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MLA Bruce Banman becomes fifth MLA to quit B.C. Conservative Party just this week

BRUCE Banman (Abbotsford South) on Thursday became the fifth BC Conservative MLA to ditch the party just this week.

Since August 14, when Peter Milobar, MLA for Kamloops Centre, left the party, six MLAs have now quit the party.

* Delta South MLA Ian Paton announced on Monday that he was leaving the party,

* On Tuesday, Prince George-Valemount MLA Rosalyn Bird quit the party.

* Two MLAs, Brennan Day (Courtenay-Comox) and Teresa Wat (Richmond-Bridgeport), ditched the party on Wednesday.

Banman said in a statement: "When John Rustad and I started this movement in 2023, we did so on the premise of fiscal responsibility and bringing common sense back to BC politics. I am so proud that we came so close to forming government in the 2024 provincial election.

"Since the Conservative Party of BC leadership race ended this June, I, like many, had high hopes about the next chapter for our party. However, after numerous conversations with many of my constituents, it has become clear under the new leadership and direction of the Conservative Party of BC, an NDP win is becoming increasingly likely. For the sake of the future of this province we must defeat this NDP government.

"Sadly, since the leadership race concluded, I am hearing from constituents and seeing with my own eyes the political tent needed to defeat the NDP getting smaller, not larger. The goal in politics is to make the tent bigger. To listen to the majority. It's not about left or right. It's about doing what's right. Now more than ever, we need to do right by the people of this province and listen to them.

"I'm hearing from British Columbians that their major concerns are affordability, how to keep a roof over their heads, find a doctor, and ensure that they and their family are safe in their community. To many, since the NDP formed government, the province has become unrecognizable, unfordable,



Bruce Banman

many confide they have lost hope, and have left for a life elsewhere or are making exit plans.

"People of all walks of life tell me we need a group to pull together, defeat this NDP government, open up our vast resources again and bring prosperity back to the province they and I so deeply love.

"Person after person has informed me they have decided that our new leader is unelectable. So, with a heavy heart I am announcing today I am joining an ever increasing number of MLAs to sit as an Independent MLA in the BC Legislature. I would encourage my fellow MLAs regardless of political affiliation to join me."

BRENNAN DAY



Brennan Day



Kerry-Lynne Findlay
 Photos: B.C. Conservative Party

MLA Brennan Day (Courtenay-Comox) on Wednesday announced that he was quitting the B.C. Conservative Party.

In a statement, Day said that he is stepping away, effective immediately, from the B.C. Conservative Party and will sit as an "Independent Conservative" in the Legislature.

He said: "I entered politics to serve the people of Courtenay-Comox and to help build a serious, principled, right-of-centre alternative to David Eby's NDP government.

"That responsibility belongs to every person I represent, whether they voted for me or not. They deserve an MLA who conducts himself honourably, acts with integrity, and is prepared to stand by the values he was elected to carry to Victoria.

"The current direction of the Conservative Party of BC under Kerry-Lynne Findlay is no longer something I can support. More fundamentally, I have lost confidence in the judgment, conduct, and ethical standards of her leadership and those she has chosen to surround herself with.

"Public office demands integrity. I cannot ask others to meet that standard while remaining silent when I believe my own party's leadership has fallen short of it. Nor can I reconcile doing so with the commitments I made to the

CONTINUED ON 2

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CONTINUED FROM 1

people who sent me to Victoria.

"I will continue to fight, as I always have, for responsible government, fiscal discipline, individual freedom, strong public services, and an economy that rewards hard work and opportunity. I will continue to hold David Eby and the NDP, the most destructive government in British Columbia's history, to account.

"My loyalty remains where it has always belonged: with the people that put their trust in me to serve with integrity."

TERESA WAT



Richmond-Bridgeport MLA Teresa Wat announced on Wednesday that she was leaving the B.C. Conservative Party.

Wat said in a statement: "I've made the

decision today that I can no longer serve as a member of the BC Conservative Caucus under the leadership of Kerry-Lynne Findlay and I will sit as an Independent Member of the Legislative Assembly."

She said that on July 29, it was reported in the media that during the BC Conservative leadership campaign, Findlay was alleged to have made serious and unfounded accusations about me, including remarks that called my allegiance to Canada into question.

Wat added: "These remarks were distasteful, hurtful and made me question my place in the BC Conservatives under her leadership. At the time though, I was travelling with family and I attempted to put the matter behind me. I had a brief conversation thereafter with the leader who did not apologize and wanted to focus on what's ahead of us. I decided to try to move on.

"When I recently returned home, I understood the full extent and reach of Ms. Findlay's comments. I had many friends and individuals from the community reach out to me to say they do not believe these false allegations and were shocked no apology was issued. I realized that these allegations had caused real damage to my reputation and had created serious concern within the community.

"Following an exchange with Ms. Findlay and her Chief of Staff earlier this week, I was told an apology and clarification would be issued. To date, no statement has been issued.

"I cannot continue to sit in a caucus led by someone who has questioned my loyalty without evidence and, when given the opportunity to correct the record, has failed to do so.

"I make my decision with a heavy heart, proud of what we have achieved since I joined the BC Conservatives. Unfortunately, I believe all that progress is now at risk. I firmly believe we need an alternative to the NDP that is trying to grow and not one trying to divide. That is not the direction of the BC Conservatives under Kerry-Lynne Findlay.

"I want to thank my BC Conservative colleagues who have been steadfast with me. I consider you my friends and I wish you well.

"As a four-term MLA, I know politics can be cutthroat and a blood sport. I've never liked that about it. I've never subscribed to it. At its core, politics is about people. Those we stand up for in our communities, the teammates who inspire us, and the voices that drive change. I will continue to serve the people of Richmond-Bridgeport with those values at my core."

ROSALYN BIRD



MLA Rosalyn Bird announced on Tuesday that "after considerable reflection," she had "made the difficult decision to leave the Conservative Caucus and continue representing the people of Prince George-Valemount as an Independent member of the Legislative Assembly."

In a statement, Bird said: "This decision was not made lightly. Political parties play an important role in our democracy, but they are vehicles for our values; they cannot become substitutes for them.

"I believe British Columbians are tired of political infighting, name-calling and division. They expect their elected representatives to disagree respectfully, work collaboratively where possible, and remain focussed on the challenges facing families, communities and our province.

"Transparency, accountability, integrity and responsible government will continue to guide my work. So will my belief in free speech, respectful debate and our responsibility as elected representatives to reject hatred and discrimination while remaining willing to have difficult conversations about the issues facing British Columbia.

"Our province also urgently needs a renewed focus on economic growth. Small- and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of B.C.'s economy. They are facing tremendous pressures from rising costs, taxation, regulatory complexity and administrative burdens. At the same time, British Columbia has extraordinary talent and the potential to lead in innovation, technology and industry while responsibly developing the forestry, mining, agriculture, fisheries and energy sectors that have built communities across our province.

"As an Independent MLA, I will work with anyone who brings forward good ideas. I will support initiatives that are right for Prince George-Valemount and British Columbia and oppose those that are not.

My political affiliation may be changing, but my responsibility is not. I was elected to serve the people of Prince George-Valemount.

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CONTINUED ON 3



Abbotsford-Mission MLA Gasper stepping down for BC Conservative Leader Findlay

DEPUTY Whip and MLA Reann Gasper has informed the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of B.C. of her decision to step down as MLA for Abbotsford-Mission, creating an opportunity for B.C. Conservative Party Leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay to seek the seat in a forthcoming by-election. Gasper said the decision was made carefully and deliberately, with the future of British Columbia firmly in mind.

"This is a decision I have made after a great deal of careful consideration, and I believe it is the right

decision for me, for our Party, and for the work ahead," said Gasper. "It has been a privilege to represent the people of Abbotsford-Mission, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who placed their trust in me. I am also grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside my colleagues in the Conservative Caucus and to contribute to our leadership team.

"I have confidence in Kerry-Lynne, in her leadership, and in her ability to represent Abbotsford-Mission. I believe that giving our Leader the opportunity to seek this seat strengthens our team and puts us in a stronger position for the work ahead. "Ultimately, we have a bigger objective: We need to defeat the NDP and form government. That requires us to make decisions that put the strength of our team and our ability to win first. I believe this is one of those decisions.

"I encourage our members, volunteers, and supporters to stand behind Kerry-Lynne Findlay as she leads the Conservative Party of British Columbia with determination, and an



Reann Gasper

Photo: BC Conservative Party

optimistic vision for our province. I remain committed to our Party and to the work ahead, and I look forward to continuing to contribute in whatever way I can."

Findlay thanked Gasper for her service to Abbotsford-Mission and her contributions to the Conservative Caucus.

"I want to thank Reann for her service

to the people of Abbotsford-Mission and for the significant contributions she has made to our Caucus and our Party," said Findlay.

"Throughout her time in office, and especially in her ongoing role as Deputy Whip, Reann has been a valued member of our leadership team and a strong advocate for her constituents and our shared principles. I am grateful for the confidence Reann has placed in me and honoured by the opportunity she is creating for me to seek the nomination in Abbotsford-Mission.

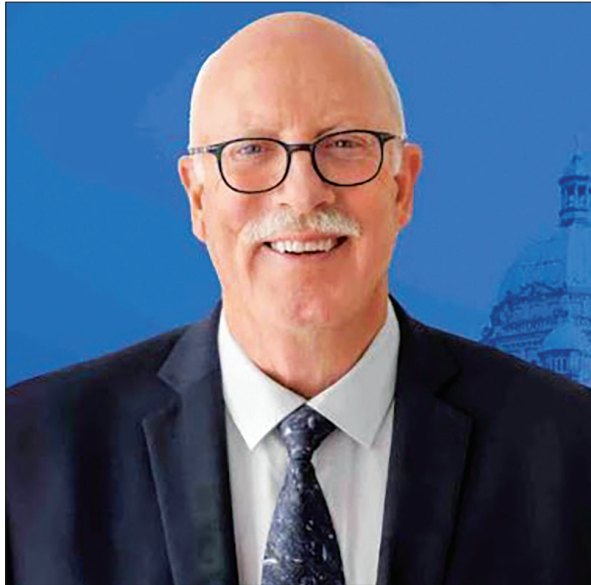
"Reann has made a thoughtful decision that puts the interests of our Party, our province, and our shared goal of forming government first. I look forward to working closely with our members and volunteers as we prepare for the by-election.

"Our focus is clear. We need to earn the trust of the people of Abbotsford-Mission, strengthen our team, and build the momentum we need to defeat the NDP and form a strong, common-sense government for British Columbia."

CONTINUED FROM 2

They will remain my first priority. I believe British Columbia's best years can still be ahead of us."

IAN PATON



BC Conservative MLA Ian Paton (Delta South) announced on Monday that he will be sitting as an Independent member of the BC Legislature.

In a statement, Paton said: "I have had the privilege of representing Delta South in the Legislature since 2017. In 2024 I joined the BC Conservatives with the belief that it would become a broad coalition for British Columbians who wanted responsible, common-sense government. What united us was a broad belief in responsible government, private enterprise, fiscal discipline and building a strong economy.

"It has become clear to me that the new direction of the Conservative Party of BC under the leadership of Kerry-Lynne Findlay is no longer aligned with my beliefs. I was elected to represent Delta South in Victoria. I was not elected to simply represent a political party in Delta South.

"My first responsibility as an MLA is to the people of Delta South who elected me and with that, effective immediately, I will be sitting as an Independent Member of the BC Legislature alongside MLA Peter Milobar.

"I want to be clear that our intention is to form a new party in the BC legislature to give a home to those who feel politically homeless in this province and to stop the NDP from further destruction of British Columbia.

"I'll have more to say in the coming days."

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Regimental funeral for Edmonton correctional officer Ramandeep Kaur Maan



Photos: Correctional Service of Canada's X

THE Correctional Service of Canada, along with the public safety and law enforcement community on Sunday honoured fallen officer Ramandeep Kaur Maan, 25, with a regimental funeral in Edmonton, Alberta.

Correctional Officer Maan of Edmonton Institution for Women was killed on August 6 in a rural Alberta crash along with Correctional Officer Nicolae Serban and inmate Kiara Mooswa.

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.

According to Maan's brother, Kamalpreet Singh Maan, "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." Talal Dakalbab, Commissioner of the

Correctional Service of Canada, in an eulogy at her funeral service, at the Edmonton Convention Centre, told her parents from India that today, they were being asked to endure something no parent should ever have to endure – the loss of a child.

He added: "There is nothing I can say that can make the pain smaller but I hope you can look around this room today and know that your daughter made a difference. She made a difference to the people who worked beside her; she made a difference to

the people whose lives she touched; and she made a difference to the Correctional Service of Canada."

Dakalbab said: "She had only recently joined our CSC family, but service is not measured in years; it is measured in commitment, in character, in what we give of ourselves while we are here – and

by that measure, Raman served with distinction." He spoke of Raman's determination, kindness, ambition and devotion to the CSC family. He added: "And the young woman who came to this country with hopes for the future and choose to devote part of that future to serving Canada, that is how she deserves to be remembered."

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IN only four years, the cricket programming by Inclusive Canada Foundation (ICF) has generated more than 1,700 registrations in British Columbia, while expanding from adult recreational cricket into youth and U17 programming, university and college cricket, newcomer and Last Woman Stands programming for women and girls. Its developing women's program now includes approximately 30-35 women and girls, with roughly half under 17, while its Youth, University and College League is also continuing toward its September championship activities.

Last Man Stands and Last Woman Stands are flagship sport initiatives of Inclusive Canada Foundation, whose broader work focuses on building inclusive communities through sport, education, health and culture. Dr. Emrul Hasan, President of Inclusive Canada Foundation, is also a faculty member at the University of British Columbia (UBC). On Monday, August 24, Inclusive Canada Foundation held the LMS BC Blasters Finals & Grand Award Ceremony, at Newton Athletic Park in Surrey. There were a host of dignitaries present. They included Surrey MLAs Garry Begg, Amna Shah and Elenore Sturko.



NDP MLAs celebrate at Surrey's India Day Celebration and Parade



ON Sunday, August 23, thousands of community members gathered at Bill Reid Millennium Amphitheatre Park in Surrey for the inaugural India Day Parade and Cultural Celebrations, hosted by the United Indian Culture Association (UNICA).

With approximately 6,000 attendees taking part throughout the day, the celebration brought together families, cultural organizations, community leaders and elected officials for a day highlighting the diversity of India's many regions and traditions. MLA Amna Shah of Surrey City Centre, MLA Garry Begg of Surrey-Guildford, MLA Jagrup Brar of Surrey-Fleetwood and MLA Sunita Dhir of Vancouver-Langara were among the elected officials who attended the festivities and joined community members in recognizing the significance of the inaugural event.

At the heart of the celebration was the India Day Parade, which featured more than 25 Indian cultural organizations coming together in partnership. Participating groups represented communities and traditions from states and regions across India, showcasing the breadth of cultural identities that make up the Indian diaspora in British Columbia.

Among the organizations taking part were the Vancouver Odia Cultural Association, SaptaRang North East Cultural Society and BongMilanti Metro Vancouver Bengali Cultural Association, each bringing elements of their respective regional heritage to the parade and celebrations. The participation of organizations from different parts of India gave the parade a distinctly multicultural character within the broader Indian community. Groups highlighted their unique traditions through cultural attire, music, performances and displays, providing attendees with an

opportunity to experience traditions from across the country in one celebration. Following the parade, the festivities continued with a full day of cultural programming. Participating organizations took to the stage for dance, music and theatrical performances, while families and visitors explored food vendors, crafts and cultural demonstrations throughout the festival grounds.

The event also provided an opportunity for community members to connect with one another and celebrate the contributions of Indian cultural organizations across the Lower Mainland. For many of the participating associations, the celebration offered a platform to introduce their traditions to a broader audience while creating connections between different cultural communities.

Shah, Begg, Brar and Dhir joined organizers on stage to recognize the work behind the inaugural celebration, honouring founder Bhaskar S. De and the many volunteers, organizations and community members who contributed countless hours to bringing the event together. Their recognition highlighted the significant community effort required to coordinate an event of this scale, particularly one involving more than two dozen cultural organizations and thousands of attendees. For UNICA, the inaugural India Day Parade and Cultural Celebrations provided an opportunity to bring together the many communities that contribute to the cultural fabric of British Columbia. The event showcased the variety of languages, customs, arts and histories found within the Indian community. The large turnout throughout the day reflected the strong

MLAs Amna Shah, Jagrup Brar, Garry Begg and Sunita Dhir honour the organizers on stage.

Photos: NDP

interest in events that celebrate cultural heritage while creating opportunities for families and communities to gather. The combination of the parade, live performances, food, cultural exhibits and community participation made the celebration a wide-ranging showcase of Indian culture in Surrey.

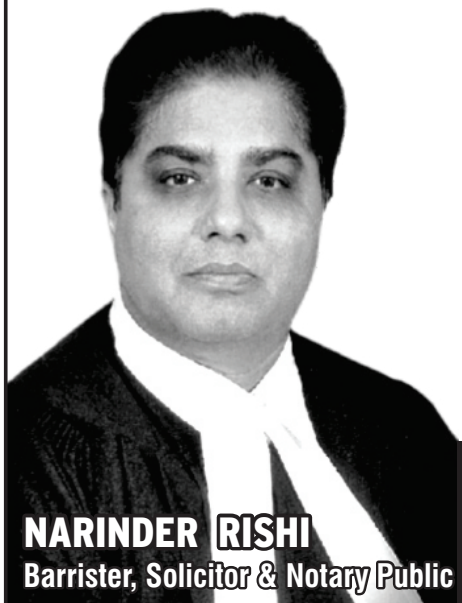
As the inaugural India Day celebration came to a close, the event had brought together thousands of people and dozens of organizations in a shared celebration of heritage, community and cultural diversity.

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MLA Amna Shah joins Canada Urdu Association's annual Mushaira

ON Saturday, August 22, MLA Amna Shah, MLA for Surrey City Centre, joined members of Surrey's Urdu-speaking community for the Canada Urdu Association's (CUA) annual Mushaira, celebrating Urdu language, poetry and the individuals who have dedicated themselves to preserving and promoting the language in British Columbia.

Held at Fleetwood Community Centre in Surrey, the event brought together community members, poets, cultural leaders and guests for an afternoon of Urdu literature and recognition. Shah was joined by Waqas Ahmed, Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Vancouver.

Established in 1997, the Canada Urdu Association is a registered non-profit society based in Surrey dedicated to the education, celebration, and promotion of the Urdu language. Over nearly three decades, the association has worked to create opportunities for Urdu speakers and literary enthusiasts to connect through language, poetry, and cultural programming.

The program began with welcoming remarks from CUA Acting General Secretary Farzana Alam, who highlighted the association's journey, developments, and achievements.

A central part of the afternoon was the awards ceremony, recognizing individuals whose contributions have helped advance Urdu language and literature.

Waqas Ahmed presented several of the awards before Shah was invited to the stage to recognize the remaining honourees. Among those receiving Appreciation Awards were Dr. Zareen Naqvi, Qamar Waheed, Farzana Alam and Afshi Aijaz.

The association also presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Hardev Sodhi



MLA Amna Shah presenting the Rafiq-e-Urdu Award to Huma Shoaib.
Photos submitted



Shah presents the Farogh-e-Sukhan Award to Harsimran Singh.



Ashk and the Farogh-e-Sukhan Award to Harsimran Singh. The Rafiq-e-Urdu Award, the association's most prestigious honour, was presented to Huma Shoaib for her exceptional service to the Canada

Urdu Association and her work promoting the Urdu language.

For Shah, an Urdu speaker herself, the opportunity to participate in the ceremony underscored the importance

of recognizing the people who help keep language, literature and cultural traditions thriving in the community.

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Surjit Bhandal

Prithi Paul receives Human Development Award by Chetna Association of Canada



(Left photo) Prithi Paul receiving the Human Development Award from Adrian Dix and Sunita Dhir.

Photos submitted

CHETNA Association of Canada awarded the Human Development Award to Prithi Paul on India's 80th Independence Day celebration. The award was presented by Energy Minister Adrian Dix and Parliamentary Secretary Sunita Dhir.

Present for the award ceremony were Bill Basra, Harmesh Owan, Orem Mall, Kamlesh Chander, Barjinder Bhatti, Sucha Jassi, Surinder Sandhu, RL Gaddu, Shinda Aheer and others. Also present was the famous Punjabi singer Dilraj. The event was

moderated by Jai Birdi and Surjit Bains.

Paul, currently an entrepreneur based in Louisiana, U.S., has been actively involved in various community organizations and has led or supported various initiatives. His contributions include:

– supporting the mission of Ambedkar International Center and donating US\$25,000 towards the purchase of a 13-acre parcel in Maryland.

– supporting the Begumpura Cultural Society Indian activities, particularly, the annual Independence Day

Parade.

– celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of Baba Sahib Dr. Ambedkar at the United Nations in New York.

Paul shared his gratitude for the recognition and highlighted the importance of community services and philanthropy.

CONTINUED FROM 8

The awards were followed by the much-anticipated Mushaira, a traditional Urdu poetry gathering. Hosted by Shoaib, the literary portion of the event featured poets presenting selections of their work, with the audience responding enthusiastically throughout the

afternoon.

The program also featured special guest Amna Murad from the United States, who delivered a presentation on renowned philosopher and poet Allama Iqbal. The Canada Urdu Association credited its members and volunteers, including Adnan, Mustafa and Nasheman, for helping organize the event, from

preparing the stage and seating arrangements to welcoming guests and providing refreshments.

For the Canada Urdu Association, Shah's participation alongside the Deputy Consul General was an important part of an afternoon dedicated to celebrating the people and traditions that continue to advance Urdu language and literature

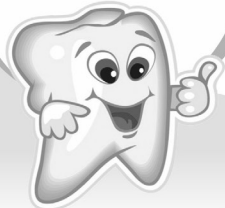
in Canada.

The association extended its appreciation to Shah and Ahmed for attending, as well as congratulated all of the award recipients recognized for their contributions to the promotion of Urdu.

(Contributed)

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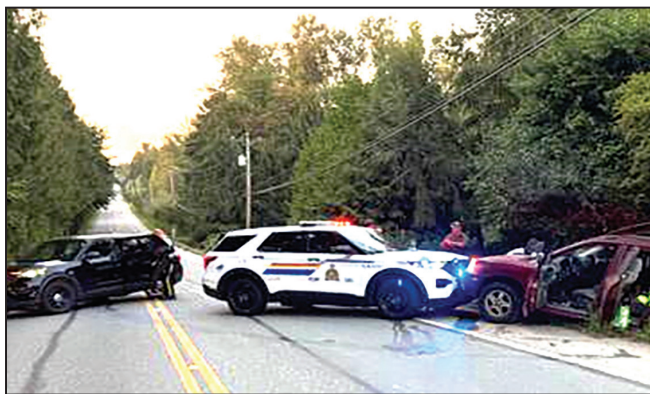
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Man arrested and charged in Monday's shooting in Langley

ON Monday, August 24 at approximately 7:24 p.m., Langley RCMP responded to reports of a shooting in the 26900-block of 26A Avenue in Langley. First responders from Langley RCMP, BC Emergency Health Services, and the Township of Langley Fire Department attended the scene and located one individual suffering from injuries. The victim was transported to a local hospital and remains in serious but stable condition. Investigators quickly learned that the suspect had fled the area in a vehicle that was subsequently observed driving erratically near 256 Street and 24 Avenue. "This prompted a dynamic police response, and with the assistance



The scene of collision. Photo: Langley RCMP

of Lower Mainland District Integrated Police Dog Services, officers successfully disabled the suspect vehicle and took the individual into custody," said Sgt. Zynal Sharoom of Langley RCMP. On Tuesday, August 25, Kyle Jensen, 40, was charged with:

- * Break and enter
- * Robbery with a firearm

- * Two counts of possession of a firearm without a licence
- * Possession of a loaded prohibited or restricted firearm
- * Three counts of pointing a firearm
- * Occupying a vehicle knowing a firearm was present
- * Theft of a motor vehicle
- * Flight from police

- * Dangerous driving
- * Unlawfully causing bodily harm
- * Possession of a firearm contrary to a prohibition order

At this time, investigators believe this was an isolated incident and that there is no continuing risk to public safety. The investigation remains active, and the motive is still under investigation. Jensen is currently in custody awaiting a bail hearing. Anyone with information, including dash camera or residential surveillance footage from the areas of the 26900-block of 26A Avenue or the vicinity of 24 Avenue and 256 Street around the time of the incident, is asked to contact Langley RCMP and quote file 2026-27030.

Maple Ridge RCMP investigating mischief in Golden Ears Provincial Park

MAPLE Ridge RCMP on Tuesday confirmed that officers are investigating a report of mischief in Golden Ears Provincial Park. On August 17, Maple Ridge RCMP frontline officers received a report from the public regarding graffiti made by an unknown male at Lower Falls trail in the park. Officers are working with BC Parks staff to identify the persons involved. Maple Ridge RCMP said they are aware of alleged photos and videos of the incident circulating online. Maple Ridge RCMP said they acknowledge that while this incident appears to be an attempt at memorializing a drowning victim in the area, vandalism within a protected area is still considered a criminal

offence. Such acts can harm the environment, diminish the experience of other park users, and create unnecessary cleanup cost for the community. "We extend our sympathies to the family and the friends of the man who drowned and encourage those wishing to pay respects to do so through appropriate, legal means," they added. Police also encourage the public to obey all warning signs in the park and to stay safe and be prepared when using our outdoor recreational areas. Anyone with more information, who has not already been in touch with police, is asked to contact Maple Ridge RCMP at 604-463-6251 and quote file# 2026-15782.

Arrest made after teen shot with a BB gun

VANCOUVER Police have made an arrest after a teenager was shot in the neck with a BB gun Monday night. The victim was approached by several unknown suspects around 9:45 p.m. near Point Grey Secondary School. The group left the area and then returned, and one youth allegedly shot the victim. Police located and

arrested the suspect nearby. During the arrest, officers seized a BB gun, a knife, and a can of bear spray. A violation ticket was issued in relation to possession of the bear spray. The victim was not seriously injured. The investigation remains ongoing and VPD will be submitting a report to Crown counsel.

Missing person Sonam Ramola located deceased

ABBOTSFORD Valley Search and Rescue was deployed to the area yesterday evening and conducted a coordinated search, but drew a blank. Police said they can confirm that the circumstances surrounding her death are not considered suspicious. They extended their sincere condolences to Sonam's family, friends, and all those affected by this loss.

Police announced on Wednesday that Sonam Ramola, who had been reported missing to the police by her family on December 17, 2025, has been located deceased. Sonam's vehicle — a black 2020 Hyundai Elantra — was located shortly after 9 p.m. on December 17, 2025, parked beneath the Mission Bridge near Tall Road and Riverside Street. Central Fraser

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Female driver arrested after striking three vehicles in Abbotsford

AT approximately 10:41 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, Abbotsford Police Department patrol officers responded to a serious motor vehicle collision on Highway 1 at the Brander Road rest area in the eastbound lanes. Upon arrival, officers located several heavily damaged vehicles. The collision occurred after a red Chevrolet Spark struck three vehicles, including a semi-truck.

The 33-year-old female driver of the Chevrolet Spark was arrested and is currently under investigation for impaired driving.

Fortunately, the occupants of the other involved vehicles sustained only minor injuries and did not require transportation to hospital.



Photo: Abbotsford Police

Abbotsford Police are seeking witnesses who observed the collision or the driving behaviour of the red Chevrolet Spark prior to the collision. Investigators are also looking for anyone with any dash camera footage that may have captured the incident or the vehicle's driving behaviour leading up to the crash.

Anyone with information about this collision is asked to contact the Abbotsford Police Department and quote file number 26-35609.

Abbotsford Police are seeking witnesses who observed the collision or the driving behaviour of the red Chevrolet Spark prior to the collision. Investigators are also looking for anyone with any dash camera footage that may have captured the incident or the vehicle's driving behaviour leading up to the crash.

Anyone with information about this collision is asked to contact the Abbotsford Police Department and quote file number 26-35609.

Hindu priest from U.S. charged with sexual assault in Oshawa, Ontario

A Hindu pandit (priest) has been arrested after exploiting his position and committing sexual assault under the guise of a religious ceremony in Oshawa, Ontario's Durham Regional Police announced on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, August 25, members of East Division responded to a sexual assault call in the area of Harmony Road North and Conlin Road East. The victim and her family employed a Hindu pandit from the United States to visit them and perform a religious ceremony.

The pandit deceived the victim into believing she was possessed by evil spirits and needed a specific ceremony to heal herself. The suspect exploited the victim into attending a private location where the suspect sexually



Rajendranauth Doodnauth Maraj
Photo: Durham Regional Police

assaulted the victim under the guise of performing a religious ceremony.

Police were later contacted and the suspect was taken into custody without incident. Police have concerns there may be further victims. A photo of the accused has

been released and can be viewed at www.drps.ca

Rajendranauth Doodnauth Maraj, 50, from Richmond Hill, New York, is charged with sexual assault. He was held for a bail hearing.

Surrey Police appeal for witnesses in Whalley assault investigation

SURREY Police Service (SPS)

is appealing to the public for assistance to help identify two suspects in an alleged assault that occurred outside a Whalley business.

On July 16, at approximately 11:33 p.m., SPS frontline officers responded to a report of an assault outside a business in the 10200-block of City Parkway. Officers located a male who had been assaulted by two unknown males. BC EHS attended the scene and provided medical assistance to the male victim, who suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

The first suspect is described as a White male with a heavy build, wearing a black t-shirt and had tattoos on his arms.

The second suspect is a White male, wearing a black jacket



Photo: SPS

and baseball cap.

The suspects were walking as part of a larger group at the time of the assault.

Anyone with information about incident, including CCTV / dashcam footage or identity of the suspects is asked to contact the SPS's non-emergency line at 604-599-0502 and quote file number 26-73851 (SP). If you wish to make an anonymous report, contact CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or www.solvecrime.ca.

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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Hours- 40 hours/week based on assigned schedule

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Job application by email only to -nandaonmain2024@gmail.com

Job duties for this position include:

- Plan, direct and evaluate the daily operations of the jewellery retail store;
- Provide a customer-centric experience by advising clients on new jewellery designs and store collections;
- 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;
- Strong leadership and communication skills, positive attitude to work and people management skills;
- Must be flexible to work rotational shifts, including weekends and evenings;
- Able to work under pressure and time constraint in fast paced environment;

Benefits include - Extended Medical, Dental and Vacation Benefits.

Please only reply by email as we are a busy store and this is the most efficient way for us to screen your application.

Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

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

CBSA seizes 385 kg of cocaine at Ontario's Blue Water Bridge



Photos: CBSA

CANADA Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers at the Blue Water Bridge port of entry in Point Edward, Ontario, seized approximately 385 kg of suspected cocaine from a commercial truck on August 13, the agency announced on Tuesday. The truck was referred for secondary examination, during which border services officers detected and seized the drugs.

The CBSA arrested the driver, and the RCMP charged the individual

with:

- * Importing a controlled substance; and
- * Possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

The charges are subject to validation by the court.

In fiscal year 2025 to 2026, the CBSA seized over 4,500 kg of cocaine / crack. This includes coca leaves, coca paste, cocaine and cocaine / crack.



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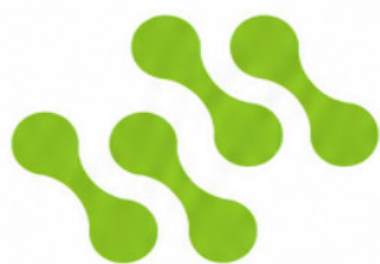
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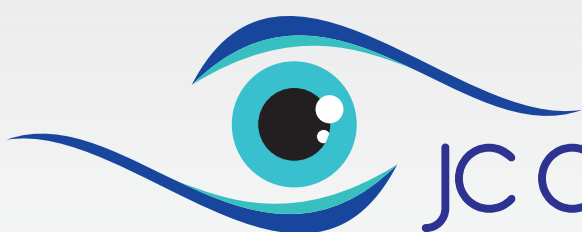
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Targeted countermeasures and substantive support for workers, businesses in response to U.S. tariffs announced

THE Government of Canada said on Tuesday that it has negotiated intensively and in good faith with the United States toward a fair and comprehensive trade agreement that would protect Canadian workers and their families, strengthen the economy, provide greater certainty for businesses, and respect Canada's sovereignty.

In recent days, however, the U.S. proposed new terms that were not in Canada's best interest, basically, asking too much of Canada, and offering too little in return. Canada therefore suspended negotiations rather than accepting a bad deal that would undermine Canadian workers, businesses, strategic sectors, and its national interest.

The government said that Canada did not choose this trade conflict, but it needs to respond to provide a level playing field to our businesses.

Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne and other ministers announced measures to protect and support Canadian workers and businesses during this period of uncertainty and volatility.

Following the U.S. decision to impose a 50 per cent tariff on \$27.6 billion of Canadian goods effective August 22, Champagne confirmed that Canada will match the new U.S. tariffs dollar for dollar, rate for rate, with additional Canadian tariffs on U.S. goods. This focused response will protect Canadian workers, farmers, fishers, families, and businesses, defend industries harmed by unjustified U.S. tariffs, and help Canadian producers

compete with U.S. products in the Canadian market.

Effective September 8, Canada will impose counter-tariffs of 15, 25 and 50 per cent on products drawn from those targeted by U.S. Section 338 and Section 232 tariffs, with the rate for each product matching the corresponding U.S. rate.

Canada's counter tariffs will apply to products covering \$27.6 billion in imports from the U.S. and will focus on sectors such as steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, and electronics, that are most impacted by U.S. tariffs.

In addition, to support Canadian workers and businesses impacted by U.S. tariffs, the government is also introducing a \$7.5 billion package of new and enhanced measures that deliver fast, simple and agile supports to Canadian workers and businesses, building on the nearly \$25 billion in supports the government has provided since the implementation of the U.S. unjustified tariffs.

This package includes:

- * an additional \$1.5 billion investment through the Regional Tariff Response Initiative, delivered by Canada's regional development agencies (RDAs), to help small and medium-sized enterprises,



François-Philippe Champagne Photo: Champagne's X

including liquidity supports to manage the pressures related to tariffs.

- * a new \$500 million liquidity stream under the Business Development Bank of Canada's Pivot to Grow program to help businesses manage immediate cash-flow pressures in addition to targeted programs for the forestry, steel and aluminum sectors.

- * broadened access to the Business Development Bank of Canada's tariff related programs by lowering the minimum revenue requirement for applicants to \$1 million.

- * an additional \$2 billion investment through the new Canada Strong

Diversification Fund, to support tariff-affected businesses with shovel-ready projects that support ongoing capital maintenance. This new initiative will work closely with RDA programming for project intake and triage.

- * a new suite of \$3.5 billion Rapid Response Supports for Workers and Employers to help Canadians affected by tariffs. This will help workers access income support when they need it through extended and additional EI temporary flexibilities; and support their transition into new opportunities through new investments in training delivered in the workplace and

enhancements to JobBank.gc.ca. This will also help employers keep their workforce through a difficult period with the help of the new Worker Retention and Retraining Program (WRRP).

- * new flexibilities to the Large Enterprise Tariff Loan facility, administered by the Canada Enterprise Emergency Funding Corporation (CEEFC).

The government will continue to assess programs and policies to support businesses who continue to be impacted by tariffs, including expanding the availability of existing measures to newly impacted sectors.

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76% say Canada was right to ditch trade talks, but 2-in-5 fear for their jobs

THREE-IN-FOUR Canadians are endorsing the Carney government's decision to walk away from trade negotiations with the United States late Friday (August 21) night, confirming that long-expressed national resolve and desire to see Canadian negotiators take a "hard line" with Washington was more than theoretical.

New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds that support for Ottawa's stance is at majority levels in every province in the country, bottoming out at 65 per cent in Saskatchewan and 67 per cent in Alberta.

There is also more agreement than one typically finds across the political spectrum. Half (53%) of those who voted Conservative in the 2025 federal election say it was "right" to walk away rather than accept a bad deal.

There is also strong backing for the dollar-for-dollar retaliatory tariffs that have been threatened against the U.S. but not yet implemented pending a September 8 deadline, with three-in-five (62%) calling Canada's counter-tariffs "about right under the circumstances".

But serious worries about job loss temper the defiance. One-in-eight (13%) Canadian workers say they are "very" concerned about losing their own job, with a further 25 per cent expressing some level of anxiety. This, as industry

experts predict a no-deal situation for Canada will cost the economy 0.4 per cent of GDP and as many as 90,000 jobs. That said, most (64%) do believe the country will emerge from this challenging time stronger as Canada reduces its dependence on the United States. One-quarter (26%) disagree and worry it will be difficult to overcome the damage to the relationship with Canada's most important trading partner.

More Key Findings:

- * Three-in-five (59%) say Canada had little (47%) or no (12%) control over "whether an acceptable trade agreement was reached with the United States".

- * Seven-in-ten (69%), including nearly all 2025 Liberal voters (95%), most NDP voters (76%) and two-in-five (43%) CPC voters, say Carney showed "strength by refusing to accept terms he believed were not in Canada's interests". One-in-five Canadians (19%), and two-in-five (43%) past CPC voters, say instead he showed "poor judgement" in not getting a deal done with further compromises.

- * Nine-in-ten (89%) are "very concerned" (41%) or concerned (48%) that the escalating trade dispute will have an impact on the cost of goods and services in Canada. A similar number (88%) worry over the impact on Canada's economy as a whole.

CFIB statement on Canada's tariff relief measures

DAN Kelly, President at the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), said in a statement on Tuesday in response to Canada's tariff relief measures: "While we appreciate that the government is trying to move quickly, at first glance it looks like small business owners are being served the usual alphabet soup of complicated programs. They will be challenging for small business owners to figure out, let alone use."

"To date, the federal Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI) delivered by Regional Development Agencies have excluded most small businesses from even applying. Some required a minimum of \$2 million in sales, others a minimum of 10 employees. Today's announcement doesn't appear to have changed these thresholds. Unless the thresholds are eliminated entirely, then the government will have failed in its promise to support small business owners. The new U.S. 50% tariff hits even the smallest home-based jewellery maker, so why would our government's support exclude them?"

"What we are looking for is one simple program for small businesses that removes as much of the burden of tariffs as possible, ideally delivered by the Canada Revenue Agency. Instead, we have a patchwork of agencies and programs that no small business has ever heard of before, largely delivering loans to businesses that will have no ability to pay them back."

"While I respect Canada's need to respond to the U.S. threat, the giant list of counter tariffs will create their own severe challenges for many small

businesses who have already done what they can to seek new sources of supply. Canada's support programs need to be available for companies that use, import or distribute U.S. products too.

"And for tens of thousands of other businesses, the trade war will mean more uncertainty, higher input costs and lower consumer demand due to its indirect impacts. CFIB is urging the federal government to deliver an immediate cut to the small business tax rate, retroactive to January 1, 2026. The government already publicly signaled a focus on small business in the 2026 fall budget. Doing it now would send a much-needed reassuring message to Canada's entrepreneurs."

He added: "We're also urging the government to extend the suspension of the federal excise tax on gasoline and diesel. It's set to expire on September 7, one day before retaliatory tariffs kick in. The timing couldn't be worse to see taxes and fuel prices rise."

"I do recognize that it is very challenging to get programs right in a matter of days. As we did during the pandemic, CFIB stands ready to work closely with the federal government and all parliamentarians to find ways to make any supports work for Canada's small business community."

Surrey Police appeal for witnesses to Sunday's cyclist-involved collision

SURREY Police Service (SPS) is appealing for any witnesses to a weekend collision between a cyclist and vehicle, or anyone who may have dashcam footage of the collision, to come forward to police.

At approximately 1:51 p.m. on Sunday, August 23, SPS officers responded to a report from BCEHS of a collision between a cyclist and a vehicle at the intersection of 154 Street and 24 Avenue in south Surrey. Officers arrived to find the cyclist, an adult male, being treated by BCEHS paramedics. He was transported to

hospital with what were described as serious, but non-life-threatening injuries. The driver, who was not injured, remained at the scene.

SPS's Collision Investigation Unit has taken over the lead on the investigation, and the cause of the collision remains under investigation.

SPS investigators are requesting anyone who witnessed the collision or anyone who was driving in the area and who may have dashcam footage, to contact SPS's non-emergency number at 604-599-0502 and quote file 26-90037 (SP).

Surrey Mayor Locke stands firmly with Carney and Team Canada

SURREY Mayor Brenda Locke said in a statement on Saturday (August 22): "Surrey stands firmly with the Prime Minister [Mark Carney] and Team Canada in response to the latest developments in the Canada-U.S. trade relationship."

"The Prime Minister was right to reject an unfair agreement that would have harmed Canada's economy and weakened our independence. Canada negotiated in good faith, but no deadline and no threat of tariffs should force our country to accept a bad deal. Canada must decide its own future, and Canadians must stand together to defend it."

"The United States' decision to impose 50 per cent tariffs on billions of dollars in Canadian goods is unfair and will hurt workers, businesses and families on both sides of the



Brenda Locke

border. Surrey supports the federal government's strong response and its commitment to protect Canadian jobs and industries. Canada will not be intimidated, divided or pressured into giving up control of its future.

"Surrey has an important role

to play as one of Canada's largest and fastest-growing cities, and home to major industries, businesses and trade routes. I have asked staff to look closely at our procurement processes and identify opportunities to support Canadian businesses, products and workers wherever possible. We will work closely with our federal and provincial partners. We will also stand with Surrey's business community and the people whose jobs and livelihoods are at risk."

"We value a strong and fair relationship with the United States, but that relationship must be based on fairness, trust and respect for Canada's independence. Surrey's position is clear: we stand with our workers, we stand with our businesses, and we stand with Canada."



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Attacker at Edmonton's Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple has a history of violent offences

EDMONTON Police on Friday, August 21 said they had arrested a 27-year-old man following a stabbing at the Nanaksar Sikh Gurdwara [Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple] early in the morning.

Police received reports at 4:49 a.m. of a male walking in traffic on Highway 15 near Horsehill Road. At approximately 5:05 a.m. police began receiving reports of a stabbing at the Nanaksar Sikh Gurdwara in the area of 14 Street and Horsehill Road.

It was reported to police that a male entered the Gurdwara and attempted to access the prayer area when he was confronted by staff. The confrontation then escalated and two male patrons of the Gurdwara were stabbed. Witnesses intervened and detained the man until Northeast Branch patrol officers arrived at 5:10 a.m. and immediately took him into custody.

EMS also responded, treated and transported a 75-year-old male and a 51-year-old male to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.



EPS Chief Warren Driechel

The Edmonton Police Service Investigative Response Team (IRT) has since assumed the investigation and is working closely with the EPS Hate Crimes Unit to determine if this incident was hate motivated. Charges are pending against the 27-year-old man.

"We are thankful that this morning's event did not result in more significant injuries or deaths but also recognize that the trauma experienced by the

victims and their community cannot be understated," says EPS Chief Warren Driechel. "This level of violence has no place in our city, and we want to ensure the Sikh community and all Edmontonians that we are taking this incident and their safety, seriously."

Police also told the media that the suspect is known to them. He has a history of violent offences dating back to 2015. He was armed with a screwdriver.

He had been serving a sentence for aggravated assault and assaulting a peace officer and had been released from federal prison just a day earlier. He had failed to report to his designated halfway house in Edmonton.

Anyone who may have noticed the man on Highway 15 early this morning is encouraged to call EPS at 780-423-4567 or #377 from a mobile phone. Anonymous information can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.p3tips.com/250.

OIPC evaluating removal of public access to BC Government Directory

INFORMATION and provincial government Privacy Commissioner Michael Harvey has confirmed that his office is examining the cybersecurity risks and loss of transparency associated with the removal of public access to the BC Government Directory, which provided access to public body and employee contact information.

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's (OIPC) Emerging Information and Privacy Technologies team began looking at the issue when public access to the directory was removed on August 18. The team will evaluate the validity of the security risks and identify how organizations can remain transparent in the circumstances.

"We exist in a rapidly changing digital environment, where threat actors are increasingly targeting key individuals and public servants based on publicly available information. The cybersecurity threats are very real and must be taken seriously. However, completely removing public access to the directory without a functional replacement is a very serious transparency issue, which contributes to an erosion in the public's trust to our democratic institutions," said Harvey. "Our public service must have a human face". The OIPC will publicly report on findings, including advice or recommendations for

Ministries and other public bodies on how to maximize transparency in the face of a deteriorating cybersecurity threat



Michael Harvey Official photo

environment.

"The NDP government has a track record of keeping British Columbians in the dark," said Jody Toor, Opposition Critic for Government Services. "There are ways to protect privacy and security without shutting down public access altogether. This isn't about privacy. It's about making government less transparent and less accountable to the people it serves."

"When B.C.'s Information and Privacy Commissioner launches an investigation, it is extremely serious. British Columbians deserve answers," said BC Conservative Leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay. "The NDP government claimed this decision was necessary, but that explanation is now under scrutiny. If the government has nothing to hide, it should restore the directory and let British Columbians see who is making decisions on their behalf."

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Inmate assaulted at Mission Institution's medium- security unit

THE Correctional Service of Canada says that on August 18 a lockdown was put in place in the medium-security unit at Mission Institution, to allow staff to conduct a search of the institution following an inmate assault.

The search was ordered to ensure the safety and security of the institution, its staff, and inmates. Visits were suspended until the search was completed. Normal operations resumed as soon as it was considered safe to do so.



COMMON SENSE HEALTH – DIANA GIFFORD-JONES

Retirement Is Bad for You and the Economy



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.

estimates that Canada could increase growth by mobilizing older workers in good health. Canada currently has an employment rate of about 55% among people aged 60–64.

Another OECD report estimates that workforce ageing accounted for about 10% of Canada's decline in productivity growth between 2002–07 and 2014–19, partly because older workers are less likely to move between firms and into more productive jobs.

A fascinating finding: firms with a 10% higher-than-average share of workers aged 50+ were 1.1% more productive! The researchers attribute this not only to the productivity of older workers themselves but to the combination of older and younger workers transferring knowledge and experience.

But if working with paid income is not your



game upon reaching retirement age, you can still be a powerful cog in the economy. In California, for example, researchers found that pension payments to retirees generate an annual \$28 billion in economic activity.

Think about it this way. People do better

– in their own personal health and as members of society – when they have purpose. Upon reaching retirement age and thereafter, the happiest and healthiest people are those who remain productive.

I don't have any plans for heading out to pasture. I enjoy what my father used to say, "I'll retire ten years after I'm dead."

If your circumstances make retirement the right choice, then by all means retire. But don't retire from life. And don't assume that retirement means no work. You may have exactly the skills, experience, and attitude, that a new workplace would value.

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

THE last days of summer are a good time for a break. The lake, a lawn chair, a park bench, or the couch. People want to relax for a bit, knowing that come September, it's back to the grindstone. And that's what work commonly is – a grindstone of labour to make ends meet. It's tempting, therefore, when the time finally arrives, to make a permanent leap into retirement.

But I don't want to get rusty, and you won't catch me sitting idle for long. There's a big difference between retiring and changing one's work. I recommend the latter.

Researchers can design all sorts of studies trying to determine whether retirement is good or bad for health. One study published in the BMJ followed 14,000 workers before and after retirement. Retirement was associated with substantial reductions in mental fatigue, physical fatigue, and depressive symptoms. Sounds good, right? However, retirement did not appear to alter the incidence of major chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, or respiratory illness. Too bad.

Indeed, the research is all over the place. Studies have found that some retirees become more physically healthy as a result of more time for playing sports and taking other steps towards healthy living. Other studies show deteriorating health.

A 2025 systematic review concluded that retirement is often associated with lower cognitive functioning, faster cognitive decline, and a higher risk of dementia. Although researchers noted that the effects vary considerably depending on education, occupation, and post-retirement activities.

Does engaging in work help maintain brain health? Will leaving work accelerate decline?

Here's the key point. People who retire and pick up something else to do – like another job they truly enjoy, volunteering in their community, taking a course or learning something new – are going to fare better cognitively than those who retire and become disengaged. But there's another important consideration. Retirement isn't just a personal decision. In ageing populations, it is also an economic decision that affects all of us.

Take the Canadian situation. The OECD's Employment Outlook 2025

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Ravinder Singh Dhanda to remain under 24-hour house arrest as he awaits extradition hearing

RAVINDER Singh Dhanda man has been granted bail as he fights extradition to the United States on charges that he transported, smuggled, and distributed hundreds of kilograms of cocaine and methamphetamine each week from the U.S. into Canada.

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



Ravinder Singh Dhanda
Photo: FBI

indictment returned June 23. According to the indictment, Dhanda operated a drug distribution network that provided international smuggling services for bulk quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine to drug trafficking organizations

(DTOs) in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. He negotiated transportation rates and logistics with these DTOs and subcontracted the storage and transportation of these drugs.

Sureties for Ravinder Singh Dhanda must post \$700,000 bail, and he must submit to electronic monitoring and remain under 24-hour house arrest, pending a future extradition hearing, according to a CBC report. Along with house arrest and wearing an ankle monitor, Dhanda will be required to check in regularly with a bail supervisor, be limited to a single phone, and is banned from possessing weapons or contacting his co-accused. His next court appearance is scheduled for September 9.

Five flood-mitigation projects in Surrey will improve city's resilience against high-water events

PEOPLE, farms, neighbourhoods and businesses in Surrey will be better protected from periods of high water with the completion of several flood-mitigation projects supported by the Province, the federal government and the City of Surrey.

"Surrey is one of the fastest-growing communities in the province, and protecting people from the effects of climate change is essential," said Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness,



Kelly Greene

on Wednesday. "These projects protect low-lying areas in Surrey and help address future flood risk. I'm grateful for the collaboration between the Province, the federal government and the City of Surrey that made these projects possible."

The Province committed nearly \$5 million from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) to prevent water seepage and undermining of the Fry's Corner drainage pump station. Additionally, raising and widening the dikes along the Serpentine River and Latimer Creek will safeguard important transportation corridors and agricultural lands, and support protection against a major flooding event. The Fry's Corner drainage pump station improvements are complete, with the diking upgrades scheduled for summer 2027. Other CEPF-funded projects on the Serpentine River include:

* Work is underway to improve the 64 Avenue drainage pump station and the drainage resiliency of the central Serpentine River. The Province committed \$4 million from the CEPF to implement critical projects and initiatives aimed at reducing flood vulnerability and strengthening the community's flood resilience. Completion is scheduled for fall 2027.

*The Province contributed \$5 million from the CEPF to build a new pump station near the 16000 block of 60 Avenue to ensure reliable drainage service during periods of high water on the Serpentine River. Completion is expected in late 2027.

Located along the Nicomekl River, another project will result in the replacement of three aging sets of culverts and dike raising, providing better protection to people, farms

and businesses in Surrey. Once completed, the project will help protect more than one kilometre of Highway 15 linking to the Pacific Highway border crossing, more than 50 buildings, including homes and barns, more than 400 hectares of agricultural lands, portions of 48 Avenue and 184 Street, and 500 metres of the provincial Roberts Bank Railway corridor.

Scheduled for completion in summer 2027, the \$1.3-million project is funded through the Green Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Province provided more than \$457,000, the federal government committed more than \$548,000 and the City of Surrey contributed more than \$365,000.

The now-completed Surrey living dike project received \$300,000 from the Province and offers nature-based solutions for coastal flood protection on Mud Bay and Boundary Bay.

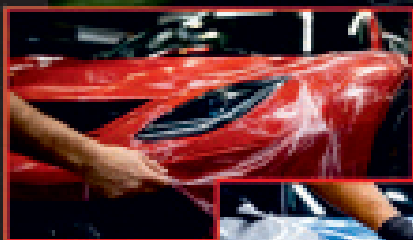
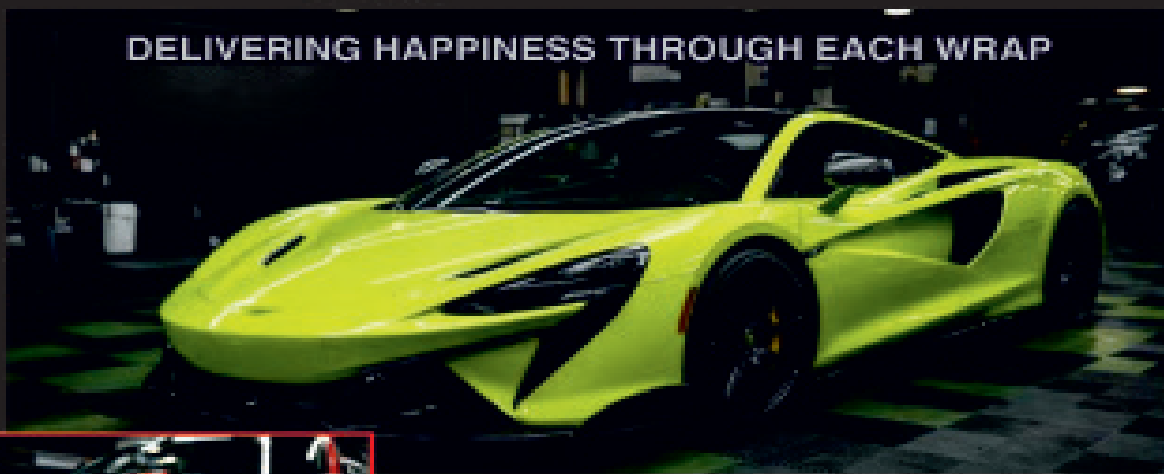
The living dike provides flood and erosion protection along Surrey's coastline. A gentle, raised dike slope helps natural salt marshes migrate and re-establish in conjunction with sea-level rise. Various edge treatments, such as brushwood dams, oyster shells and cobbles were installed along the living dike as part of trial plots to determine the most successful method to dissipate waves and lower erosive forces on the dike. More than 50,000 salt-marsh plugs have been planted within the project site to support natural salt marsh progression and establish the living dike.

"These flood-mitigation projects are critical investments in the safety and resilience of our community," said Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke. "In recent years, we have seen the growing impacts of extreme-weather events, which have reinforced the need to strengthen Surrey's flood-control infrastructure. By improving dikes, drainage systems and pump stations, we are protecting residents, homes, farms, businesses and key transportation corridors, while helping ensure our city is prepared for future challenges and remains safe for generations to come."

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5758 131 A STREET SURREY



11BED - 11 BATHS - 20,255 SF LOT

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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

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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

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MLA Harman Bhangu's initiative petition application on repealing DRIPA approved by Elections BC

ELECTIONS BC announced on Thursday that an initiative petition application — "Repeal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act" — submitted to it by BC Conservative MLA Harman Bhangu (Langley-Abbotsford) has been approved in principle.

The purpose of the petition and draft Bill is to repeal the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and would come into force upon Royal Assent.

Elections BC said that as a non-partisan office of the Legislature, its role is to ensure all initiative petitions are run in accordance with the Recall and Initiative Act (the Act).

As the statutory decision maker under the Act, the Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for reviewing the initiative petition application to ensure it meets all relevant legal obligations. If



Harman Bhangu

satisfied, the Chief Electoral Officer must grant approval in principle to allow the initiative petition to proceed.

The Act allows registered voters in British Columbia to propose new laws or changes to existing laws. An applicant for an initiative petition may be any registered voter in B.C. The proponent who leads the petition must collect signatures from 10% of the registered voters in each of the province's 93 electoral districts for the initiative petition to succeed.

The petition will be issued to the proponent, Harman Bhangu, on Monday, October 26. Signature sheets must be submitted to Elections BC by Monday, January 25, 2027.

The initiative application, draft Bill, and a copy of the reasons for the decision is available for public inspection at the Elections BC office and on the Elections BC website at www.elections.bc.ca/initiative.

Provincial state of emergency ends, wildfire risk remains

THE state of provincial emergency in British Columbia has come to an end, though wildfire risk remains high in much of the province and people are urged to remain prepared, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness announced on Thursday.

The state of provincial emergency, which was initially declared on August 8, will come to an end on August 27. The decision follows advice from emergency management officials.

The state of provincial emergency was enacted to ensure emergency powers and other tools could be made available quickly if needed. Fortunately, the Province did not need to use those emergency powers.

The Wildfire Act and Emergency and Disaster Management Act continues to provide the Province with the legislative tools currently needed to respond to wildfire emergencies, including the co-ordination of provincial and international resources. The Province continues to actively support local governments and First Nations with emergency response.

The cancellation of the state of provincial emergency has no effect on current evacuation orders, evacuation alerts or local states of emergencies put in place by local governments or First Nations.

Most local governments and First Nations affected by wildfires are now shifting into community-led recovery and the Province continues to support that work. The end of the state of emergency does not affect recovery efforts.

Although the state of emergency has ended, wildfire risk remains elevated in many parts of the province due to ongoing warm and dry conditions. The Province continues to actively monitor the situation and can declare a new state of emergency if needed.

People throughout the province are encouraged to remain prepared and stay alert to changing wildfire conditions.

People are encouraged to:

- * Check emergency plans and make sure everyone in the family knows what to do in case of an evacuation alert or order.
- * Pre-register for Emergency Support Services through the B.C. Services Card app or the website: <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/>
- * Pack grab-and-go bags for each member of the household, including pets. Bags should have medications, important papers, phone chargers, water, food and clothes.

22-year-old pilot dead in Hatzic plane crash

ON Wednesday, August 26, at approximately 10:22 p.m., Mission RCMP received reports of a loud crash and a possible plane crash in the area of Burns Road and Spratt Road in Hatzic.

Frontline officers along with Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Fire responded to the scene and located debris from a small plane in the area. An occupant of the plane was located deceased. Based on the initial investigative steps, it can be confirmed that the deceased, a 22-year-old man, was the sole occupant of the small plane that was conducting a training flight, police said.

The Mission RCMP is currently working with Transport Canada to support the Transportation Safety Board's (TSB) ongoing investigation, which aims to understand the circumstances, causes, and contributing factors of this crash.

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Surrey advances \$7.9M investment in new parks with first groundbreaking

THE City of Surrey has broken ground on Acorn Park in South Newton, marking the start of construction on the first of three new neighbourhood parks representing a \$7.9-million investment in new community green spaces. The new parks, located in Newton and Guildford, will create accessible outdoor spaces where residents can relax, play, gather and enjoy nature closer to home.

“As Surrey continues to grow, we need to make sure our parks and public spaces grow with it,” Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke said on Thursday. “Investing in neighbourhood parks is an important part of creating healthy, livable communities and ensuring residents

have access to quality public spaces in every part of our city.”

Acorn Park is a new 3.9-acre (1.6-hectare) neighbourhood space at 58A Avenue and 142 Street. The \$2.5-million project is being delivered in two phases, with open space, multi-use pathways and a pilot dog off-leash area opening by the end of 2026. A playground, multi-sport court and gathering spaces will follow in 2027.

Abbey Ridge Park is a 5.2-acre (2.1-hectare) park in East Fraser Heights that will include a playground, fitness area, half basketball court, dog off-leash area, walking trails and gathering areas. Construction for this \$2.6 million project



Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke and Councillor Doug Elford. Photo: City of Surrey

is expected to begin this fall, with the first phase to open by the end of the year and remaining amenities available in 2027.

Woodward Hill Neighbourhood Park in South Newton is a new 4.7-acre (1.9-hectare) park beside the elementary school that will begin construction later this fall and open by fall 2027. The \$2.8-million project will include a basketball court, nature-inspired playground, outdoor fitness equipment, accessible pathways and shared seating and picnic areas. A defining feature will be the preservation of many mature trees, giving the park shade and a welcoming, established feel from the day it opens.

For more information on these and other park projects, visit surrey.ca/capitalprojects



Christine Boyle

THE Province says that more British Columbians will be able to find a home they can afford and build a life in the community they love as it continues to

Maximum allowable rent increase set at 2.2% for 2027

tie the annual allowable rent increase to inflation at 2.2% in 2027, down from 2.3% in 2026.

“At a time when many people are feeling the impact of rising costs, linking rent increases to inflation helps renters, including seniors and families, meet their housing expenses, while also ensuring landlords can continue providing stable, well-maintained homes for renters for years to come,” said Christine Boyle, Minister

of Housing and Municipal Affairs, on Thursday.

“Our focus from the start has been on helping people across B.C. find housing that fits their needs and budgets. Thanks to our work to increase housing supply, crack down on illegal short-term rentals and limit foreign investment in the housing market, B.C. has seen a 4.5% decrease

in overall average rents.”

Before 2019, renters faced an additional 2% rent increase in addition to inflation, costing the average B.C. family hundreds of dollars in additional rent. If the change had not taken place, allowable rent increases would have reached 5.4% in 2023 and 5.6% in 2024.

The maximum annual allowable

rent increase for 2027 takes effect on January 1, 2027. Announcing the increase now provides landlords time to give the required minimum of three months notice of the change so renters can plan ahead. Landlords can only increase rent once every 12 months and any increase must be within the yearly allowable rent increase limit.

Dr. Bonnie Henry encourages parents, guardians to check children's immunization records

DR. Bonnie Henry, British Columbia's provincial health officer, in a statement to encourage parents and guardians to check their children's immunization records as part of back-to-school preparations, said on Thursday: “With children starting kindergarten and heading back to school soon, I encourage you to check that your children are up to date on routine immunizations. During this busy and exciting time of figuring out schedules and school supplies, now is the time to ensure your child is protected against illnesses, including measles, mumps and rubella, polio, pertussis (whooping cough), meningitis and chickenpox. “It's fast and easy to check your child's immunization records and book an appointment to fill in the gaps on any vaccinations, including the measles vaccine. That's particularly important this season as we are still seeing measles transmission in parts of the province and



Dr. Bonnie Henry

across the country.

“You can book an appointment at a public health clinic or at doctors' or nurse-practitioners' offices. If your child is over four years of age, you can also book an appointment to get them vaccinated at some pharmacies.

“If your child is older and you're wondering which vaccines they might receive in school clinics, the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is routinely offered to all students in Grade 6, and tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and meningitis vaccines in Grade 9. These vaccines are available at public health units, community health centres, some doctors' and nurse-practitioners' offices and some pharmacies.”

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Work begins on new Hazel Trembath Elementary

CONSTRUCTION begins on a new Hazel Trembath Elementary and a new addition opens at École Dr. Charles Best Secondary to support student learning and growth in the Coquitlam School District.

“The loss of Hazel Trembath Elementary was deeply felt by students, families and the entire community, which is why it is so meaningful to see construction begin on its replacement,” said Mike Farnworth, MLA for Port Coquitlam. “This new school, as well as other school projects underway throughout the district, will provide students with the safe, welcoming spaces they need to thrive.”

Since 2017, the Province has invested in 11 capital projects in the Coquitlam School District. Eight of the projects are complete, including the new addition at École Dr. Charles Best Secondary school. The three projects underway are the replacement of Hazel Trembath Elementary, the seismic replacement of Montgomery



Mike Farnworth

Middle school and the new Burke Mountain Secondary, set to open in 2027.

The replacement school for Hazel Trembath Elementary is being delivered using a first-in-B.C. hybrid-construction approach that will speed up delivery of the new school. It will include 240 seats and a neighbourhood learning centre for future child care spaces. The Province is providing \$39 million for the new school and it is expected to open in December 2027.

École Dr. Charles Best Secondary school offers educational programming for grades 9-12 in the Ranch Park neighbourhood in Coquitlam.

The new two-storey addition includes 300 new seats in 12 classrooms. Built to LEED Gold standards, the new addition offers a sustainable and energy-efficient environment.

TransLink says it's improving access to jobs, campuses, growing communities

TRANSLINK said on Monday it is making it easier for thousands of people to get to work, school, and other important destinations this fall by adding capacity on busy routes, improving reliability, and expanding transit into growing employment areas.

Starting September 7, customers will see new or improved service on 21 routes across Metro Vancouver. These changes include the early delivery of two major 2025 Investment Plan commitments: the extension of the R2 RapidBus to Metrotown, and the introduction of the new #556 service to Langley's Gloucester Industrial Area. These improvements are helping workers reach major job centres, giving employers access to a wider workforce, connecting students to post-secondary campuses, and providing more service in growing communities across Metro Vancouver. The upgrades are made possible by TransLink's 2025 Investment Plan, approved by the

Mayors' Council.

Fast-tracked and being delivered three months ahead of schedule, the R2 Marine-Willington RapidBus will be extended from Phibbs Exchange to Metrotown Station, and will create a new all-day direct connection across one of the region's busiest corridors. The upgraded R2 will replace the #222 Willington Express, which will end service on September 4. The existing R2 RapidBus has more than 1.9 million boardings per year; the route extension will:

- * Reduce wait times with six-to-seven-minute frequencies during peak periods.
- * Add 60-foot articulated buses along the corridor, with 50 per cent more room on board.
- * Connect students and workers to Capilano University (via Route 245), SFU, and BCIT.

To make the best use of TransLink's bus fleet and match vehicle capacity with ridership demand, vehicle size on the R3 Lougheed Highway RapidBus will transition to 40-foot buses. Service levels will remain unchanged, and customers are expected to be able to find a seat on approximately 99 per cent of trips. All-door boarding will no longer be available, and customers will board through the front door.

Launching one year ahead of schedule, the new #556 community shuttle route will bring transit service to Gloucester Industrial Estates for the first time, connecting workers to a growing employment area in Langley Township and helping employers reach a wider workforce. The route was developed in response to community feedback and will support an area expected to see more than 7,500 jobs added over the next decade. The #556 will connect Langley Centre and Gloucester Industrial Estates via 56 Avenue, operating every 30 minutes during weekday peak hours. Through the 2025 Investment Plan, work also continues to deliver new or improved service to other key industrial areas in Metro Vancouver, including Annacis Island, Campbell Heights in Surrey, and Tilbury in Delta.

In addition, TransLink is improving access, reliability, and connectivity across the region by increasing year-round service on 19 other routes this fall. Seasonal service also returns to provide more trips on five routes serving post-secondary schools, including UBC, SFU, and Capilano University.





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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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