Friday, September 20, 2024



Better patient care, more nurses coming to B.C.

Patients will experience improved care and nurses will experience a stronger health-care system as the Province and BC Nurses' Union (BCNU) have now established nurse-to-patient ratios for the majority of hospital settings.

A new recruitment strategy, along with expanded education opportunities and supports for nurses, will enable the implementation of ratios and make B.C. a leader in Canada in terms of places to practise as a nurse.

"Nurses in B.C. do an incredible job taking care of us in our time of need – whether in the community, a hospital or in a care home," said Premier David Eby. "Setting a minimum nurse staffing standard means more time to deliver the life-saving care. This is one of the actions we're taking to recruit and retain nurses with better pay, safer working conditions and more training opportunities."

New nurse-to-patient ratios have been determined for more hospital settings, such as in emergency departments, neo-natal intensive care units (NICU), post-anaesthesia care units (PACU), maternity units, operating rooms and alternative level of care areas. Implementation of these additional ratios will begin in fall 2024. Planning is underway to establish ratios in long-term care, assisted living and other health-authority-operated community settings. The full suite of minimum nurse-to-patient ratios, including the ones announced in March 2024, will be implemented over a four-year period, with the target of hiring more than 8,000 nurses.

Nurses are essential to the health-care system, and we have worked diligently to address deficiencies in their workplace and improve retention," said Adrian Dix, B.C. Minis-ter of Health. "Earlier this year, we became the first province in Canada to establish minimum nurseto-patient ratios and have made significant progress. Now, with ratios for the majority of hospital settings agreed upon with the BCNU, we have a firm commitment to work together to deliver ratios over the next four years, fortified by new recruitment programs for workplaces that benefit both nurses and patients." As previously indicated, over the coming year, B.C. will have funding of \$300 million to build out the nursing workforce. Addi-tionally, the Province is taking actions in the following ways immediately: BC Health Careers recently launched an international recruitment campaign targeting internationally edu-cated nurses. This includes a first-of-its-kind integrat-



ed BC Health Careers Roadshow in the U.K., with similar events to come.

Nurses accepting positions in high-needs areas, starting with emergency departments will receive as much as \$25,000 as a recruitment incentive.

In addition, there is \$100 million, allocated from the 2023-24 minimum nurse-topatient ratio budget, which will support retention and professional development for nurses, with an early focus on emergency departments in Year 1. This is part of the Province's wider commitment to refresh and expand educational programs for nurses to more easily access practice opportunities in complex care environments. A key area of focus is emergency departments, recognizing the challenges the Province is currently facing.

Expanding GoHealthBC nursing, the Province's

public travel nurses program, to reduce reliance on agency nursing and overtime, with an early focus on recruiting ER-qualified nurses to prevent emergency department closures.

The BCNU and Ministry of Health will also work together to create resources, beginning with emergency departments, to implement flexible scheduling as part of establishing collaborative and healthy workplaces.

"Today's announcement is yet another milestone toward achieving minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in B.C. and represents an unprecedented collaboration between nursing leaders within the Ministry of Health, health authorities and the BC Nurses' Union," said Adriane Gear, president, BC Nurses' Union. "Ratios will improve the quality of patient care and conditions of work. Determining the ratios could not have been done without the feedback provided by thousands of nurses, who are dedicated to improving the experience of both patients and their fellow nurse colleagues."

Funding for the nurse-topatient ratios is supported by the Province allocating funding from the Working Together bilateral agreement.

This work also builds on the 602 new nurse training seats announced in 2022, which brings the total number of nursing seats in B.C. to more than 2,700. Investing in the retention and recruitment of nurses is part of B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy. The strategy advances 70 actions to retain, recruit and train health-care workers in B.C. while supporting innovative health-system redesign and optimization.

Quotes:

Jim Gould, interim CEO, BC Nurses' Union –

"Ratios have been proven to transform the delivery of patient care in other parts of the world and it is exciting to know that B.C. is the first province in Canada to implement this as a staffing solution. This is a critical policy decision that nurses have been advocating for and we applaud the government for advancing this work in consultation with the nurses of B.C."

B.C. improving community resilience through climate adaptation

To better protect people and improve community defences against climate change, the Province is providing funding to communities across British Columbia for disaster risk resilience and climate-adaptation projects.

"Climate change is no longer a future concern, it's happening now and we're seeing its impact all over British Columbia," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. "Through disaster mitigation funding, our government is committed to helping communities become more resilient by empowering local governments to adapt to the changing climate and better protect themselves and their residents against future climate challenges."

Sixty-five communities will receive approximately \$56 million for 78 projects from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) through the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation stream. This funding will help communities tackle current vulnerabilities,



minimize the risk of future disasters and support communities to make informed decisions.

Funding includes approximately \$1.2 million through the program's October 2023 intake to tackle drought conditions in the Sunshine Coast Regional District by supporting the shíshálh Nation's Lower Crown Reservoir project. The reservoir will capture water from Chapman Creek to improve access to water and increase water security for people living in the region. "We want to thank the Prov-

"We want to thank the Province for their support and funding to move the water security project for the Sunshine Coast along," said Chief Lenora Joe, shíshálh Nation. "By working with our partners at the Sunshine Coast Regional District, we know we can make transformative change creating a better future for all residents. It is only through unifying our communities and working with partners like B.C., that we can tackle climate change and other significant challenges of our time."

Other projects include:

creating a green corridor by installing rain gardens, planting trees and native plants around Tillicum Elementary school in Saanich to reduce heat, help mitigate flooding and cut carbon emissions for the entire Tillicum community:

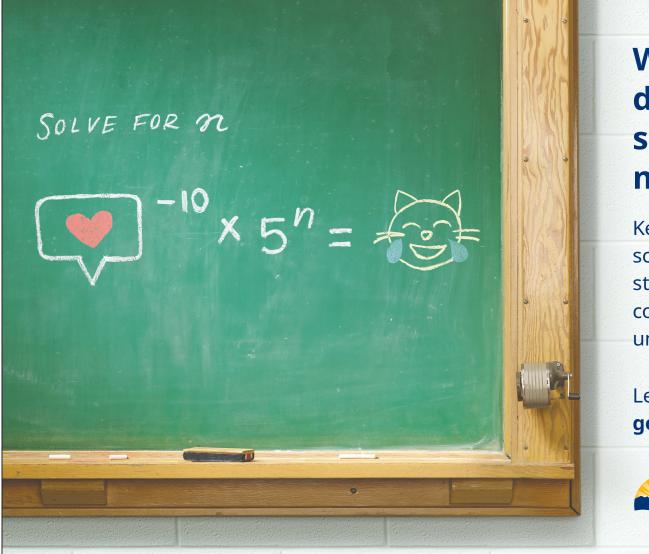
community; designing disaster-risk and policy-assessment models in Gibsons to inform planning and policy around risks from climate-related issues such as flooding, erosion and salt-water intrusion to lessen future emergency costs and adapt to climate change;

protecting essential wastewater infrastructure in the northern Village of Lumby by reinforcing riverbanks near the treatment lagoons to improve the longevity of flood mitigation and better serve the local area; and

preventing soil erosion and protecting riverbanks in Vanderhoof by planting willow saplings along the Nechako River and Stoney Creek to reduce damage downstream, preserve nearby communities and protect the eco-sensitive area to safeguard water systems from climate-related threats.

The Province has invested \$369 million into the CEPF since it was established in 2017. Approximately \$279 million has been provided to local governments and First Nations through the CEPF for approximately 2,100 projects. This includes approximately \$176 million to support disaster-mitigation and climate-adaptation projects.

The CEPF supports local governments and First Nations to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate in several categories. In addition to disaster-risk reduction and climate adaptation, other categories include:



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NEW BLOW FOR CANADA'S TRUDEAU AFTER HIS PARTY LOSES LONG-HELD SEAT

By Jessica Murphy

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party has lost a crucial parliament seat in a special election in Montreal, a defeat likely to put more pressure on the Canadian leader to quit.

The narrow loss in Montreal's federal electoral district of LaSalle-Émard-Verdun is the second such defeat in three months for Trudeau's minority Liberal government. With all the votes counted, Liberal

candidate Laura Palestini came second behind the Bloc Quebecois candidate, Louis-Philippe Sauvé.

In his ninth year as prime minister, Trudeau's approval rate has plummeted from 63% when he was first elected to 28% in June of this year, according to one poll tracker.

Opinion polls suggest the Liberals are on track to lose the next election to the Conservatives, the current official opposition in Canada's parliament.

The prime minister has faced calls to resign as party leader, including from

within his own party. But he has insisted he plans to stay on and lead the party into the next election, which is scheduled for



October 2025.

The Montreal by-election was held after the January resignation of former Liberal minister David Lametti, who had held the seat since 2015.

On Tuesday, Trudeau said there were "all sorts of reflections to take" on what went wrong for the Liberals in

the once safe seat.

He said he and his team would continue to focus on working for Canadians.

In June, Trudeau's Liberals lost a Toronto federal seat that it had held for 30 years to the opposition Conservative Party - a major sign of trouble for the party, which has been

in power since 2015.

The election could also be triggered sooner, after the NDP early this month pulled out of an agreement with the minority Liberals that helped keep them in power.

Also on Monday, the progressive NDP managed to narrowly hold onto a seat in a by-election in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The by-election in the riding - or constituency - of Elmwood-Transcona in Winnipeg was held after the resignation of long-time NDP member of parliament Daniel Blaikie in March.

The NDP kept the seat - a stronghold for their party - with 48% of the vote. The Conservatives came second with 44% of the vote.

While the Liberals were not expected to win the Winnipeg riding, there were still some signals of trouble -their candidate took 5% of the vote compared to 15% in the last federal election.

In recent years, Canadian voters have shown increasing frustration with the government on issues like rising inflation, a housing affordability crisis, healthcare and immigration.

B.C. IMPROVING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION

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funding will help communities tackle current vulnerabilities, minimize the risk of future disasters and support communities to make informed decisions.

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water security project for the Sunshine Coast along," said Chief Lenora Joe, shíshálh Nation. "By working with our partners at the Sunshine Coast Regional District, we know we can make transformative change creating a better future for all residents. It is only through unifying our communities and working with partners like B.C., that we can tackle climate change and other significant challenges of our time."

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and First Nations through the CEPF for approximately 2,100 projects. This includes approximately \$176 million to support disaster-mitigation and climate-adaptation projects.

BC Hydro receives strong response to call for clean electricity to power economy

BC Hydro has received a strong response to its call for new renewable power-generation projects while it continues to build out and strengthen B.C.'s electricity grid, creating jobs and supporting clean growth in communities such as Vancouver.

"We need more clean energy to power our homes, businesses and industries, to power growing communities and to power our future," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. "Building an economy powered by clean, reliable and affordable electricity is one of the job-creation opportunities of our generation. Through regular calls for power and BC Hydro's 10-year capital plan, we are creating over 10,000 construction jobs and driving sustainable growth across the province."

In April 2024, BC Hydro launched a call for power to acquire approximately 3,000 gigawatt hours per year (GWh/y) of clean electricity. This is BC Hydro's first competitive call for power in more than 15 years and will add 5% to its current supply.

In response, BC Hydro received proposals for three times more energy than it was targeting. There were 21



proposals from independent power producers throughout B.C., representing more than 9,000 GWh/y, enough power approximateto ly 800,000 homes. Of the proposals received, approximately 70% are wind projects, 20% are solar and 10% include biomass and hydro. The proposals are geographically diverse representing almost every region in the province. Of the 21 proposals, there are eight from the southern Interior, four from the central Interior, five from the north coast, two from the Peace Region and two from Vancouver Island. After evaluating the proposals over the coming months, BC Hydro will award electricity purchase agreements in December and expects projects to start coming online as soon as fall 2028. The development and construction of new clean-energy projects in response to the call for power will generate an estimated

\$2.3 billion to \$3.6 billion in private capital spending throughout the province and create approximately 800 to 1,500 jobs annually on average.

Unlike other provinces, B.C. is well positioned to add more intermittent renewables, such as wind and solar, to the electricity grid as its integrated, flexible system of hydroelectric dams act as batteries. The reservoirs store water and allow BC Hydro to ramp production up or down almost instantly, providing a reliable backup when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. The cost of wind and solar, and the time needed to construct new facilities, has dropped significantly over the past decade.

As part of Powering Our Future: BC's Clean Energy Strategy, the Province has committed to conducting regular, competitive calls for power every two years. This will ensure that B.C. has the clean electricity it needs as the economy and population continues to grow while keeping BC Hydro rates affordable for people and businesses.

In addition to increasing the generation of electricity in the province, BC Hydro is also investing to expand and strengthen its transmission and distribution system through its capital plan. Upgrading BC Hydro's electricity grid will ensure that clean power can be delivered to new homes, businesses and industries when and where they need it.

In January 2024, the Province announced BC Hydro's updated 10-Year capital plan, which contains \$36 billion in regional and community infrastructure investments across B.C., a 50% increase in investments over its previous capital plan. These new construction projects are forecast to support 10,500 to 12,500 jobs annually, on average, as well as increase and maintain BC Hydro's capital investments as major projects, such as Site C, are completed.

"In growing municipalities like Vancouver, where we are seeing substantial population growth and increasing residential, commercial and industrial customers clean electricity needs, we are embarking on significant upgrades to our electricity system, including adding new substations and expanding existing substations, transmission lines and distribution network to ensure we can continue to provide reliable and clean electricity to our customers," said Chris O'Riley, president and CEO, BC Hydro. "We are also making important changes to our customer connections process to speed up timelines for newly constructed homes and buildings."

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver is the most populated municipality in B.C. Population and housing growth along with increasing residential, commercial and industrial electrification is driving up energy needs. To meet this surge in demand, approximately \$2 billion is being invested in several projects, including: approximately \$1.4 billion to construct three new substations, which will be in service by the early 2030s: West End substation to replace the Dal Craver substa-

place the Dal Grauer substation will power as many as 70,000 new homes;

East Vancouver substation to replace the Murrin substation will power as many as 70,000 new homes; and Boundary substation to provide capacity in the fast-growing south Vancouver and south Burnaby areas will power as many as 70,000 new homes.

approximately \$200 million to expand capacity at Mount Pleasant and Kidd 1 substations, and to replace aging equipment at Cathedral Square and Sperling substations;



B.C. connecting thousands of people to family doctors quicker than ever

B.C. connecting thousands of people to family doctors quicker than ever (flickr.com)

More than 248,000 people have been connected to a family doctor or nurse practitioner since the Health Connect Registry launched provincewide in July 2023.

Hundreds more people are getting matched every day. In total, more than 570,000 people have been connected to a family doctor or nurse practitioner since the launch of the primary-care strategy in 2018.

B.C. has also added 835 new primary-care family doctors who are taking on patients since launching its new physician pay model in February 2023, all part of strong actions to recruit thousands of health-care workers and connect people to the care they need.

"We want B.C. to be a place where health care is always there for you, which is why we're taking action to hire more family doctors and health professionals than ever before," said Premier David Eby. "We're starting to see some good results, but there's a lot more we need to do. We can't afford to slash health-care budgets when we need to be hiring even more doctors and nurses so B.C. families get the care they need when they need it."

The pace of matches through the Health Connect Registry is accelerating



following improvements implemented in April 2024. At this time, around 4,000 people per week are connected to a family doctor, which is up from 2,700 per week at the same time last year, a 52% increase. It is expected that about 160,000 more people will be matched in the next six months.

"To meet growing demand for healthcare services driven by B.C.'s aging and growing population, as well as a global shortage of care providers, we are investing in a multi-front approach that supports the people who need care and the health-care providers who offer it," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. "With the work we're doing, more of our neighbours and loved ones are getting high-quality care that's closer to home."

The Province continues to look for new ways to support the recruitment and retention of health professionals. In partnership with Fraser Health Authority, the Province has also identified a new BC Builds site in Surrey to deliver rental homes prioritized for nurses and health-care workers and their families. The site is near the second hospital being built in Surrey and will allow workers to live close to where they work.

ers to live close to where they work. "Delivering homes for the people who provide the services we rely on and drive our economy forward is why we launched BC Builds," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing. "Through this BC Builds initiative, we will be able to build first-of-its-kind housing to help health-care workers and their families find homes they can afford, and help people get the health care they need."

These homes are part of a \$19-billion housing investment by the B.C. government. Since 2017, the Province has more than 84,000 homes that have been delivered or are underway for people in B.C., including nearly 1,900 in Surrey. Increasing access to primary care for people in the province is part of the primary-care strategy launched in 2018. Recruiting, retaining and training more health-care workers is part of B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy launched in 2022.

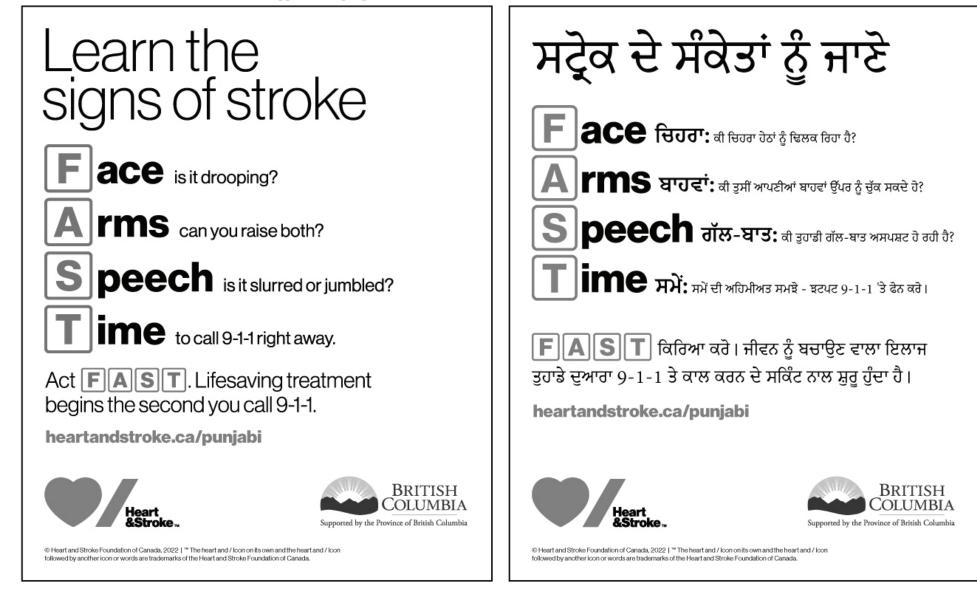
Quotes:

Dr. Ahmer Karimuddin, president, Doctors of BC –

"Increasing access to family doctors for thousands of British Columbians will drive better health outcomes. Improving our primary-care system through strategies like the Health Connect Registry and the longitudinal family physician (LFP) payment model for community-based and facility-based care help to ensure that patients can receive timely and consistent care. These are significant steps toward healthier communities for everyone."

Scott Wheatley, executive director, Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce

"The positive impact of new homes next to the hospital on the business community cannot be overstated. By offering new residents the opportunity to establish roots and live, work and play locally, this project will help Cloverdale thrive. With Surrey's rapidly growing population, this development is a win all around."



Funding supports community healing in northern B.C.

Indigenous women and girls in northern B.C. will receive increased community-led support through \$1 million from the Giving Voice project.

Women, girls and gender-diverse people are disproportionately targeted by gender-based violence, and Indigenous women are four times more likely to experience gender-based violence. The Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) has made action on this topic a priority for the council.

Under Giving Voice, a funding initiative led by MACIW, eight or-ganizations in northern B.C. will receive as much as \$30,000 each for community-driven healing projects that inspire change and give voice to issues of violence in Indigenous women's lives.

"Gender-based violence disproportionate-ly affects Indigenous women and girls in communities across the province," said communities Ward-Burkitt, Barb chair of MACIW. "This latest round of Giving Voice funding is supporting meaningful initiatives that foster healing and promote safety for Indigenous women and girls, and empower change at a community level."

Launched in 2013, Giving Voice places em-phasis on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to cultural self-determination and safety, and aligns with the Province's efforts to strengthen relationships with Indigenous Peoples and take action accordance with in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Highlights of funded projects in northern B.C. include:

Lake Babine Nation will continue sup-porting Team Gooze, a community patrol initiative that acts as



Lake Babine's emergency-response team and provides culturally responsive care for community members experiencing violence (Burns Lake). The Linda Krystina Housing Society will bring woman and youth together to bring awareness to the violence within their lives and initiate change (Chetwynd). Öld Massett Village Council will support its women's council, creating a safe space for women to share their experience, strength

and hope for a better community (Masset). Funding for the 2024-25 Giving Voice initiative was provided as part of the National Ac-

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tion Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. The program also helps support one of several key actions the Province is advancing un-der Safe and Supported: B.C.'s gender-based

violence action plan. "Gender-based violence exists in every community and every context. However, the rates of violence toward Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people continue to be significantly higher,' said Marci Íen, federal Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth. "This cycle of violence must end and no one knows how to build their community better than the people who live in it,

FAST SERVICE

emphasizing the need for culturally specific programming. I'm proud that funding through the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence is going toward organizations such as these which are doing meaningful work to empower Indigenous communities across British Columbia."

MACIW is an advisory council of respected Indigenous women that was created in 2011 to advise the B.C. government about how to improve quality of life for Indigenous women and girls throughout the province.

Ouotes:

Annette Morgan, executive director, Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society

"We are honored and deeply grateful to receive funding through the Giving Voice program for the Empower-ing Indigenous Women and Girls project. This support will empower our community to create positive change, promote heal-ing and work toward ending gender-based violence. We are committed to utilizing this opportunity to uplift and empower Indigenous women and girls, and we look forward to making a meaningful impact together." Melva Quock, justice director, Tahltan Band Council -

"With the support of the Giving Voice grant, we can offer on-theland wellness camps that provide a sacred space for our people. These camps help us reconnect with the land and our cultural teachings, which are essential to our healing. By using the child in the middle concept, we strengthen the entire community, fostering inter-generational healing and creating a

circle of care that extends to all. This funding allows us to honor our traditions and address the impacts of violence in a meaningful and lasting way, en-suring well-being for future generations."

Sylvia Desrocher, president. Prince George Métis Association -

"We are grateful to be recipients of Giving Voice funding sponsored by the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) for our upcommunity coming project, Empowering Métis Women and Girls. This funding will help us to create culturally and relationally safe spaces where family violence and gender-based violence can be addressed and understood, with empowerment to break these cycles, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically."





Province working with communities on building more housing with zoning extensions

British

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The Province has granted extensions to 21 B.C. local governments to provide them more time to amend zoning bylaws and upgrade infrastructure for some, or all, of their community.

This will give the local governments time to comply with the new actions to allow for more row homes, triplexes and townhomes. The list of communities and specific neighbourhoods follows in the backgrounder.

The Province set new requirements for local governments to fix outdated zoning rules and create capacity for more row homes, triplexes and townhouses, paving the way for more housing options for people and families with middle incomes. governments Local

were required to make changes to zoning bylaws by June 30, 2024, to allow: either a minimum of one secondary suite or detached accessory dwelling unit; a minimum of three to four dwelling units; or a minimum of six dwelling units near bus stops with frequent transit service, depending on location and population.

Communities were able to request an extension on adopting the legis-

lation beyond the June 30 deadline for parts, or all, of their community where the requirements apply, depending on need. Seven requests for extensions were declined and can be found in the backgrounder.

Applications for extensions were required to demonstrate that the local government is in the process of upgrading

infrastructure for the area, or areas, where the would apply was such that compliance was likely to increase a risk to health, public safety or the environment; or extraordinary circum-stances exist that pre-

zoning changes

vent compliance. Some local governments have already amended their bylaws for most areas of their community, but were granted an extension for certain ar-eas or neighbourhoods where infrastructure upgrades are needed or underway.

As of Sept. 16, 2024, 172 of 188, or more than 91% of local governments in B.C., have now adopted the small-scale, multiunit housing (SSMUH) legislation by passing local bylaws for all areas where an extension was not requested.

tinue to evaluate the implementation of the legislation by local governments to ensure its success in helping to deliver more row homes, triplexes and town-houses in communities throughout B.C.

These changes create more options for the kinds of housing peo-ple are looking for, whether seniors looking to downsize while staying in their neighbourhoods, or young families searching for more attainable homes with outdoor spaces for pets, children and gardens.

Maninder Kaur

(RCIC)

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City of Surrey launches priority registration for Surrey residents

Surrey, B.C. - Surrey residents will get to be first in line when they sign up for their favourite Parks, Recreation and Culture programs starting this winter. To better serve our clients, the City is prioritizing Surrey residents for our seasonal online registration. This initiative addresses the need to stabilize high traffic volumes on surrey.ca on registration days. It is a continuation of the improvements made last year, which included staggered registration dates, a virtual waiting room and simplified login.

"We are excited to prioritize our residents with early access to our Parks, Recreation and Culture programs this winter," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "This initiative will make it easier for Surrey families to register for programs and reflects our commitment to making our community's recreational opportunities more accessible and enjoyable. I encourage all Surrey residents to take advantage of this priority registration and plan for a wonderful winter season filled with activities."

For the upcoming winter season, Surrey residents will be able to sign up on the following dates:

Sunday, November 24 at 9 p.m.

on Sunday, December 8 at 9 p.m. Non-residents can sign up for all programs starting Sunday, December 15 at

9 p.m. Surrey residents and non-residents are encouraged to prepare for winter registration by learning how the virtual waiting room works. In addition, patrons are recommended to add a family member to their account in advance by calling 604-501-5100, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To plan ahead and find activities running from January to April 2025, view the digital Recreation Guide online or pick up a print copy at a library or recreation facility. For more information about winter programs, how to register and registration tips, visit surrey.ca/ register.



South Asian CHOICE

BJP LEADER RAVNEET SINGH BITTU DEFENDS CALLING CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI 'NUMBER 1 TERRORIST'



New Delhi: BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu on Thursday said that he does not hold any regret and won't apologise for calling Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi a "number 1 terrorist". He added that the Gandhi family burnt Punjab and consequently the state lost generations of lives.

"Why should I regret it? We in Punjab have lost our generations. The Gandhi family burnt Punjab...I express my pain as a Sikh. I am a minister later, a Sikh first. If Gurpatwant Singh Pannun endorses it (Rahul Gandhi's statement) what will you say?" said Bittu.

When asked if he would apologise for his statement, Ravneet Singh Bittu said, "Kharge sahab should apologise. He should clarify if the Congress party agrees with Rahul Gandhi. You need to ask Sikhs. Bring any Sikh from the Congress party who is not allowed to carry a turban, wear kada and visit Gurudwara."

He added that such statements would create a communal divide in the country. "They want to radicalise Sikhs. They are pained when we point out Rahul Gandhi. Who will answer on what he spoke against Sikhs? We have worn the brunt in the past and they enjoy themselves sitting in Delhi and visiting abroad."

THAILAND: 64-YR-OLD WOMAN RESCUED AFTER BEING SQUEEZED BY HUGE PYTHON FOR 2 HOURS IN BANGKOK HOUSE

Bangkok: A 64-year-old woman was preparing to do her evening dishes at her home outside Bangkok when she felt a sharp pain in her thigh and looked down to see a huge python taking hold of her.

"I was about to scoop some water and when I sat down it bit me immediately," Arom Arunroj told Thailand's Thairath newspaper. "When I looked I saw the snake wrapping around me." The four-to-fivemeter-long (13-to-16foot-long) python coiled itself around her torso, squeezing her down to the floor of her kitchen. "I grabbed it by the



head, but it wouldn't release me," she said. "It only tightened." Pythons are non-venomous constrictors, which kill their prey by gradually squeezing the breath out of it. Propped up against her kitchen door, she cried for help but it wasn't until a neighbor happened to be walking by about an hour and a half later and heard her screams that authorities were called. Responding police officer Anusorn Wongmalee told The Associated Press on Thursday that when he arrived the woman was still leaning against her door, looking exhausted and pale, with the snake coiled around her.

Police and animal control officers used a crowbar to hit the snake on the head until it released its grip and slithered away before it could be captured. In all, Arom spent about two hours on Tuesday night in the clutches of the python before being freed.

CHINA: UNLEASHED DOG JUMPS ON PREGNANT WOMAN, MAKES PET OWNER PAY RS. 10 LAKH COMPENSATION OVER MISCARRIAGE

In an unfortunate incident, a 41-year-old pregnant woman in Shanghai, China lost her baby after he was left scared by a golden retriever. The woman surnamed Yan was on her walk outside her residence when the dog suddenly jumped on her, leading her to suffer pain in her lower abdomen. It was then learned that she recorded a miscarriage, which left her heartbroken.

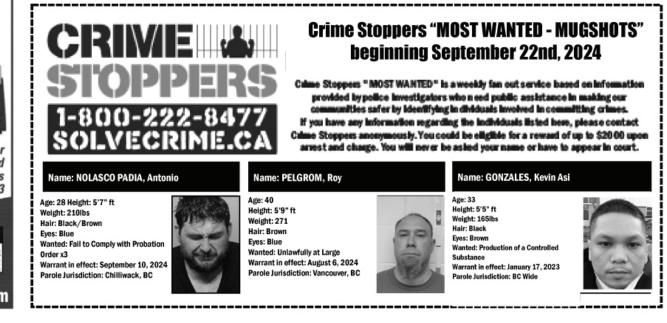
Yan tried to conceive through multiple in vitro fertilisation (IVF) surgeries for the last few years and when she was finally expecting a baby this year, the dog's frightening episode turned things upside down. The dog pounced on her at her residential



community space when she just stepped of her house to receive a parcel, according to reports. The pregnant woman was startled and stepped back, injuring

her back in the process, stated posts by Chinese media outlets while pointing out further that she immediately felt something in her waist and lower abdomen.







DONALD TRUMP SAYS PM MODI WILL MEET HIM IN US NEXT WEEK



Flint: Former US president Donald Trump said on Tuesday (September 17) that he will be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the latter visit to the United States. Trump said this at a town-hall meeting in Flint, Michigan. PM Modi will be on a threeday visit to the US from September 21 to 23.

September 21 to 23. During his US visit, Modi is scheduled to attend Quad Summit where he will meet US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Wilmington, Delaware. Wilmington is hometown of US President Joe Biden.

"He (Modi) happens to be coming to meet me next week, and Modi, he's fantastic. I mean, fantastic man. A lot of these leaders are fantastic," Trump said. During his US visit PM Modi will also address world leaders at the Summit of the Future event at the United Nations headquarters. Modi will also attend a community event at the Long Island.

Though Trump called PM Modi a 'fantastic' man, he stuck to his guns on tariffs countries around the world, including India, on American exports.

"These people are the sharpest people...You know the expression, they're at the top of their game, and they use it against us. But India is very tough.... Brazil is very tough.... China is the toughest of all, but we were taking care of China with the tariffs." said Trump.

"So we're going to do a reciprocal trade. If anybody charges us 10 cents, if they charge us USD 2, if they charge us a hundred per cent, 250, we charge them the same thing. And what's going to hap-Everything's pen? going to disappear, and we're going to end up having free trade again. And if it doesn't disappear, we're going to take in a lot of money," he added.

US TO PROVIDE \$202.25 MILLION IN AID TO BANGLADESH



Dhaka: The United States will provide USD 202.25 million in aid to Bangladesh to advance development, empower youth, strengthen democracy, improve health and expand trade and economic opportunities to people in the South Asian country, authorities said on Sunday.

AKM Shahabuddin, additional secretary of the Economic Relations Division, and Reed J Aeschliman, mission director of USAID, signed the 6th amendment of "The Development Objective Grant Agreement (DOAG)" in Dhaka on behalf of their respective governments, according to a press release from the Ministry of Finance.

Under the agreement, USAID will provide a USD 202.25 million grant to Bangladesh for its three sectors namely good governance, social, human and economic opportunity and resilience, the state-owned BSS news agency reported.

"Driving greater prosperity: @USAID signed an agreement worth over \$200 million with the Bangladesh interim

LEBANON: AT LEAST 14 DEAD, 450 INJURED IN WALKIE-TALKIE EXPLOSIONS

Beirut: At least 14 people have been killed and 450 others injured in walkie-talkie explosions in Lebanon, CNN reported, citing Lebanon's Health Ministry.

The latest attack comes just a day after 12 people were killed and more than 2800 others were wounded in a coordinated explosion of pagers in Lebanon.

Dozens of ambulance crews from the Lebanese Red Cross were working to rescue and evacuate those who were wounded after walkie-talkie explosions in Lebanon on Wednesday, according to CNN report

ing to CNN report. Over 30 teams of Lebanese Red Cross emergency medics were working in southern Lebanon, the southern suburbs of Beirut and central Beqaa valley. In addition, 50 ambulance crews were on alert in Mount Lebanon and Beirut to help in evacuation efforts. The Lebanese Civil De-



fense said it was working to contain fires in 60 houses and shops that started after the walkie-talkies exploding, including one in a lithium battery shop. As many as 15 cars and dozens of motorcycles caught fire and two fingerprint devices in the Nebatieh Governorate, CNN reported.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Lebanese Ministry of Health directed health workers to urgently report to work considering the "large number of injured people being transferred to hospitals" after the pager explosions, CNN reported. Officials have also urged people to donate blood in anticipation of increased need.

Hezbollah had blamed Israel for the pager explosions on Tuesday and pledged retribution. Meanwhile, Lebanese officials urged people who possess pagers to discard them.

Following the pager explosions in Lebanon, Jordan on Tuesday expressed willingness to provide "any medical assistance needed by the Lebanese medical sector to treat thousands of Lebanese citizens who were injured."



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2024 Ford F-150 Raptor - Ultimate

Auto review by Veeno Dewan

For 2024, the Ford F-150 Raptor continues as a factory high spec, high performance truck that is easily at home in the Baja desert or any type of serious offroad terrain as well as the urban jungle. Based on the popular Ford F-150, the Raptor is massaged with extended side wheel flares. an aggressive grille, hood power bulge and vent treatment, unique decals and badging and special equipment marking it out as something special indeed. Powered by Fords 3.5L EcoBoost V6, the Raptors engine is available in two states of tune: 400hp or 450hp/ as. The twin-turbo engine is paired with a ten-speed transmission and All wheel drive along with substantial upgrades and options.

The Raptor features highly technical internal-bypass dampers and a five-link rear coil-spring setup. with more travel and longer trailing arms. Larger 3.1-inch Fox Live Valve shocks are installed at each corner. There are several driver selectable different terrain modes: Slippery, Tow/ Haul, Sport, Normal, Off-Road, Baja and Rock Crawl. Each of these adjust the Raptor's stability control, comforts and premi-

shocks, throttle mapping, shift points, steering feel and more. In spite of its performance chops, the Raptor can still carry 1,400-lb payloads and is able to tow 8,500 pounds with the standard Class IV hitch and available Tow Technology package.

If 450 horsepower is not enough for you, consider the even more expensive F-150 Raptor R with a 700-horsepower engine derived from the mighty 5.2-liter supercharged V8 as found in the high-performance track and street orientated Mustang Shelby GT500 sportscar. Raptor upgrades also

include an, strengthened frame and susmounting pension points. The Raptor arrives on huge 37-inch BF Goodrich All-Terrain tires and has around 13 inches of ground clearance. Let us be clear here, the Raptor is expensive, with a base 2024 price of \$106,500 Freight and PDI is \$2,295. Option on our tester included the 37inch All terrain tires on beadlock- 17-inch rims. Our testers price came to giddying high \$126.700 including options, delivery and PDE, and destination. Interior wise, the Raptor has a comfortable, high-quality cabin and arrives fully loaded with a bevy of creature

um content as standard. Features include such niceties as: bolstered, power-adjustable and heated front bucket seats trimmed in leather, a heated and power-adjustable leather-wrapped steering wheel and pow-er-adjustable pedals, heated rear seats, carbon-fiber trim on the dash and doors, and more

Technology and info-tainment comprises of Fords excellent Sync 4 multimedia system with a 12.3 -inch landscape-format touchscreen. color Also, as standard is: Wireless Apple Car-Play and Android Auto smartphone mirroring, avigation, Available 18-speaker B&o premium audio system, SiriusXM 36oL satellite radio, Ford Pass Connect 4G WiFi hotspot, Wireless phone charging and Alexa compatibility.

There is plenty of cabin room as the Raptor is derived from the full-size Ford F-150 four door crew cab pickup and can seat five adults in superb comfort. Materials, trim dash gauges, and controls are all ergonomically good. Storage is also impressive with multiple bins for small items, several cupholders, two gloveboxes, a large center armrest with storage, flip-out console-lid table, and rear under seat storage.

On the road, the most fun to be had is mashing the accelerator to the floor, feeling that incredible surge of the engine and the very quick, thrilling acceleration. The sound from the twin in the urban suburban

four-inch exhausts is intoxicating. Off road performance is incredibly impressive with a transmission transfer case offering rear drive, auto four-wheel drive. high-range four-wheel drive and low-range four-wheel drive. You can also manually lock the rear differential. Racing-derived Fox Live Valve adaptive shocks work with underbody sensors to read the road surface. The uprated performance shock are a stand out allowing the Raptor excellent motion control and flexibility over the roughest, toughest terrain anywhere. You can push the Raptor through any terrain its size allows.

Downsides - The Raptor is expensive and a lot of truck to handle playground due its big turning circle. However, fuel economy for the tuned Ecoboost 3.5 l V6 engine is acceptable for this sized truck at 16.6 L/100km combined, 16.6. City and 13.1 Highway.

To sum up, the Raptor is just a lot of truck for lot of money and the ultimate plaything for well-heeled off-road truck fans. At the price it will be rare, but every owner will have ultimate bragging rights, especially if you have if you over \$106,000 burning a hole in your pocket!

2024 Ford F-150 Rap-Priced from tor: \$106.500. Price as tested - \$126.700 including options, delivery and PDE, and destination

More info at www. ford.ca



Employment Opportunity

Media Relations Coordinators [NOC 11202]

Thind Motion Films Pvt. Ltd., located at 700-4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1Z6, Canada, is seeking a Full Time Position for two [2] Media Relations Coordinators [NOC 11202] .

This is a permanent, full-time position which offers various shifts with 40 hours' work per week depending on schedule.

Location of work: Primary work location will be at 700-4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1Z6, Canada.

The positions are available immediately.

Job Description

- Strategize marketing and promotion for motion films and other projects based on project;
- Develop marketing plans and content for online [digital] marketing and offline media campaigns;
- Develop, handle and monitor social media accounts for promotion of project and prepare reports based on audience response;

-Maintain long term relations with media channels and to negotiate competitive deals for promotional activities;

- Development and management of organizations advertising and promotion budget for projects;
- Arrange press conferences and briefings and to be the organization's media liaison and formal spokesperson.



- Formal education: post-secondary education is required;
- Serve as the organization's media liaison and formal spokesperson.
- Previous experience in project promotions;
- Critical thinker with strong conceptual and research skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and writing skills.
- Meticulous, dependable and possess team motivational skills.



The primary work location will be at 700-4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1Z6, Canada.

The positions are available immediately.

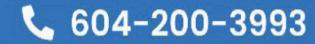
Please email resumes to <u>thind10084@gmail.com</u> and qualified candidates will be contacted.

This position is open to Newcomers to Canada, Visible Minorities and Indigenous Persons.

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Mortgage and real estate industry hit the jackpot this week with trio of announcements

They say good news comes in threes. I don't know if that's true or if it's from the same school of science as astrology, but it happened this week with mortgages.

First, Ottawa announced a bombshell loosening of mortgage insurance rules. Second, inflation stunned economists by undershooting the two per cent target. Third, the United States Federal Reserve threw a party for the markets with a jumbo rate cut.

All of the above went down in the short span of 75 hours.

Here's a quick peek at how this trifecta of bullishness could awaken Canada's real estate market. Mortgage insurance easing



Out of nowhere, the government decided that Canada's default insurance market needed stimulation. Starting

December 15, for those seeking insured mortgages, the government will allow:

- A 50 per cent increase in the maximum allowable home value (i.e., \$1.5 million instead of the \$1 million it's been stuck at since 2012)
- 30-year amortizations for buyers of new builds
- 30-year amortizations for all firsttime buyers

The first measure corrects the fact that value limits on insured homes haven't kept up with the 76 per cent surge in home values since the rule was instituted.

The second measure creates a more liquid pool of buyers for new homes,

incentivizing the construction Canada desperately needs.

The third change levels the playing field for first-time buyers who don't have down payment assistance from their families.

All of these initiatives help put young voters into homes sooner. But far be it from me to be cynical and assume that desperately clinging to power by wooing disenfranchised homebuyers was in the government's playbook. I'm sure it was just a fluke that every housing policymaker I've ever spoken to in the years leading up to this move was staunchly against such measures for fear of creating further imbalance in the housing market.







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Tech

HOW TO TRANSFER LARGE FILE TO PENDRIVE?

Transferring large files to a Pendrive can be a straightforward process, but there are a few factors to consider, such as file size, Pendrive capacity, and file system compatibility. This guide will walk you through the various methods and steps involved.

Why can't I copy large files to my Pendrive?

Common reasons you can't copy large files to your pendrive:

File system limitations: Most pendrives default to FAT32, which has a 4GB file size limit.

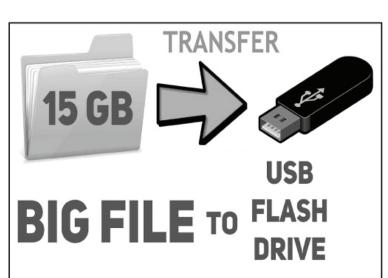
Insufficient space: Ensure your pendrive has enough free space for the file.

Write protection: Check if the pendrive is write-protected.

Pendrive failure: If the issue persists, the pendrive might be damaged.

How do You Transfer Files Larger Than 4GB to Pendrive?

Method 1: Direct Copy (For Files Smaller Than 4GB or Pendrive Formatted as NTFS or exFAT)



If your file is smaller than 4GB or your Pendrive is formatted as NTFS or exFAT, you can directly copy the file to the Pendrive. Here's how:

Connect the Pendrive: Plug your Pendrive into a compatible port on your computer. Locate the file: Find the file

you want to transfer on your computer. Copy and paste: Right-click on the file, select "Copy," then navigate to your Pendrive and paste the file. Verify: Once the transfer is complete, check the Pendrive to ensure the file is there and intact.

Method 2: Formatting the Pendrive (For Files Larger Than 4GB)

If you're dealing with a file larger than 4GB and your Pendrive is formatted as FAT32, you'll need to reformat it to NTFS or exFAT. Here's how:

Caution: Formatting a Pendrive will erase all data on it. Back up any important files before proceeding.

Connect the Pendrive: Plug your Pendrive into your computer.

Open Disk Management: Press Windows + R, type "diskmgmt.msc," and press Enter.

Locate the Pendrive: Identify the Pendrive in the Disk Management window.

Format the drive: Rightclick on the Pendrive and select "Format."

Choose file system: Select NTFS or exFAT as the file system.

Start format: Click "Start" to begin the formatting process.

Copy file: Once the format is complete, you can copy the large file to the Pendrive as described in Method 1.

Method 3: Using File Compression Software (For Large Files or Slow Transfer Speeds)

Compressing large files can reduce their size and improve transfer speeds. Here's how:

Compress the file: Use com-

pression software like Win-RAR or 7-Zip to create a compressed archive of the file. Copy the archive: Transfer the compressed file to the Pendrive using the methods

described above. Extract the file: On the target device, use the appropriate software to extract the file from the archive.

Additional Tips

Check Pendrive health: Ensure your Pendrive is functioning correctly to avoid data loss.

Use reliable Pendrives: Opt for reputable brands to minimize the risk of hardware failures.

Verify data integrity: After transferring the file, check its contents to ensure it's complete and accurate.

Consider cloud storage: For extremely large files, consider using cloud storage services like Google Drive or Dropbox for easier sharing and access.

By following these steps and considering the factors mentioned above, you can successfully transfer large files to your Pendrive.



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Happy Campers

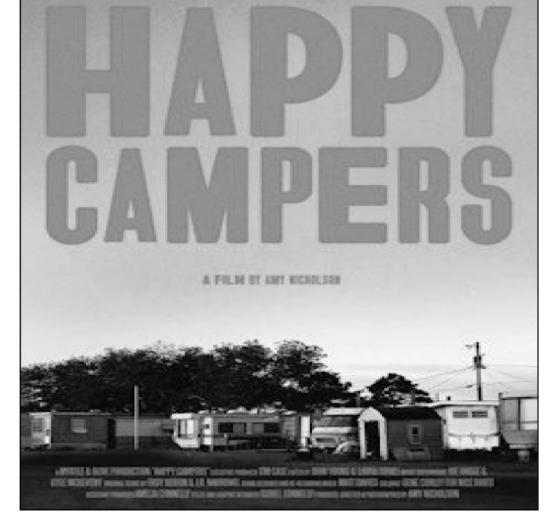
(PG) * *

Folksy charm!

Off the wall and quaint is Happy Campers. Having received accolades at a number of film festivals this pseudo documentary is now showing across Canada in I-tunes, presented in Canada by ECPR this new movie is available for viewing for VOD and also. C on all major platforms.

Based on real people this film tacks the goings on of various friends over time who bond together. What brings these folks together is that they life in run down rvs in a beautiful seaside community in Virginia . Oh the people are so friendly and content living the simple life as they.do. We get to know these people - and like them. But this idyllic world comes a tumbling down when the land where they live on is sold to - wait for it - wealthy developers, my oh my.

Fun To watch, hard to swallow director Amy Nicholson manages to take a subject that's not so exciting and turn into an impactful journey.



EVENTS

South Asian Adults & Seniors - Bingo on the House for members & In Person Yoga Classes at Shanti Niketan hall for members, Bingo on June 2nd 2024 (Sunday), from 2.00 pm to 3.30pm at Shanti Niketan hall. In Person Yoga classes for members only, Every Monday & Every Thursday from 10.00 am to 11.15 am. Pure Vegetarian Lunch on Thursdays after the Yoga session.

Vedic Seniors Parivar Centre of Vedic Hindu Cultural Society of BC invites South Asian Adults and Senior members only to join and play Bingo on the House on June 2nd 2024 (Sunday) from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm at Shanti Niketan hall. Please bring only 2 dollars with you for 2 games, don't worry if you do not know how to play, members seating next to you will explain the game to you just for the sake of fun. Please keep the social distance while seating for personal & other's safety. Tea and light snacks will be served after the two games are

over. In Person Yoga classes for members only, on Every Monday & Every Thursday will continue by Mr. Ashwani Bansal expert Yoga Instructor from 10.00 am to 11.15 am & will help to observe & guide the seniors to do correct yoga. Pure Vegetarian lunch will be served in the dining hall at 11.30 am to all the senior members who attend yoga class on Thursdays. Project funded by Government of Canada's

New Horizons for Seniors Program for Hindi speaking seniors. Incase you are eligible to file Income Tax returns Free of cost, Please contact Surendra Handa Coordinator , Vedic Seniors Parivar Centre, & Coordinator - APNI South Asian Community Response Networks, Lakshmi Narayan Temple, 8321 - 140th street Surrey V3W5K9, BC Tel. 604 - 507 - 9945 or email: surendra_handa@hotmail.com, for

registration & for appointment for Tax filing.



DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S KA ENTERPRISES EXPANDS LUXURY PORTFOLIO WITH RS. 17.78 CRORES BANDRA APARTMENT

KA Enterprises LLP, a firm owned by Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone and her father Prakash Padukone, has recently made a significant real estate investment, purchasing a luxury apartment in Mumbai's Bandra West locality. The property, located in the Sagar Resham Co-operative Housing Society near the iconic Bandstand, was acquired for Rs. 17.78 crore, according to registration documents reviewed by Square Yards. Sagar Resham Co-operative Housing Society, developed by Enorm Nagpal

Realty, offers premium 4 BHK and 5 BHK apartments.

As per Square Yards, the newly purchased apartment spans 171.47 square metres (~1,846 square feet) and comes with a designated car parking space. The deal incurred a stamp duty of nearly Rs. 1.07 crore and registration charges of Rs. 30,000. The transaction, completed in September 2024, was registered under KA Enterprises LLP, a global venture investment firm focusing on high-growth consumer and consumer-tech companies.

Business

OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ODC): A GLOBAL GUIDE



Businesses continuously look for methods to streamline operations, boost productivity, and cut expenses in today's connected environment. The creation of an Offshore Development Centre (ODC) is one method that is becoming more and more popular. An ODC is a specialised unit created to handle software development, IT services, or other technology-related responsibilities that is located in a separate nation. In this post, we'll examine what an offshore development centre is, as well as its varieties, drawbacks, advantages, and key implementation advice. Definition of Offshore Development Center (ODC):

An Offshore Development Center (ODC) is an extended arm of a company that is established in a foreign location, typically in a country with a competitive advantage in terms of talent pool, cost-effectiveness, and technology infrastructure. The primary purpose of an ODC is to serve as a dedicated team of professionals who collaborate remotely to deliver software development, IT services, or other technology-oriented projects.

Offshore Development Centre Types:

Captive ODC: In this model, the parent business establishes a wholly-owned subsidiary abroad. Although the subsidiary runs independently, it still only has one goal: to meet the needs of the parent firm.

Outsourced ODC: An outsourced ODC model involves a third-party vendor (typically a specialist in IT services) establishing and running the offshore centre on the parent company's behalf. The parent firm retains control over the development process and project management, while the vendor takes care of administrative duties, hiring, and infrastructure.

Challenges of Offshore Development Centers:

While Offshore Development Centers offer numerous advantages, they also come with some challenges that must be addressed:

Communication and Time Zone Differences: Working across different time zones can lead to delays in communication and decision-making, potentially affecting project timelines.

Cultural Differences: Varying work cultures may result in misunderstandings or misinterpretations, impacting collaboration and team dynamics.

Data Security and Intellectual Property Protection: Ensuring data security and safeguarding intellectual property become critical concerns when collaborating with a remote team. Quality Control: Maintaining consistent quality standards across the offshore and onshore teams can be challenging.

Legal and Compliance Issues: Complying with foreign laws, regulations, and tax policies may present complex legal challenges.

Benefits of Offshore Development Centers:

Cost Savings: Setting up an ODC in a location with lower labor costs can significantly reduce operational expenses.

Access to Global Talent: ODCs enable access to a diverse pool of skilled professionals from different parts of the world, providing a broader talent selection. Scalability and Flexibility: ODCs of-

Scalability and Flexibility: ODCs offer the flexibility to scale the team up or down based on project requirements, providing cost-effective solutions for businesses.

Focus on Core Competencies: By delegating certain tasks to the ODC, the parent company can focus on its core competencies and strategic goals.

24/7 Operations: With teams in different time zones, ODCs can ensure continuous development and support services, reducing the time-tomarket for products.

Tips for Successful Offshore Development Centers:

Choose the Right Location: Research and select a location that aligns with your business requirements, considering factors like talent pool, cost-effectiveness, infrastructure, and political stability. Clear Communication and Collaboration: Establish effective communication channels and processes to



bridge time zone and cultural gaps, promoting seamless collaboration between onshore and offshore teams.

Set Clear Goals and Expectations: Define project goals, deliverables, and performance metrics right from the start to ensure clarity and accountability.

Invest in Security Measures: Implement robust data security protocols and sign non-disclosure agreements with the offshore team to safeguard sensitive information.

Regular Site Visits: Periodic visits to the offshore location can strengthen relationships, build trust, and address any issues that might arise more effectively.

Emphasize Cultural Understanding: Foster cultural awareness and sensitivity within the teams to promote a harmonious working environment.

Establish a Strong Project Management Framework: Utilize modern project management tools and methodologies to streamline processes and track progress effectively.

Conclusion:

Offshore Development Centers (ODCs) have become a strategic tool for businesses to enhance productivity, access global talent, and reduce costs. Despite the challenges involved, the benefits and potential for growth make ODCs an attractive option for companies seeking to expand their operations globally. By understanding the nuances of setting up and managing an ODC, businesses can capitalize on the advantages it offers and ensure successful outcomes for their projects and long-term business goals



Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War to go on floors next month on THIS date

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's last project was the web series Heeramandi: The Diamond Baazar, which was released on Netflix earlier this year. Following this, there is much excitement for his upcoming film in the form of Love and War. The movie stars Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Vicky Kaushal together.





SALMAN KHAN DENIES US TOUR IN 2024

KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN SIGNS 'ONE OF India's Biggest Films' for her 25th year In Bollywood: Report

Kareena Kapoor Khan made her acting debut in June 2000 with Refugee, directed by JP Dutta, and has since become one of the leading female stars in Hindi cinema. From her early roles to her recent hit Crew in March 2024, Kareena has consistently pushed boundaries and chosen diverse roles. Now, in her 25th year in the industry, she has signed what is being touted as one of the biggest feature films in Indian cinema.

Kareena Kapoor Signs a Groundbreaking Project

According to a report by PinkVilla, Kareena has been offered several high-profile Pan-India films over the last nine months. She has now committed to a project that is expected to be one of the most significant films in the coming two years. A source close to the development shared, "It's a role she has never done before, and the director is one of the most celebrated and bankable names in Indian cinema. She gave an immediate nod to the film and is thrilled to take on a new challenge in her 25th year."

A Bold New Role for Kareena Kapoor Khan



The actress was reportedly captivated by the world created by the director and couldn't resist signing on. "Usually, she takes her time before agreeing to a film, but this one was an instant yes after the narration. She was blown away by the vision of the director and is excited to explore new dynamics with this character," added the source. The film will begin production in January 2025, with extensive shoots planned in India and abroad, leading to a release in 2026. Kareena has reportedly cleared her schedule for the entire year to fully commit to the project. "It's a new world and a fresh challenge for her silver jubilee year," the source concluded.



Bollywood actor Salman Khan has issued a statement through his team, warning fans about fraudulent claims regarding his supposed upcoming US tour. The actor made it clear that he has no plans to perform or travel to the United States in 2024.

The official statement, shared across Salman Khan's social media platforms, stated, "This is to inform that neither Mr. Salman Khan nor any of his affiliated companies or teams are organising any upcoming concerts or appearances in the USA in 2024. Any claims suggesting that Mr. Khan will be performing are completely false. Please do not trust any emails, messages, or advertisements promoting such events."

The statement further cautioned fans and potential event organizers, asserting that legal measures will be taken against anyone attempting to use the actor's name fraudulently. "Legal action will be taken against anyone found falsely using Mr. Salman Khan's name for fraudulent purposes," the statement read.

ANANYA PANDAY CONFIRMS SEASON 2 OF CALL ME BAE; KARAN JOHAR SAYS, "EXCITED TO DELVE DEEPER INTO THE CHARACTERS"

Following the overwhelming reaction to a new season, Prime Video today announced that Season Two of Call Me Bae is officially under development. Since its premiere on September 6 on Prime Video, Call Me Bae has captivated audiences across age groups. The cast is led by actor Ananya Panday along with Vir Das, Gurfateh Pirzada, Varun Sood, Vihaan Samat, Muskkaan Jaferi, Niharika Lyra Dutt, Lisa Mishra, and Mini Mathur.

The series has reached audiences

wide and deep, having been viewed in over 165 countries worldwide and in over 85% of pin codes across India. As a testament to all the positive reactions, Call Me Bae has ranked #1 in the India top 10 list in India since its launch and featured among the top 10 trending titles on Prime Video in 50+ countries including the U.S., the UK, Canada, Australia, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and many more on its launch weekend. Call Me Bae has drawn in audiences from across the globe, standing out for its light-hearted and spirited tonality with its self-aware take on privilege and spin on iconic pop-culture moments. Not just the light moments, the series' emotional core too has struck a chord, as the central themes of #Behencode, self-identity and belief continue to resonate deeply with fans, adding a heart-warming layer to the show's playful narrative.



Travel

BRISBANE'S MOST STUNNING TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Explore the vibrant city of Brisbane, where the sun shines for over 280 days a year. This guide highlights the top attractions that showcase both the natural beauty and the innovative urban landscape of Queensland's capital. From river cruises to panoramic views, Brisbane offers a plethora of activities that cater to both adventure seekers and those looking to unwind.

Experience the Brisbane River on a Lunch Cruise

One of the quintessential Brisbane experiences is a river lunch cruise. The Brisbane River, which slices through the city, offers stunning views of landmarks like the City Centre, Story Bridge, and the Kangaroo Point Cliffs. These cruises not only provide a unique vantage point of the city's skyline but also offer gourmet dining options. Guests can enjoy local cuisine while listening to live commentary that delves into the area's rich history. According to Visit Brisbane, river cruises are among the top tourist activities in the city, appreciated for their blend of relaxation and sightseeing.

Discover South Bank's Cultural and Recreational Hub South Bank is the cultural heart of Brisbane, known for its vibrant atmosphere and scenic parklands. This area is a fusion of natural beauty and cultural heritage, featuring attractions such as:

The Wheel of Brisbane: Offers breathtaking 360-degree views of the city.

Epicurious Garden: A public garden that showcases organic produce and sustainable gardening in a lush setting.

Streets Beach: A unique, man-made beach that provides a tropical escape in the middle of the city.



South Bank is also renowned for its array of dining options and regularly hosts various cultural events and festivals. According to a South Bank Corporation report, the precinct attracts approximately 11 million visitors annually, making it a must-visit destination in Brisbane.

Climb the Iconic Story

Bridge The Story Bridge is not only a key piece of Brisbane's infrastructure but also a cultural icon, offering adventure climbs that provide panoramic views of the cityscape. This heritage-listed bridge, often compared to Canada's Jacques Cartier Bridge, is a favorite subject for photographers, especially when illuminated at night. Adventure enthusiasts can join a guided climb, which reveals both the architectural marvel of the bridge and breathtaking city views from the summit. The bridge is a focal point during the annual Riverfire Festival, a pyrotechnic extravaganza that attracts thousands of spectators.

Adventure at Kangaroo Point Cliffs

For those who enjoy outdoor activities, the Kangaroo Point Cliffs offer rock climbing experiences within the city limits. Located near the Brisbane River and adjacent to the lush Botanical Gardens, these cliffs provide both challenging climbs for experienced climbers and beginner-friendly options. The area is also popular for picnicking and offers spectacular views of the city's skyline, making it a favor-ite spot for both locals and tourists. According to local adventure sports providers, more than 5,000 climbers tackle the cliffs each year, highlighting its popularity as an urban adventure spot.

In conclusion, Brisbane is a city that marries natural beauty with urban sophistication, offering visitors a diverse range of activities and attractions. Whether you're cruising along the river, enjoying the cultural festivities at South Bank, scaling the Story Bridge, or climbing the Kangaroo Point Cliffs, Brisbane provides an unforgettable experience for all who visit.





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