO, COO, and Executive Director of organizations focused on housing, health services, and business enterprises. She was named one of the top 10 inaugural Municipal Innovators by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

"I am so grateful to be joining this team," said LeFranc. "Over the last four years, I've watched Mayor Brenda Locke and the Surrey Connect-led Council deliver for Surrey. Having held multiple roles in Surrey-based non-profits, I have seen firsthand how much Mayor Locke and her team care about our City's residents. They are supporting non-profits like never before, and they are never more than a call away."

"Some may ask why I am running with Surrey Connect and not with Surrey First. Let me tell you: Under Linda Annis' leadership, Surrey First is no longer the party of Dianne Watts or Linda Hepner. It's no longer the party that I ran with in 2014."

"Surrey residents saw reports that Linda Annis instructed the police chief to remove impaired-driving check stops near her home and a local golf course. There is never



**Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke (far right) announces new Surrey Connect candidates Michael Dunn and Vera LeFranc (first and second from left, respectively). Also seen in the photo is Councillor Pardeep Kooner.**

*Photo by SUKHWANT SINGH DHILLON*

an appropriate time for impaired driving or interfering in police services. That kind of judgment does not reflect the leadership Surrey deserves.

"Brenda and her team are delivering for Surrey, and they're focused on major community infrastructure like the Newton Community Centre – delivering a new pool, library, and so much more for Newton and all of Surrey. Mayor Locke has proven herself as a leader. She has made the tough decisions, she has shown up for her community, and she has led a talented team who have delivered for Surrey. I am ready to join them and continue this work."

Dunn is a longtime Surrey resident with degrees in economics and law. After building a successful law practice, he transitioned to being a realtor based in South Surrey to spend more time with his two children. He has coached tee-ball and served on the Squadron Sponsoring Committee for his local Air Cadets.

At the announcement, Dunn said, "Over the last four years, I have seen the work Surrey Connect has put into building Surrey. And it's clear they have the plan to continue delivering for Surrey. Hiring 560 additional public safety personnel, building a new 15-acre police training campus, and a new three-sheet ice arena in South Surrey. And just a couple weeks ago, Mayor Locke promised to build a new aquatic centre in Cloverdale, a facility that will make swimming more accessible for Cloverdale families while taking pressure off the over-subscribed Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre."

"Surrey Connect will deliver all this because they fixed the fiscal mess left behind by the previous administration. This team has proven time and time again that it can deliver for Surrey with transparency and ethics. And that's why I'm here today. I'm ready to join that team. Together, we are going to deliver for Surrey."

Locke welcomed both candidates, stating: "Thank you, Vera and Michael. We look forward to having you join us on Council."



**Surrey Connect Team: (L-R) Michael Dunn, Gordon Hepner, Rona Tepper, Pardeep Kooner, Mayor Brenda Locke, Noemi Victorino, Rob Stutt, Vera LeFranc and Harry Bains.**

*Photo: Surrey Connect*



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# Reducing health risks from wildfire smoke

**PEOPLE** throughout B.C. can take steps to reduce their exposure to wildfire smoke when air quality worsens, says the Ministry of Health.

Short-term smoke exposure can cause headaches, irritated eyes, sore throat, coughing and wheezing. It can also worsen existing heart and lung conditions. In the long term, smoke exposure can contribute to the development of chronic diseases, such as heart disease and dementia.

Some people are at greater risk of serious acute health effects, including people with asthma, heart disease or diabetes, as well as people who are pregnant, infants, young children and older adults.

The best way to reduce risk from the impacts of wildfire smoke is to reduce exposure:

\* Know the forecast for the area. Use the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) or



screenshot / BC Wildfire Service video

AQmap.ca to stay up to date on local and regional air-quality conditions.

\* Create a clean-air space at home. Use commercial or do-it-yourself portable air cleaners or HVAC filtration systems with windows and doors closed, as long as it doesn't get too hot.

\* Keep cool. If temperatures are high and air quality is poor, be aware that heat poses a larger risk than smoke.

\* Consider moving activities indoors and, where possible, spend time in cooler, indoor public spaces such as

libraries, community centres or shopping malls.

\* Check if your community has set up clean-air spaces for people to get a break from the smoke.

\* Reduce the amount of time spent outdoors and avoid strenuous exercise.

\* Consider wearing a well-fitted N95/KN95/KF94 respirator mask to filter air, if being outdoors is necessary.

\* Outdoor workers should follow workplace guidance for working in wildfire smoke.

\* Avoid activities that require a source of combustion, like smoking and vaping and lighting candles or a wood-burning stove.

People at greater risk of serious health effects are encouraged to take extra precautions. For instance, people with chronic health conditions may want to review their management

plans and ensure they have an adequate supply of medications. Parents and caregivers are asked to pay closer attention to infants and young children, while older adults and pregnant people are encouraged to take additional precautions during smoky periods.

People can visit public spaces such as community centres and libraries, which tend to have cleaner, cooler indoor air. People are encouraged to check with their local government or First Nation for more information about clean-air locations in their community.

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness can reimburse communities for incremental costs associated with opening and running clean-air centres, as well as extending hours of operation of public spaces to help people reduce exposure to wildfire smoke.

People experiencing symptoms such as shortness of breath, severe coughing, dizziness, chest pain or heart palpitations should contact HealthLink BC at 811, speak with their health-care provider or seek medical attention. Call 911 for a medical emergency.

For more information about wildfire smoke, air quality and preparing for wildfire season, visit resources from the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, HealthLink BC and Health Canada.

## WorkSafeBC reminds employers to protect workers from wildfire smoke



**WITH** wildfire conditions changing across parts of the province, WorkSafeBC is reminding employers to assess wildfire-related risks and take steps to protect workers from smoke exposure and other potential hazards. Wildfire smoke contains fine particulate matter that can travel long distances and affect workers far from active fire zones. Exposure can cause coughing, throat irritation, headaches, and shortness of breath, and may pose greater risks for workers with underlying health conditions and those performing physically demanding work outdoors.

"Air quality conditions can change quickly during wildfire season," says Todd McDonald, Head of Prevention Services at WorkSafeBC. "Employers should monitor

Photo: WorkSafeBC  
closely and be prepared to adjust work activities as needed to protect workers."

In areas where wildfire activity may escalate, employers should also review their emergency preparedness and response plans. Employers are required to assess workplace risks where evacuation or rescue may be necessary and ensure workers are aware of evacuation procedures, emergency communication methods, and designated escape routes.

Employers are required to assess workplace risks and implement appropriate measures to reduce exposure. When wildfire smoke is present, there are several actions employers can consider, including:

\* Learn the common symptoms of smoke

CONTINUED ON 7

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## WorkSafeBC urges employers to review wildfire evacuation plans

WITH wildfire activity intensifying across British Columbia, WorkSafeBC is reminding employers to review their emergency evacuation plans and prepare for situations where workers may need to evacuate a workplace. When local emergencies occur, including wildfires, employers should be prepared to support the safe evacuation of workers.

"Employers should understand the risks that may impact their workplaces and ensure they have appropriate emergency procedures in place," says Todd McDonald, Head of Prevention Services at WorkSafeBC. "Emergencies and disasters can happen any time and without warning. The more prepared you are for them, the better you'll be able to respond." Preparing for an evacuation:

- \* Identify when workers may need to evacuate: Consider wildfires and other emergencies that could affect the workplace, including risks specific to the location.

- \* Have clear evacuation routes: Identify primary and alternate routes to safely leave the worksite and make sure exits are clearly marked, well-lit and free of obstructions.

- \* Have a way to alert workers: Make sure workers know how they will be notified if they need to evacuate and what an evacuation alert or order means.

- \* Assign responsibilities: Make sure workers know who is coordinating the

evacuation and who will help others get to safety.

- \* Plan for shutting down equipment and work processes: Identify what may need to be shut down, how it can be done safely, and who is responsible. Consider materials or processes that could become hazardous when exposed to fire. However, workers should not delay evacuation to shut down equipment or complete other tasks when there is an immediate threat to their safety.

- \* Plan for everyone: Consider the needs of workers, visitors and others who may need assistance during an evacuation, including people with disabilities and those who do not speak English.

- \* Keep workers informed and prepared: Review the plan with workers, provide training and hold evacuation drills at least once a year. Discuss emergency plans seasonally or when the potential for an emergency increases.

Wildfire smoke can affect workers even when a fire is not close to the workplace. Employers should monitor local air quality and adjust work as conditions change. This may include relocating or rescheduling work, reducing strenuous activity and taking steps to improve indoor air quality. WorkSafeBC has resources to help employers prepare for wildfire season, including information on emergency planning and response, emergency evacuation planning and wildfire smoke.

## Penticton RCMP seek witnesses, issues caution regarding Summerland (Bald Range) wildfire

THE Penticton South Okanagan Similkameen Regional RCMP Detachment is seeking the public's assistance as investigators work to identify the source of the Summerland (Bald Range) wildfire. On August 7, the Penticton RCMP General Investigative Services (GIS) team responded to the reports of a fast-moving wildfire in the Summerland area. Investigators are working to determine the cause of the wildfire and are examining all reports of suspicious activity which may have led to the start of the fire. Investigators are interested in speaking to witnesses, who may have observed any actions or activities around Princeton-Summerland Road and Bathville Road, near and in the Crump Recreation site and the Trout Creek Recreation site. Police are looking to review any dashcam footage, videos, photos and information from Friday, August 7, beginning in the afternoon hours.

Police are aware of several videos and misinformation circulating on social media in which an individual is observed lighting



Photo: RCMP

a non-lethal wildlife deterrent device (commonly known as a bear banger). Investigators have identified the individual in question, who is considered a witness and not a suspect. Investigators have determined the incident on video occurred kilometers away from the fire origin area. The public is cautioned against making false statements and to stop the

continuation of misinformation on social media.

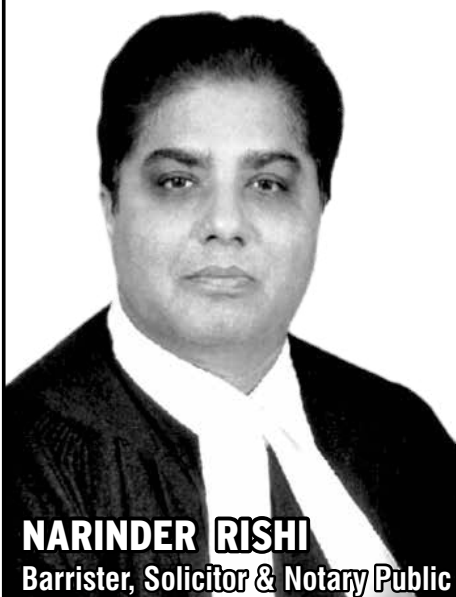
The evacuation order for the District of Summerland remains in effect. Penticton RCMP, with supports from neighbouring RCMP detachments and Natural Resource Officers (NRO) from BC Conservation Services who are actively patrolling areas currently within the evacuation order, are checking in on properties and businesses.

Police are reminding residents the area remains closed for access and the closure is being strictly enforced by RCMP officers at checkpoints and patrols. On the afternoon of Sunday, August 9, one man was arrested within the evacuated order area of Summerland.

Anyone with information regarding the origin of the Summerland (Bald Range) wildfire should contact the Penticton South Okanagan Similkameen Regional RCMP Detachment at 250-492-4300. Digital footage, videos and photos can be submitted by email at [baldrangereporting@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:baldrangereporting@rcmp-grc.gc.ca).

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### CONTINUED FROM 6

exposure, including sore throat, runny nose, eye irritation, mild cough, wheezy breathing, and headaches.

- \* Monitor local air quality advisories and forecasts.

- \* Relocate or reschedule work to avoid periods of heavier smoke exposure.

- \* Reduce physically demanding tasks when air quality deteriorates.

- \* Assign alternate work to employees who may be more sensitive to smoke.

- \* Provide appropriate respiratory protection when required and ensure respirators are fit tested. Employers should also take steps to reduce smoke exposure in indoor

workplaces by:

- \* Ensuring HVAC systems are operating properly and filters are clean.

- \* Using portable air cleaners where appropriate.

- \* Consulting with qualified ventilation specialists before modifying building ventilation systems.

- \* Advising workers who drive as part of their job to keep windows closed and use the recirculation setting in their vehicles.

Workers should report symptoms or concerns to their employer and follow established workplace procedures for responding to deteriorating air quality.

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# Abdul Ghafoori, wanted in homicide of Himanshi Khurana of Toronto, arrested

**TORONTO** Police have announced that Abdul Ghafoori, 32, of Toronto, wanted in the homicide of Himanshi Khurana, 30, was located and arrested on August 7.

Police said: "Members of the Toronto Police Fugitive Squad and Homicide and Missing Persons Unit liaised with national and international policing partners to facilitate the accused's return to Canada."



**Abdul Ghafoori**  
Photos: Toronto Police

Toronto Police said that they responded to a call for a missing person in the Strachan Avenue and Wellington Street West area last year on December 19 at approximately 10:41 p.m. On December 20 at approximately 6:30 a.m., officers located the missing female deceased inside a residence. The death was classified as a homicide. Police said the victim and suspect were

known to each other.

The suspect was identified Ghafoori and he was wanted on a Canada-wide warrant for first-degree murder.

The Indian Consulate General in Toronto said in a post on X last year: "We are deeply saddened and shocked by the murder of Ms. Himanshi Khurana, a young Indian national, in Toronto. We extend our deepest condolences to her bereaved family during this moment of profound grief. The Consulate has been in close touch with the matter over the past few days, and all possible assistance is being extended to the family in close coordination with local authorities."



**Himanshi Khurana**

## 22-year-old man charged in Edmonton murder of Sukhjit Randhawa

**EDMONTON** Police homicide investigators have charged a 22-year-old male in relation to a homicide in central Edmonton.

On Thursday, August 6, the Edmonton Medical Examiner's Office completed an autopsy and determined 48-year-old Sukhjit Randhawa's manner of death is homicide. The cause of death is being withheld for investigative purposes.

Nicholas Butler-Chowace, 22, has been charged with second-degree murder.

On Wednesday, August 5, just before 1 p.m., Downtown Branch patrol officers responded to the report of an injured male in the area of 112 Avenue and 82 Street. Upon arrival, they located a 48-year-old male suffering from serious injuries. EMS responded, treated and transported the male to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. The EPS Homicide Section took over the investigation.

Investigators are not seeking any additional suspects at this time.

## Man shot in Surrey's Whalley neighbourhood

**SURREY** Police Service (SPS) is investigating a late night shooting on Friday, August 7 outside a residence in Surrey's Whalley neighbourhood, where one victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries. At approximately 11:44 p.m., SPS frontline officers responded to reports of a shooting near a residence in the area of 88 Avenue and 127 Street where one person was injured and the suspect had fled the scene. Upon arrival, police located an adult male victim with a gunshot wound. The victim was transported

to hospital by BC EHS.

SPS's Major Crime Section has taken over the lead in the investigation.

The investigation is in its early stages; however, it is believed to be targeted and not extortion-related.

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's non-emergency line at 604-599-0502, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or [www.solvecrime.ca](http://www.solvecrime.ca) and quote file number 26-83549 (SP).

## Man injured in early morning shooting in Surrey's Cloverdale

**SURREY** Police Service (SPS) is investigating an early Wednesday morning shooting outside a residence in the Cloverdale neighbourhood, where one victim sustained a non-life-threatening injury. On August 12 at approximately 3:52 a.m., SPS frontline officers responded to reports of a shooting near a residence in the area of 60 Avenue and 177 Street where two people were shot at, with one sustaining minor

injuries. The suspects fled the scene. Police located an adult male victim with an injury that did not require medical intervention.

SPS's Major Crime Section (MCS) has taken over the lead on the investigation, and the Integrated Forensic Identification Services (IFIS) was in the area processing physical and digital evidence. Police said the investigation is in its early

**CONTINUED ON 9**

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**Surjit Bhandal**

## Alleged South Asian sexual assault suspect identified by Surrey Police

**SURREY** Police Service (SPS) announce on Wednesday night that the person who was the subject of a public appeal in an alleged sexual assault that occurred on Sunday, August 9 has now been identified by police. At approximately 8:11 p.m. on August 9, SPS frontline officers responded to a report of a sexual assault in Bear Creek Park in Surrey. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the female victim who advised she was groped

by an adult male and provided a description of the suspect who had fled from the area.

Officers conducted extensive patrols of the park and surrounding areas but were unable to locate the suspect. Fortunately, the victim was not physically injured.

SPS released images of the suspect on Wednesday morning in hopes that a member of the public would be able to identify the suspect.

**CONTINUED FROM 8**

stages; however, it is believed to be targeted and not extortion-related.

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's non-emergency line at 604-599-0502, and quote file number 26-85268 (SP).

## New Westminster Police warn of fraudulent QR codes on parking meters

**THE** New Westminster Police Department is warning the public about fraudulent QR codes attached to parking meters throughout the city.

Police have received numerous calls from victims who have scanned the QR codes labelled "scan to pay" on the front of the meters, and were directed to a seemingly legitimate site to enter their credit card information to complete the parking transaction. The victims later noticed that they had large amounts of money withdrawn from their personal bank accounts. One victim had \$2,000 withdrawn from their account.

New Westminster Police Department officers are investigating the source of these stickers and encouraging anyone who has used them to pay for parking in the last five days to check their bank accounts and report any suspicious activity to police and their banks.

"Our officers have already removed numerous stickers on meters



throughout the city," said Media Relations Officer Sgt. Andrew Leaver. "We would like to remind the public to be vigilant. While the stickers may appear legitimate, acceptable forms of payment are printed on signs above or on the meter."

*Photo: New Westminster Police*

The City of New Westminster does not use QR codes as a payment method for parking. The New Westminster Police Department asks community members to share news of this scam with friends and loved ones.

## Body of missing 13-year-old female recovered from Cultus Lake

**ON** Monday, August 10, shortly before 2 p.m., the RCMP Underwater Recovery Team located the body of the missing 13-year-old female who entered the waters of Cultus Lake on August 8. The investigation has now been turned over to the BC

Coroner Service.

"Our thoughts and deepest condolences go out to the family and friends of the deceased," says Cpl. Carmen Kiener of Chilliwack RCMP. "This is a heartbreaking outcome, and we are deeply sorry for their loss."

At approximately 1:21 p.m., on August 8, Chilliwack RCMP received a report of the female who was reportedly floating on a paddleboard when she reportedly suffered a medical emergency. She was not wearing a life jacket and is believed to

have entered the water as she fell off the paddleboard.

Chilliwack RCMP thanked all partner agencies and volunteers who dedicated their time, resources and expertise throughout this response to locate the youth.

Chilliwack RCMP also reminds the public to take precautions around the water. Always wear a properly fitted life jacket, ensure you have the necessary swimming skills before entering the water, and use the buddy system and never swim alone.

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# Coquitlam RCMP remove 12 unsafe commercial vehicles from roadways



Photo: RCMP

ON July 29, Coquitlam RCMP conducted a Commercial Vehicle Safety check in collaboration with officers from Integrated Road Safety Unit, Vancouver Police Department, Port Moody Police, New Westminster Police, Coquitlam Bylaws, Township of Langley Bylaws and WorkSafeBC.

A total of 20 commercial vehicles were inspected with 12 of them being put out of service due to serious safety issues. A total of 47 vehicle defects were noted and 17 tickets issued. Police note that collaborative enforcement initiatives between police and bylaw agencies strengthen

operational effectiveness and consistency. Such partnerships are especially valuable in commercial vehicle enforcement, given that transport operators routinely travel between municipalities across the Lower Mainland.

"We would like to thank those drivers that had safe vehicles on the roadway today. Coquitlam RCMP strives to educate all drivers on how to keep our roadways safe and by doing this with our partner agencies we are able to promote safe driving practices, increase awareness of vehicle safety requirements, and improve compliance throughout the Lower Mainland," says Constable Jennifer Barker, Coquitlam RCMP

Traffic Services. Coquitlam RCMP say they remain committed to enhancing road safety and protecting all users of the transportation network, including motorists, commercial vehicle operators, cyclists, and pedestrians. Through a combination of targeted enforcement, public education, and community engagement initiatives, they continue to take a proactive approach to reducing collisions and promoting safe driving behaviours.

## Public tips lead to arrest in Kitsilano assault on 73-year-old man

VANCOUVER Police announced on Tuesday that they have identified and charged a suspect in connection with the assault of a 73-year-old man in Kitsilano after they issued a media release on Monday. Police were called on July 31 after the 73-year-old man was allegedly assaulted by an unidentified man near West Broadway and MacDonald Street shortly before 4 p.m. Investigators believe the suspect was yelling at passersby when the victim approached him and asked him to stop yelling and move along. The two men became involved in a verbal altercation, during which the suspect allegedly pushed the victim to

the ground. The victim suffered head injuries as a result of the assault. On Monday afternoon, police received multiple tips from members of the public reporting sightings of a man matching the description of the suspect near West 4th Avenue and Vine Street. Officers attended the area and arrested the man without incident. "We want to thank the public for all the tips we received in relation to this assault," says Constable Megan Lui. "We were able to quickly locate and arrest a suspect." Paul Henry Desroches, 53, has been charged with one count of assault causing bodily harm. He remains in custody pending a bail hearing.

## Surrey man charged in Internet Child Exploitation Investigation

CHARGES have been sworn against Wade Bruce Craig, 37, following a Surrey Police Service (SPS) investigation into alleged possession and accessing child sexual abuse and exploitation material (CSAEM). In May 2025, SPS Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) officers commenced an investigation into reports of a suspect possessing and accessing CSAEM online. In August 2025, SPS ICE and other Special Investigative Section (SIS) officers executed a search warrant at a residence in Surrey,

where evidence was located and seized. During the course of the investigation, investigators located over 14,000 CSAEM images and videos. On August 4, 2026, BC Prosecution Service approved two Criminal Code charges for Craig that include: \* possession of child sexual abuse and exploitation material \* accessing child sexual abuse and exploitation material Craig was arrested on August 6 and released with conditions. His next court appearance is August 27.

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## Maple Ridge RCMP say officers acted reasonably in their response to bear attack

MAPLE Ridge RCMP said on Monday that their officers "acted reasonably based on the circumstances and information available to them to protect public safety" when they shot and killed a bear they suspected was the one that attacked a three-year-old child on Sunday. Necropsy results indicate the dead bear was not responsible for the attack. The RCMP said in a statement: "Maple Ridge RCMP is aware of the community's concern regarding the recent bear attack and police response on August 9, 2026. While we value our local wildlife, our officers must also act when faced with an immediate threat to public safety. Following the attack on a three-year-old child, a bear was observed multiple times in the same area within approximately 40 minutes, including on residential properties where people were outside. Based on the information available at the time, officers reasonably believed it was the same bear involved in the attack and made the decision to dispatch the animal to prevent further injury or loss of life. "We have since been advised by the BC Conservation Officer Service that necropsy results indicate the deceased bear was not responsible for the attack. However, that information was not available at the time, and officers acted reasonably based on the circumstances and information available to them to protect public safety. The loss of any wildlife is significant, and decisions of this nature are never taken lightly. Our thoughts remain with the child, their family, and all those affected by this incident." As the VOICE reported on Sunday, at approximately 11:30 a.m. on August 9, Maple Ridge RCMP responded to a report of three-year-old child being attacked by a bear



Photo: RCMP

outside her family's residence in the 12300 block of 240 Street. Officers immediately arrived on scene and secured the area for Emergency Health Services. The child was transported to hospital via air ambulance out of an abundance of caution due to her age. She sustained non-life-altering injuries. While officers were on scene, the bear returned to the residence and the immediate area multiple times, showing a high degree of interest in the location. At approximately 12 p.m., officers came into contact with the bear. As the bear had showed signs of aggression and already attacked a small child, officers made the decision to discharge a firearm in an effort to protect public safety in the immediate area. The bear was struck but continued to flee into a wooded area. BC Conservation Officers soon arrived on scene and were assisted by RCMP officers with attempts to re-locate the animal as well as advise residents to remain in their homes.

## 68-year-old female pedestrian killed in North Burnaby collision

BURNABY RCMP are investigating a fatal collision involving a pedestrian in North Burnaby and investigators are seeking witnesses and video in relation to the incident. On Monday, August 10 just after 6:30 p.m., frontline officers responded to a collision at Pender Street and MacDonald Avenue. The pedestrian, a 68-year-old Burnaby woman, suffered serious injuries. She received emergency medical aid at the scene and was transported to hospital but did not survive. The driver stayed at the scene and is cooperating with the investigation.

The Burnaby RCMP's Criminal Collision Investigation Team (CCIT) and the Integrated Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Service (ICARS) attended the scene to collect evidence. Work is continuing to determine the circumstances leading up to the fatal collision. Investigators are looking to speak with witnesses and are also seeking any security camera footage or dash camera video from the area between approximately 6:25 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. on August 10. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Burnaby RCMP at 604-646-9999.

## Charges approved following break-in to Chinatown business

CROWN Counsel approved one count of break-and-enter of a commercial business after Vancouver Police arrested a suspect on Monday. Just after 7 a.m., the Vancouver Police Department responded to a report of a broken window in a business near Georgia Street and Gore Avenue. An employee reported seeing a man smash the window and enter the premises.

VPD officers attended and searched the building. After reviewing video footage, they believed the man was still inside. Another witness observed a man matching the description of the suspect on a second-storey fire escape. The officers located the man and took him into custody without incident. Raymond Chan, 28, has been charged with one count of break-and-enter.

## Police vehicle damaged during incident at Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver

A man has been taken into custody following mischief to a police vehicle in North Vancouver.

On Monday, August 10, North Vancouver RCMP received a call for assistance from BC Emergency Health Services regarding an aggressive patient following a medical call at Lonsdale Quay. Shortly after 8 p.m., the first officer arrived on scene, and the man who was the subject of the medical call immediately climbed onto the hood of the police vehicle and repeatedly punched and kicked the windshield, causing significant damage.

More officers arrived on scene and ultimately took the man into custody.

The male was taken to hospital for treatment of injuries he sustained while attempting to break the windshield. The officer was also taken to hospital as a precaution after being exposed to debris from the shattered windshield.

The suspect, who is known to police, is facing several charges relating to the damaged police vehicle.

"This was a dynamic and frightening situation for many bystanders who witnessed the incident in a very populated area," said Cpl. Mansoor Sahak, Media Relations Officer for North



Photo: RCMP

Vancouver RCMP. "We are extremely grateful that no one was seriously injured as a result of this incident." Anyone who witnessed or has video of the incident and has not spoken to police is asked to contact the North Vancouver RCMP at 604-985-1311 and quote file 26-16644.

## Nanda Jewellers Inc., Located at #6696 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C.V5X 3H2 is looking to fill in the position of Store Manager.

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- Develop and implement sales strategies, including both online and in-store marketing initiatives;
- Establish and achieve monthly and quarterly sales targets;
- Lead, coach and train sales staff to improve product knowledge and selling skills;
- Prepare and coordinate staff schedules;
- Recruit, hire and oversee training of new employees;
- Resolve customer complaints and ensure high standards of customer service;
- Monitor inventory levels, order merchandise and manage stock control;
- Ensure compliance with company policies, procedures and operational standards

### Job Requirements:

- 1 years or more of previous sales experience in the Jewellery industry is required;
- Candidate must be willing to work independently and manage a team with high level of accuracy;
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# Nearly 120 homes on the way to the Downtown Eastside

PEOPLE in the Downtown Eastside helped shape the creation of new multi-use housing and community spaces that are being built to provide urgently needed rental housing for individuals, families and multigenerational households.

"Through consultation with residents and local groups, this new housing has been designed in partnership to meet the unique needs of the community it serves," said Christine Boyle, B.C. Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, on Tuesday. "By taking a heritage-conservation approach that prioritizes continuity and connection, this project honours the neighbourhood's rich history, celebrates the diverse communities that have shaped the Downtown Eastside and builds on the community-based resources already in place."

Located at 172 Cordova Street, this project is the result of a partnership between the Province through BC Housing, the federal government through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the City of Vancouver, the UBC Learning Exchange and MAC Development and Housing Society.

When built, the 11-storey building will have nine storeys of housing made up of a variety of unit sizes, from studios to three-bedroom homes for families and multi-generational living.

"Our government is committed to helping communities develop local solutions to housing need and homelessness," said Hedy Fry, MP for Vancouver Centre, on behalf of Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic

Development Canada. "These 118 homes will have a real impact on the families who will be living here, and with every project like this one, we're getting closer to the country we want – one where everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home."

The project design prioritizes community-building and heritage conservation. More than 30 conversations with residents and community groups informed the project concept and were incorporated into the overall design.

Developed by a team that included a civic historian and Indigenous consultant, the function and appearance of the building aim to celebrate the histories of Indigenous, Chinese-Canadian, Japanese-Canadian and other communities that have long called the Downtown Eastside home and are expected to be reflected among the future residents of the building.

The building will include four primary types of spaces:

\* Residential: MAC will own the building and operate the rental homes. MAC society is the result of a partnership between Lu'ma Native Housing Society, Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House and Affordable Housing Non-Profit Rental Association, bringing together more than 100 years of combined experience.

\* Educational: UBC has bought approximately 930 square metres (10,000 square feet) to operate the UBC Learning Exchange on the ground and second floor. The UBC Learning Exchange provides low-barrier, free community programs, experiential learning opportunities and support for community-driven research.

\* Community theatre: a community theatre space will be located on the ground floor and is intended to be leased by a non-profit society to provide space for use by local community arts groups.

\* Retail Spaces: ground-floor commercial units will be leased to local retail vendors, with funding to be invested back into the building upon completion.

This project is part of a \$19-billion housing investment by the B.C. government. Since 2017, the Province has more than 99,000 homes that have been delivered or are underway, including almost 13,000 homes in Vancouver.

Marcel Lawson Swain, director, MAC Development and Housing Society, said: "The Downtown Eastside deserves sustainable housing that honours its community. Uniting the operational expertise of our nonprofit founders with financial backing from CMHC and BC Builds proves collaboration drives



Photo credit: MA+HG Architects

lasting change. This development includes community spaces designed to foster belonging, giving residents not just a roof, but a stable foundation for opportunity and generational growth." Benoit-Antoine Bacon, president and vice-chancellor, University of British Columbia, said: "UBC has long been committed to working with the people and communities of Vancouver. We are proud to be a core long-term partner in a new project that further strengthens this work by providing a new home for the UBC Learning Exchange, advancing reciprocal learning and research, and meaningful community engagement in the Downtown Eastside."

## Vancouver completing major sewer infrastructure upgrades

THE City of Vancouver announced on Tuesday that it is completing three major sewer upgrade projects as part of an \$18 million investment in essential infrastructure to improve water quality, reduce flood risk and strengthen the resilience of the city's sewer system for generations to come. Delivered under the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, the sewer upgrades replace aging



Photo: City of Vancouver

CONTINUED ON 15

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Age: 58, Height: 6'2"  
Weight: 190lbs,  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Blue, Wanted: Assault  
Warrant in effect:  
August 10, 2026  
Parole Jurisdiction:  
Chilliwack, BC



Name: BRACE, Roger  
Age: 65, Height: 5'10"  
Weight: 186lbs,  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Blue  
Wanted: Unlawfully at Large  
Warrant in effect: April 7, 2026  
Parole Jurisdiction: Hope, BC



Name: BLOOM, Charles  
Age: 58, Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 150lbs, Hair: Black/Grey  
Eyes: Brown, Wanted: Assault by  
Choking, Aggravated Assault, and  
Assault with Weapon  
Warrant in effect: August 10, 2026  
Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, BC

### CRIME OF THE WEEK

**SPS Investigating Shooting in Whalley Neighbourhood**  
**Location: Surrey, BC**

SURREY Police Service (SPS) is investigating a late-night shooting outside a residence in Surrey's Whalley neighbourhood, where one victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries. On August 7, 2026, at approximately 11:44 pm, SPS Frontline officers responded to reports of a shooting near a residence in the area of 88 Avenue and 127 Street in Surrey, where one person was injured and the suspect had fled the scene. Upon arrival, police located an adult male



victim with a gun shot wound. The victim was transported to hospital by BC EHS. SPS's Major Crime Section has taken over the lead on the investigation. The investigation is in its early stages however it is believed to be targeted and not extortion related. 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 and quote file number 26-83549 (SP).

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# Viksit Bharat 2047: A roadmap to become a developed nation

IT is creditable that the Government of India has set for itself and the nation a crucial goal: That India should become Viksit Bharat by 2047, which would be the one hundredth year anniversary of India's independence. While there is general agreement that the term Viksit Bharat denotes a developed country, it is still necessary for public policy purposes to break the concept down to know what it entails. What follows is an attempt to do so.

\* A 10 trillion-dollar economy: While India can be legitimately proud of being the fourth largest economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the world, the fact remains that for a population that is approaching 1.5 billion, the present GDP of \$4.5 trillion is a little below par. So, if India must become "Viksit" in the real sense of the term, the GDP must grow significantly to attain the figure of at least 10 trillion dollars. This is entirely achievable if we can do a couple of things. First, 40 per cent of our GDP is foreign trade, so our share of international trade must simply double. In particular, our share of global exports, which hovers around 2 per cent, should rise to 10 per cent. Second, our Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which for the latest year is a little short of \$ 100 billion, must also grow manifold. In order for the above two things to happen, Government of India must carry out deep seated economic reforms in areas such as land, labour, power, agriculture, infrastructure and regulatory obstacles.

\* Inclusive Economic

Growth: While there is no question that the GDP must accelerate, as mentioned above, that alone is not enough. Growth must be inclusive which is to say that it must percolate to the downtrodden people who are at the bottom of the pyramid. The government has conceived excellent schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. But going beyond that, job creation for the youth must become a national mantra for both the Central and State Governments. Since it is not possible for the Government alone or even the organized sector to provide all the jobs that are necessary, it is vitally important to enable an ecosystem where the youth become entrepreneurs and job creators rather than be mere job seekers. Present levels of economic inequality are unsustainable and efforts must be made to make the society much more egalitarian.

\* Skilling: It is well recognized that our education system relies heavily on rote learning and it churns out thousands of graduates every year who may not be immediately employable. In this context, skilling and re-skilling of graduates becomes crucial. The idea of vocational training, industry-academic collaboration and imparting tech skills (including Artificial Intelligence) for our graduates must assume mission-mode importance. Spending on education, in both the public and private sector must increase exponentially, especially

in states that lag the national average. In parallel, Research and Development must be given prime importance in all relevant institutions. It is indeed true that a population that is close to 1.5 billion can be a demographic dividend for India. But that is true only if the population is skilled enough to face the challenges of a knowledge economy.

\* Health: India's healthcare system is undergoing dramatic transformation, driven by digitalization and by infrastructure expansion. But challenges remain on account of rising medical costs and a growing chronic disease burden. Government has undertaken significant efforts such as Ayushman Bharat and Ayushman Arogya Mandir schemes which have made a big impact on providing healthcare in the country. Medical college seats have more than doubled since 2014, in an attempt to bridge the doctor-patient gap. Successful attempts have also been made to promote India as a global hub for medical tourism. Despite all this, serious challenges remain.



BY DR. MOHAN KUMAR

Dean / Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University and former Indian Ambassador

Public spending on healthcare still lags desired levels. India also runs the risk of becoming the global capital for heart disease and diabetes. India therefore needs to continue its massive transformation of public health infrastructure to make it accessible, affordable and quality-driven for the vast majority of its population. The National Health Mission is doing a commendable job. It simply needs

to be strengthened and streamlined. \* Sustainable Development: India must not emulate the ways of either the industrialized countries which followed a high-carbon pathway to development or indeed that of China, which even today burns more coal than the rest of the world put together. India is the only major economy today which potentially has the possibility of following a low-carbon pathway to a high-income economy based on sustainable development. And India must do it not just because the world wants it to, but because the people of this country deserve it as a matter of right.

\* Conclusion: India is indeed well positioned to become Viksit Bharat by 2047. But the country needs to be on mission-mode and a whole-of-government approach is required to make sure that no stone is left unturned in this national endeavour. By any reckoning, the next twenty years will be the most crucial period in India's history.

*Dr. Mohan Kumar's views are his own. (IN ITALICS)*

## CONTINUED FROM 14

pipes, that carried both sewage and rainwater, with two separate systems.

\* Memorial West trenchless sewer upgrades: Memorial West trenchless sewer upgrades, valued at \$7.5 million, included installing 400 metres of storm and sanitary pipes underneath Highbury Street between West 31st Avenue and the laneway south of West 33rd Avenue, as well as large sections beneath Memorial West Park. The project was completed in July 2026.

\* Shaughnessy area sewer upgrades: The \$7.3 million Shaughnessy area sewer upgrades separated 5.8 kilometres of combined sewer pipe between West 26th Avenue and West 29th Avenue. Construction is anticipated to be completed in early September.

\* East 35th Avenue sewer upgrades: The \$3.3 million East 35th Avenue sewer upgrades separated 135 metres of aging sewer pipe between Main Street and Quebec Street. The project also included new curbs and street repaving to create a smoother, safer experience for people walking, biking and rolling. The project was completed in May 2026.



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# New energy centre will power the future of health care in Delta, says Fraser Health

DESIGN and pre-construction work is now underway for a new \$24.4-million energy centre at Delta Hospital which will bolster its power systems while meeting the needs of the hospital and future projects such as the Beedie Long-Term Care Centre and installation of an MRI at the site.

With Delta's population expected to grow by 31,000 people over the next 20 years, the new energy centre will increase electrical capacity at the site and provide the infrastructure needed to support future hospital expansion, including modern services and equipment planned for the years ahead.

"Our government continues to invest in Delta to support modernized health care to serve a growing and aging population," said Ravi Kahlon, MLA for Delta North. "This important project will play a key role in delivering the Beedie Long-Term Care Centre project as well as the hospital's MRI and other significant future projects." Energy centres, which house



Delta North MLA Ravi Kahlon

generators, transformers, switchgears and other equipment, also play an important role in disaster-proofing hospital campuses so they can remain operational during events like power outages, floods and earthquakes.

"As our communities grow, it's important that our hospitals are ready to grow with them," said Sharat Chandra, Vice President, Planning, Transformation and Infrastructure, Fraser Health. "The new energy centre is an investment in the future of



Delta Mayor George Harvie

Delta Hospital. It provides the reliable infrastructure needed to support future expansion, new technology and the services people will rely on for years to come. We're proud to work with our partners to build a hospital that's ready to meet the needs of this growing community."

The project follows other recent, substantial investments to health services in Delta including the opening of the South Delta After-Hours Urgent and Primary Care Centre;

the hiring of emergency physicians and nurses to help stabilize Delta Hospital's Emergency Department; and work now underway to install an MRI and build a new, purpose-built space for the hospital's endoscopy program — both projects fully funded by the Delta Hospital and Community Health Foundation.

"The Delta Hospital and Community Health Foundation has been proud to invest in transformative projects at the Delta Hospital campus, including the Beedie Long-Term Care Centre, expanded endoscopy services and our soon-to-be MRI unit," said Lisa Hoglund, CEO, Delta Hospital and Community Health Foundation. "This new energy centre will ensure Delta Hospital has the capacity and resilience required to accommodate other new technologies, additional services and future growth in our community, enabling our residents to access more care, closer to home. We are proud to partner with

Fraser Health and the Province to help create a stronger health-care system for the people of Delta."

Construction of the energy centre is starting in summer 2027 and expected to complete in spring 2028. Pre-construction and design work is currently underway.

"This infrastructure investment is another important step forward in strengthening health care for our community," said George Harvie, Mayor, City of Delta. "As Delta continues to grow, it's critical that our hospital has the infrastructure needed to support expanded services, future projects, and emergency preparedness. I want to thank the Province, Fraser Health, and the Delta Hospital and Community Health Foundation for their continued partnership and commitment to providing Delta residents with access to high-quality health care close to home."

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## 50-year-old man charged in downtown Vancouver assaults

A 50-year-old man has been charged in connection with four alleged unprovoked assaults that occurred within the span of 30 minutes in downtown Vancouver on Saturday. Shortly after 2:40 p.m., the suspect entered a business on Homer and Dunsmuir Street and allegedly began demanding money from workers and customers. The man allegedly threw an object, which struck two employees, causing minor injuries.

Immediately following this incident, investigators believe the same man approached a person walking on Beatty Street and asked for money. When the victim declined, the suspect allegedly punched him in the face before fleeing the area. Approximately 10 minutes later, near the intersection of Cambie and Cordova streets, another victim was allegedly punched in the face in an unprovoked attack without any

exchange of words.

"These incidents are particularly concerning because they appear to have been completely unprovoked, and none of the victims had any prior interaction with the suspect," said Constable Megan Lui. "Through extensive video canvassing and proactive patrols in the area, officers were able to identify, locate, and arrest a suspect closely matching the description given by witnesses. We believe there may be additional victims and encourage anyone affected by or who witnessed the incident to come forward and contact the Vancouver Police Department."

Marc Ledoux, 50, has been charged with:

- \* Two counts of assault
  - \* Two counts of assault with a weapon
  - \* One count of uttering threats
  - \* One count of mischief
- Ledoux remains in custody pending a bail hearing.

## COMMON SENSE HEALTH – DIANA GIFFORD-JONES

## Stay Grounded with a Blueberry Bush



**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.

**WHEN** the weight of the world feels too heavy, I find solace in going back to the basics. I look for something wholesome and dwell on it, or better, nurture it. In this instance, it was a roadside stand and a basket of blueberries that caught my attention. How wonderful to uncover the stories and possibilities of this little fruit, each one borne of an ovary of a single flower. Wholesome indeed. Most people still know, one hopes, that blueberries were only wild food not so long ago. Indigenous peoples across North America gathered and preserved them. One traditional name, “star berry,” refers to the tiny five-pointed star at the blossom end of the fruit.

Just over a century ago, a New Jersey woman set blueberries on the course of a commodity food. Elizabeth Coleman White was the daughter of a cranberry farmer at Whitesbog in New Jersey’s Pine Barrens. In 1910, she read a paper by Frederick Coville, a botanist investigating blueberry cultivation. Coville had discovered that blueberries required acidic soil, explaining why they flourished naturally in the Pine Barrens.

White hired local woodsmen to search the surrounding countryside for bushes producing high volumes of large and sweet berries. The finders were paid for promising plants, and some varieties eventually carried the names of the people who discovered them. The Rubel variety was named for Rube Leek, who found the original wild bush.

By 1916, a collaboration between White and Coville resulted in the first commercial crop of cultivated highbush blueberries.

Today, there are sophisticated blueberry-breeding programs around the world. Researchers are developing varieties that can tolerate heat, resist disease, survive shipping and, perhaps most importantly, withstand mechanical harvesting. Blueberries have traditionally required hand-picking because ripe fruit is easily damaged. Now breeders are trying to produce berries firm enough to be harvested by machines, while remaining attractive and delicious to the consumer.

Scientists are now using DNA markers to identify desirable traits. The best blueberries that Elizabeth White’s workers selected by walking through the woods are now being selected with genetic information.

Blueberries provide fibre, vitamin C, vitamin K and manganese, along with anthocyanins – the plant compounds responsible for their deep blue-purple colour. These nutrients are what make the blueberry stand out as a good choice to support cardiovascular and metabolic health. If you have a sunny patch of garden, it’s possible to grow your own bush. And breeders are making it easier to select the variety that suits your local conditions. Blueberries need acidic soil, along with good drainage and plenty of sunlight. An inexpensive soil-pH test from a garden centre can tell you whether your soil is suitable. If it isn’t, a raised bed with properly prepared soil may be the easier route. With the right conditions, a blueberry bush can produce for decades.



Not everyone has a garden, of course. Frozen blueberries are an excellent alternative, with most of the nutritional value staying intact.

And there’s an additional benefit of having blueberries at hand. It’s a simple test for how

well you are looking after your teeth. Eat some blueberries, then brush and floss your teeth. After swishing water in your mouth, if you spit out little bits of blueberry, it means there’s more work needed to clean between your teeth and around gums after meals. If you take the blueberry test regularly, you’ll keep your own teeth for a lifetime. Plus, you’ll get the benefit of general good health that comes when oral health is maintained.

This is the time of year for pre-ordering plants from nurseries for pick-up or shipping next Spring. I have put in my order.

*This column offers health and wellness, not medical advice. Visit [www.docgiff.com](http://www.docgiff.com) to learn more. For comments, [diana@docgiff.com](mailto:diana@docgiff.com). Follow on Instagram @diana\_gifford\_jones.*

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# Year-end results show commitment to reducing costs, says Province

**THE** Province said on Monday that it navigated heightened global economic volatility in 2025-26 by defending workers and the economy and protecting the public services on which people in B.C. rely.

"We released Budget 2025 during a time of incredible uncertainty, on the first day that the U.S. imposed sweeping tariffs on many Canadian goods," said Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance. "We responded by protecting investments in front-line services and programs that save people money, and by expediting the major projects we need to create jobs and economic growth."

As part of the Province's efforts to reduce spending, government introduced expenditure-management targets in Budget 2025. The Province exceeded the goal of \$300 million for the 2025-26 fiscal year with \$467 million in savings through reduced discretionary spending, including travel, office and business expenses, conferences and events, as well as staffing adjustments, voluntary retirements and hiring restrictions. Applications opened in 2025 for the



**Finance Minister Brenda Bailey**

*Photo: NDP*

first new medical school in Western Canada in nearly 60 years. New doctors will be trained at the SFU Stephens Family School of Medicine, with the first class expected to graduate in 2029.

The new medical school continues

the Province's work in expanding access to health care in B.C.

In 2025, more than 223,000 people were connected with a family doctor or nurse practitioner, and more than 580 health-care professionals were recruited from the U.S. through targeted campaigns.

Public Accounts for fiscal year 2025-26 show that B.C.'s deficit was \$7.7 billion, \$3.2 billion lower than the forecast in Budget 2025. Revenues were higher than projected in Budget 2025 largely due to a \$2.6-billion tobacco settlement and higher net income at ICBC. Overall spending was \$344 million lower than projected.

B.C.'s debt-to-GDP ratio continues to be the second lowest in Canada at 26.3%.

B.C. launched Look West, a targeted plan designed to deliver major projects, strengthen B.C.'s and Canada's economic security, and create good-paying jobs and skills-training opportunities. Through the plan, the Province identified 35 major projects, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities, mines and BC

Hydro clean-energy projects, with eight projects approved and under construction.

The Province celebrated its first shipments of LNG from LNG Canada in Kitimat to Asia, a milestone in diversifying trade relationships in a changing global economic environment. In 2025-26, government continued to fund more affordable housing and invested more than \$11 billion on transportation, education and health-care infrastructure throughout the province. "We have ambitious goals for B.C.'s future," Bailey said. "We're developing major resource projects responsibly and building the hospitals, roads and schools British Columbians need. Whether its fighting wildfires or supporting families and businesses in the face of the continued fracturing of global trade, we are committed to ensuring we have the financial power to respond to changing threats and become an even stronger, more resilient B.C."

## BACKGROUNDER

### What to know about Public Accounts

\* Public Accounts 2025-26:

The B.C. government releases public accounts every summer to provide people with an accounting of provincial revenues and expenses from the previous fiscal year.

Budget 2025 invested in helping people through uncertain economic times, while continuing to invest in front-line services.

A deficit of \$10.9 billion was estimated at Budget 2025. The actual operating result at year-end was a deficit of \$7.7 billion.

Fiscal year-end revenues were \$2.9 billion higher than budgeted and \$1.8 billion higher than the third-quarter forecast, largely due to a tobacco settlement and higher commercial Crown earnings at ICBC.

Expenses were \$344 million lower than budgeted, largely due to unspent contingencies.

\* Capital investments:

The Province invested \$11 billion in taxpayer-supported capital projects to build hospitals, schools,

roads, public transit and housing, \$1 billion more than the previous fiscal year.

It includes \$3.1 billion on health-care facilities, \$4.1 billion on B.C.'s transportation network and \$2.8 billion to upgrade K-12 schools and build housing at post-secondary institutions.

\* Economic and fiscal highlights:

Provincial real GDP grew by 2% in 2025, above the 1.8% forecast in Budget 2025.

B.C.'s unemployment rate for 2025 was 6.2%, below the national average.

Employment grew by 1.1%, above the 0.8% forecast in Budget 2025.

Taxpayer-supported debt increased by \$18.4 billion, with a debt-to-GDP ratio at 26.3%, among the lowest in the country.

\* Public-sector executive compensation for 2025-26:

Every year, the B.C. government discloses total compensation paid to senior-management employees working to deliver the public services people

depend on. The disclosure reflects the compensation decisions made prior to March 31 for the fiscal year 2025-26.

Public-sector executives are responsible for delivering on government's commitments to improving services people rely on and building a strong, inclusive and sustainable economy for the people in B.C.

Executives lead in the innovation and delivery of services that support communities in every part of the province, and total compensation paid reflects their responsibilities in delivering public services on which people in B.C. depend.

B.C. is a national leader in its reporting standards for executive compensation, which includes base pay, pensions, benefits and sometimes, merit-based performance pay or holdbacks, as well as an explanation of the compensation paid.

Disclosure statements can be found on the websites of the employers, as well as the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat.

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**ASKING 4,000,000**

## 9097 BROADWAY STREET



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

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

**ASKING 924,000**

## 11956 98 AVENUE, SURREY



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

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

**ASKING 1,699,000**

## 7028 142 STREET, SURREY



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

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

**ASKING 1,699,000**

## 10095 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, CHILLIWACK



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

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

**ASKING 929,000**

## 1001 14881 103A AVENUE



### 2 BED - 2 BATHS

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

**ASKING 589,000**

## 5748 123 Street Surrey



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

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

**ASKING 2,999,000**

## MASSAGE PARLOUR FOR SALE IN SURREY



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

**ASKING 249,999**

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# VPD's "Project Honour" results in murder charge in 30-year-old cold case

A 30-year international Vancouver Police investigation has culminated in a charge of second-degree murder against a Mexican citizen.

Juan Manuel Rueda Salud, now 68, is accused in the murder of Muriel Lindsay on or about February 16, 1996.

"Muriel Lindsay was 40 and working at Canada Post on Georgia Street at the time of her death," said Inspector Ryan Smith, who spent 12 years investigating the case. "She was deeply loved by friends and family, and she is sorely missed to this day."

"While it is a relief to see a charge finally laid in this matter, it marks the start of another sad chapter for Muriel's loved ones. Our thoughts are with them now."

Rueda Salud was identified as a person-of-interest in the case, but he left for Mexico in



Juan Manuel Rueda Salud

March of 1996. Investigators located him in Oaxaca, Mexico in 2015.

"The case is now before the courts, so I can't discuss specific evidence, but I can say that our forensic investigators gathered a considerable amount of evidence at the crime scene. We worked diligently for



Muriel Lindsay (left) in 1994. Photos: VPD

decades with other agencies in Mexico and the United States, as well as Canadian law enforcement agencies and our Forensic Science and Technology partners at BCIT, and we were able to identify Rueda Salud as a suspect," says Smith. "He was formally charged November 2, 2024, and arrested

under a provisional warrant in Mexico on January 22, 2025."

After 18 months in custody appealing the extradition order, Rueda Salud was eligible for extradition to Canada on July 15. VPD investigators flew to Mexico on Monday and escorted him back to Vancouver on Wednesday, where he remains in custody.

"This was a complex case that involved multiple agencies and many officers," said Ryan. "It shows our collective commitment to solving cold cases, regardless of how long it takes."

## United Way BC launches first phase of wildfire funding

**ALLOCATING** donations recently raised through its United for BC Wildfire Recovery Fund, United Way BC has opened its immediate response grants to support communities affected by the 2026 wildfire season. As communities begin the long road to recovery, this first phase of funding will help address their urgent needs while ensuring support remains available for future recovery and resilience grants.

Non-profits supporting those affected by this year's devastating wildfire season can apply for immediate response grants of up to \$15,000 each at [uwbc.ca/grants](http://uwbc.ca/grants). Funds will support community-serving organizations addressing urgent and emerging needs, including food security, transportation assistance, mental health support, outreach services, and other local response efforts.

United Way BC has already provided resources to local organizations helping communities respond to the impacts of the 2026 wildfire season, including Shxw̓ha:y Village First Nation, which welcomed evacuees displaced by wildfire activity.

"United Way BC stepped up at a time when our community truly needed support. Their funding has allowed us to provide hot meals, essential supplies, cultural activities, and a welcoming place for evacuees while they are displaced from their homes," said Tyrell Williams, Shxw̓ha:y Village First Nation. "This funding has eased some of the financial pressure and allowed us to focus on what matters most, making sure people feel cared for, supported, and treated with dignity. We are deeply grateful for the difference it has made for both the evacuees and our community. Ts'it te mekw wat (thank you all)."

United Way BC said that thanks to the generosity of individual donors, corporate partners, and other supporters since this year's harrowing wildfire season began, it is moving quickly to direct funding to wildfire-affected communities through the United for BC Wildfire Recovery Fund.

Experience shows that recovery needs remain long after the smoke has cleared. United Way BC's wildfire funding strategy supports both immediate response and long-term recovery. Drawing on years of experience supporting communities through emergencies and disasters across British Columbia, United Way BC is taking a phased approach to funding. Additional grant opportunities will be announced in the coming weeks to support recovery, resilience, and community well-being as wildfire-affected regions continue to rebuild.

Donate at [uwbc.ca/wildfires](http://uwbc.ca/wildfires).

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## New stamps highlight the ecological importance of wolves in Canada

CANADA Post has issued new stamps highlighting the role wolves play as a keystone species.

Wolves contribute significantly to the health and biodiversity of the ecosystem. The intelligent hunters are often associated with the North and remote Canadian landscapes, and they also figure prominently in many Indigenous cultures.

These social animals use co-operative hunting and share responsibility for raising their young – a behaviour seen in only a small percentage of mammals. With sharp senses that help them detect prey almost two kilometres away, wolves hunt small and large animals, including caribou, deer, elk, moose, bison and even muskoxen.



Canada Post

## Fraudster posing as Vancouver Police chief rips off Sechelt victim of \$108,000

SUNSHINE Coast RCMP say that in a recent incident, a Sechelt resident was contacted by a fraudster posing as a senior officer with the Vancouver Police Department. The call appeared legitimate because it originated from a “spoofed” phone number displaying the VPD non-emergency phone number.

The fraudster, posing as Vancouver Police Chief Constable Steve Rai, informed the victim that they were investigating a local Sunshine Coast financial institution and needed his assistance. The victim then received a call via WhatsApp from what he believed to be a female representative from the local financial institution advising him to make several email money transfers to an account in order to test their transaction capabilities based on the recent fraud investigation. The victim made two money transfers – one for \$70,000 and the other for \$38,000.

Police say there have been many victims who have fallen for this elaborate scam.

How to protect yourself:  
\* Police officers, will never ask members of the public to assist in criminal investigations by transferring money or depositing funds into cryptocurrency accounts.

\* Banks will never ask customers to provide one-time passwords, two-factor authentication codes, or online banking credentials over the phone.

\* Caller ID can be manipulated, making it appear that calls are coming from legitimate organizations.

\* If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and contact your bank or police using a publicly listed phone number.

\* Never send money, purchase cryptocurrency, or provide account access based on instructions received during an unsolicited phone call.

Anyone who believes they have been targeted by a similar scam is encouraged to contact their financial institution immediately and call police.

Stamps feature wolves in different regions of the country:

The grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) is the largest and most widespread wolf in Canada, found everywhere except the Maritimes. Only slightly bigger than an eastern coyote, the eastern wolf (*Canis sp. cf. lycaon*) is a federally listed species at risk that lives mainly in Algonquin Provincial Park in central Ontario and in

southwestern Quebec. It has an estimated population of 200 to 1,000 mature wolves. The Arctic grey wolf (*Canis lupus arctos*) is a nomadic hunter well adapted to the northern climate, while the coastal grey wolf (*Canis lupus crassodon*) is a strong swimmer that lives along Canada's Pacific coast and near-shore islands.

Each stamp presents a close-up view of wolves in Canadian landscapes. The booklet cover and interior contain additional photographs of coastal grey wolves on Vancouver Island. The stamps are designed by Andrew Perro, featuring photography by Michelle Valberg (*Canis lupus crassodon*), John E. Marriott (*Canis lupus*), Ejaz Khan (*Canis lupus arctos*), Michael Runtz and Steve Dunsford (*Canis sp. Cf. lycaon*). This issue is printed by Lowe-Martin and includes a booklet of eight Permanent domestic rate stamps, an Official First Day Cover (OFDC), a souvenir sheet and four postage-paid postcards that can be sent worldwide. The location of the cancellation mark on the OFDC is Whitney, Ontario, near the east gate of Algonquin Provincial Park. Stamps and collectibles are available at canadapost.ca and at select postal outlets across Canada starting August 13.

## Surrey Police investigating shots fired incident in Newton

SURREY Police Service (SPS) is investigating a shots fired incident in Surrey's Newton neighbourhood that occurred Wednesday morning.

On Wednesday, August 12 at 10:34 a.m., SPS was called by a homeowner of a residence in the area of 76 Avenue and 124 Street to report that they had found what they believed to be gunshot damage to an outbuilding on their property.

At 10:39 a.m., SPS frontline officers responded and confirmed that damage

to the exterior of the outbuilding was caused by gunfire and that no one was injured.

At this time, it is unknown if this incident is extortion-related.

SPS is asking anyone who was in the area at the time and saw any suspicious activity, has dashcam footage, or lives in the area and has CCTV footage, or anyone who has information concerning the incident to contact SPS's non-emergency line at 604-599-0502 and quote file number 26-85351 (SP).

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# B.C. cabinet shuffle: Josie Osborne is Finance Minister, Ravi Kahlon is Health Minister, Brenda Bailey is Jobs Minister

**PREMIER** David Eby on Friday announced three changes to cabinet following Finance Minister Brenda Bailey's decision to take a leave for cancer treatment and recovery.

Bailey has been diagnosed with early-stage cancer that is treatable. She will begin treatment in late August and expects to return to work in early October. She remains a member of cabinet.

"Brenda came to me with her diagnosis and her plan, and I told her to take the time she needs," Eby said. "She'll be back at the cabinet table this fall. These changes give her room to focus on getting well and give British Columbians continuity on the issues that matter most to them."



Brenda Bailey, David Eby and Ravi Kahlon address the media on Friday. Screenshot

The following appointments take effect on Friday, August 14:

- \* Josie Osborne, Minister of Finance
- \* Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Health
- \* Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth

Bailey returns to the ministry she led as minister of jobs, economic development and innovation, taking on the major projects and trade diversification files. Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions, will cover Bailey's portfolio while she's on leave.

Osborne moves to finance from health, bringing experience across four ministries and a working knowledge of the fiscal plan from the Treasury Board table. Kahlon takes on health after leading jobs and economic growth, including the Look West strategy and the

Province's response to U.S. trade action. "Josie, Ravi and Brenda are three of the most experienced people around our table," Eby said. "Their focus will always be on delivering for British Columbians."

## Peter Milobar leaves B.C. Conservative caucus, will sit as independent

**PETER** Milobar, MLA for Kamloops Centre, on Friday announced that he has left the B.C. Conservative caucus and will sit as an Independent member in the House. Milobar said in a statement:



Peter Milobar  
Photo: Milobar's X

"Since 2017, I have been entrusted by the residents of Kamloops and the area to be their voice in Victoria. I completely respect the vote of the membership, and that [B.C. Conservative Leader] Kerry-Lynne Findlay has earned the right as leader to shape the party as she sees fit." He added: "It has, however, become clear to me over the last few months that my values don't align with this new direction. With that in mind, effective immediately, I will be sitting as an Independent member of the B.C. Legislature."

Milobar said: "What matters most to me hasn't changed — serving the people of Kamloops Centre. I'll have more to say about the road ahead in the days to come."

## Surrey Police notify IIO of serious collision involving motorcycle

**SURREY** Police Service (SPS) has notified the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) following a serious collision involving a motorcycle.

On August 7 at approximately 3:30 a.m., an SPS officer attempted to stop a speeding motorcycle near the Trans-Canada Highway and the 104 Avenue offramp. The motorcyclist fled into oncoming traffic and collided with a civilian vehicle. The rider was transported to hospital by BC EHS for treatment of serious but non-life-threatening injuries. No other persons were injured in the collision.

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

For more information about the IIO BC, you can visit its website at [www.iio.bc.ca](http://www.iio.bc.ca).



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## NAME CHANGE

I JACKY SINGH son of NARESH KUMAR, holder of Indian Passport No. V7808153 issued at AMRITSAR on April 29, 2022, permanent residence of Village Chahlan wali Tehsil & Distt. Fazilka, Punjab-152123, India and presently residing at 110-7361 Arbutus street, Pemberton, BC, V0N 2L1, do hereby change my name from JACKY SINGH to JASHAN KAMBOJ, with immediate effect.

Jat Sikh parents are looking match for their 29 years old, 5' 10", Software Engineer, Handsome Son, Professionally employed. Girl should be beautiful & well educated. Girl from west coast can also be consider.  
Ph: 778-388-5008

Jat Sikh parents invite a matrimonial alliance for their daughter, 38 year old, 5-4 tall, Canadian citizen, diploma in accounting and payroll, professionally employed, never married. The boy should be born or raised in Canada. Caste no bar. For more information please call 604-365-9242.

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