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PREMIER ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES TO DEFEND B.C. FROM TRUMP TARIFFS

Premier David Eby has announced new tariff-response measures with the intention of bringing forward legislation that will defend British Columbians, workers and businesses from U.S. President Donald J. Trump's tariffs on Canadian goods and energy.

"The White House started a trade war we didn't want, and we must answer with strength," Premier Eby said. "We are responding to this unprecedented attack with several targeted measures and in the coming weeks we will arm ourselves with even more tools as next steps to fend off a sustained economic aggression."

The B.C. government intends to introduce tariff-response legislation in the coming days that will give the Province new tools to defend B.C. jobs and businesses and respond swiftly and nimbly to emerging challenges brought on by Trump's trade war. This would enable a range of responses, including the ability to remove inter-provincial trade barriers, mandating that low-carbon fuels added to gasoline and diesel be produced in Canada, and allowing B.C. to apply tolls/fees to U.S. commercial vehicles using



B.C. infrastructure to travel to Alaska.

"The tariffs imposed by Trump are a profound mistake and are hurting families on both sides of the border," Premier Eby said. "My team will continue to work hard every day to defend British Columbians through this and come out stronger on the other side. Every option is on the table."

The Province's initial response to tariffs includes directing the BC Liquor Distribution Branch to immediately stop buying American liquor from "red" states and remove red-state

brands from the shelves of public liquor stores. The B.C. government and Crown corporations have also been directed to buy Canadian goods and services first.

The counter-measures are a first step and part of a Team Canada approach that includes 25% tariffs on \$155 billion worth of imported U.S. products imposed by the federal government, as well as additional measures from other provinces and territories.

First ministers have also agreed to take meaningful action to reduce barriers to internal trade and

labour mobility by June 1, 2025. The B.C. government's plan to fight back against the tariffs and defend British Columbians includes:

responding to U.S. tariffs with tough counter-actions and outreach to American decision-makers; strengthening B.C.'s economy by expediting projects and supporting industry and workers; and diversifying trade markets for B.C. products so British Columbia is less reliant on U.S. markets and customers, including by breaking down domestic trade barriers.

As part of this approach, B.C. is moving full steam ahead on new actions to seize economic opportunities and find new trade markets to reduce B.C.'s reliance on the U.S.

The Province is accelerating approvals and permits on major projects that are ready to move forward to create good jobs and support B.C.'s economy in the face of tariffs. The initial list of projects is valued at \$20 billion in investment and is expected to create 8,000 family-supporting jobs, especially in rural and remote communities.



Chal Chaliye
SABZI MANDI
Chal Chaliye ...

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ਸਬਜ਼ੀ ਮੰਡੀ ਨੂੰ ਯਾਦ ਰਖੋ

STANDING STRONG FOR B.C.: BUDGET PREPARES TO DEFEND BRITISH COLUMBIANS

The provincial government has released Budget 2025: Standing Strong for B.C., a measured plan to protect jobs and the public services people rely on, while preparing British Columbia's economy to withstand the unpredictable impacts of unjustified tariffs.

"With uncertainty on the horizon, it is prudent to protect the essentials and prepare for what comes next by investing in our greatest resource, the people of British Columbia," said Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance. "While our economy is built to withstand the threat of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs relatively better than most other provinces, the impact would still be significant. Our budget prepares us to carefully navigate these uncharted waters so we can put people first and support businesses as we build a stronger, more



self-sufficient future." Budget 2025 manages B.C.'s finances and invests in critical public services to meet growing demand. It provides \$9.9 billion more in operating funding over three years, including \$7.7 billion in new funding for health care, education and social services. The budget also includes \$4 billion in annual contingencies

to address unpredictable costs, including a new collective bargaining mandate, pressures on critical services and for emerging needs, such as potential tariff response measures. The budget provides \$4.2 billion to respond to growing demand for health-care services, improve access to primary care, continue hiring

health-care workers, reduce wait times at emergency departments and hospitals, and open and operate new and renovated hospitals and facilities. It also provides funding to support addictions treatment and recovery programs. To address health-care needs throughout the province, \$15.5 billion in capital funding is

provided over the fiscal plan to help build and upgrade hospitals, long-term care facilities and cancer centres.

Budget 2025 provides \$370 million over three years to support students in the K-12 education system, including hiring additional teachers, special-education teachers, teacher psychologists and counsellors. The budget also invests \$4.6 billion over the fiscal plan in capital funding to build and upgrade schools.

Funding is increasing for services for children and youth with support needs, children and youth in care and adults with developmental disabilities.

"In times of uncertainty, we will be there for British Columbians. We are continuing to invest in the services people rely on to take care of their families, get the care they need, when they need it, and

provide a good future for everyone across the province," Bailey said. "Our government is focused on building an economy that creates the wealth that is needed to deliver more jobs with bigger paycheques and protect our public services in the face of the threat of unjustified tariffs."

Growing a stronger and more diverse economy will help protect people from instability outside B.C.'s borders, with investments that will bring good-paying jobs to the province as part of sustainable industries. Budget 2025 invests \$30 million over three years to support high-quality jobs through the Integrated Marketplace Initiative's work to accelerate innovation in B.C., and boosts tax credits for the province's film sector and home-grown interactive digital media and video game industry.

ਬੀ.ਸੀ. ਦਾ ਸਪੈਕਟ੍ਰਾਕਸ ਅਤੇ ਵੇਕਸੀ ਟੈਕਸ

ਬੀ.ਸੀ. ਦੇ 99% ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਵਸਨੀਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਛੋਟਾ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਫਿਰ ਵੀ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਘੋਸ਼ਿਤ ਕਰਨਾ ਲਾਜ਼ਮੀ ਹੈ।

ਬੀ.ਸੀ. ਦਾ 'ਸਪੈਕਟ੍ਰਾਕਸ ਅਤੇ ਵੇਕਸੀ ਟੈਕਸ' (ਸਟੇਬਲਿਟੀ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਲੀ ਘਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਟੈਕਸ) ਘੋਸ਼ਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਕਾਨ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਕੋਲ 31 ਮਾਰਚ ਤੱਕ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ ਹੈ। ਭਾਵੇਂ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਤ ਖੇਤਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਰੇ ਮਕਾਨ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਘੋਸ਼ਿਤ ਕਰਨਾ ਲਾਜ਼ਮੀ ਹੈ, ਪਰ ਬ੍ਰਿਟਿਸ਼ ਕੋਲੰਬੀਆ ਦੇ 99% ਤੋਂ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਵਾਸੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਟੈਕਸ ਦੀ ਅਦਾਇਗੀ ਤੋਂ ਰਾਹਤ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਟੈਕਸ ਕਿਫ਼ਾਇਤੀ ਰਿਹਾਇਸ਼ੀ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਫੰਡ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਬੀ.ਸੀ. ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਖਾਲੀ ਘਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰਿਹਾਇਸ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਦਲਦਾ ਹੈ। 2017 ਤੋਂ ਲੈਕੇ ਹੁਣ ਤੱਕ 'ਹੋਮਜ਼ ਫੌਰ ਬੀ ਸੀ' ਅਤੇ 'ਹੋਮਜ਼ ਫੌਰ ਪੀਪਲ' ਯੋਜਨਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਬੀ.ਸੀ. ਭਰ ਵਿੱਚ 90,000 ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਘਰ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾ ਚੁੱਕੇ ਹਨ ਜਾਂ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਹਨ।

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Budget 2025 invests \$30 million over three years to support high-quality jobs through the Integrated

Marketplace Initiative's work to accelerate innovation in B.C., and boosts tax credits for the province's film sector and home-grown interactive digital media and video game industry.

It includes funding of \$95 million in critical highway and bridge maintenance over three years to help people and goods move safely across the province, with another \$47 million over the fiscal plan to support BC Transit networks outside of the Lower Mainland.

Capital funding of \$15.9 billion over three years will support transit, infrastructure and highway improvements to connect communities throughout the province.

Total capital investments of \$59.9 billion over the fiscal plan are anticipated to support 180,000 good-paying direct and indirect jobs over three years.

People continue to deal with the challenge of daily costs, especially when it comes to finding a home they can afford. Budget 2025 commits an additional \$318 million over three years to BC Builds as part of the Province's goal of delivering thousands more rental homes for middle-income people.

B.C. remains focused on making sure people, not speculators, can find affordable housing by increasing the Speculation and Vacancy Tax to 3% for foreign owners and untaxed worldwide

owners, and 1% for Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

The number of lower-income working families receiving help with their monthly rent payment will nearly double as part of \$375 million in additional funding for rental support programs over three years.

With this increase, the average supplement families receive under the Rental Assistance Program will rise from \$400 to \$700 per month. An additional 1,600 seniors will receive rental support through the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program, with average supplements growing by 30%. This is the second increase to funding for SAFER recipients in the past year.

Stronger-than-expected returns on investments means ICBC can provide another \$110 rebate this year to help personal and commercial drivers with costs amid an uncertain economic climate.

The Province is investing \$325 million over three years to support safer communities.

This includes \$235 million in justice and public safety programs for people to get timely access to justice, a new program to fight vandalism and other property crime, increased police funding and more police officer training seats.

Budget 2025 provides additional funding to expand HEART and HEARTH programs to help more people living outdoors access housing and better support services so the Province can work with communities to help people move indoors and close down encampments.

"We can't leave our future to the whims of unpredictable forces beyond our borders," Bailey said. "This is our opportunity to stand up for B.C. families, workers and communities to build a stable and sustainable economy for years to come."

Budget 2025 presents declining deficits from \$10.9 billion in 2025-26 to \$10.2 billion in 2026-27 and \$9.9 billion in 2027-28.

City of Surrey to Host 2026 Curling Canada Mixed Doubles Championship

Surrey, B.C. – The City of Surrey is proud to announce that it has been selected as the host city for the 2026 Curling Canada Mixed Doubles Championship. From Mar. 21-27, 2026, Canada’s top mixed doubles teams will compete for the national title, with the winning team going on to represent Canada at the 2027 World Mixed Doubles Championship.

“We are thrilled to host the 2026 Curling Canada Mixed Doubles Championship in Surrey,” said Mayor Brenda Locke. “This is a major event for our city, and we look forward to welcoming athletes from across Canada. With the exceptional talent and skill on display at this tournament, fans will be in for a treat as teams compete for the honour of being National Champions. I would like to thank the members of the Cloverdale Curling Club for the tremendous work they did to bring this prestigious event to Surrey.”

The event will take place at the Cloverdale Curling Club, a state-of-the-art facility that will provide an exceptional experience for both players and fans alike. The 2026 Championship will showcase the



dynamic and fast-paced mixed doubles format, which combines skill, strategy, and teamwork. In addition to the thrilling on-ice action, the Championship will feature a variety of activities for spectators, ensuring a memorable experience for all attendees.

“The City of Surrey and the Cloverdale Curling Club worked extremely hard on their bid for the 2026 Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship that Curl BC was proud to support, and we’re very excited to see that work rewarded,” said Scott Braley, Chief Executive Officer of Curl

BC. “There is a dedicated and passionate curling community in the Surrey region that I know will support this event, both as volunteers and fans, and it will be a memorable experience for everyone.” Surrey’s welcoming, accessible, and award-winning facilities make it a

premier destination for hosting sporting events. The City’s Sport Tourism Strategy has been developed to advance the City of Surrey as a leader in the Sport Tourism industry, maximizing economic benefits and sport development opportunities.

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Deaths of unhoused British Columbians rose sharply in 2023

At least 458 people experiencing homelessness died in British Columbia in 2023, according to data from the BC Coroners Service.

This reflects an increase of 23% from 2022 (373) and is nearly three times the number of people who died while experiencing homelessness in the province in 2020 (155).

"The data speaks to the tragic reality of the struggles many face in our communities throughout B.C.," said Dr. Jatinder Baidwan, chief coroner. "During the period studied, between 2016 and 2023, the deaths of 1,940 people were reported to the BC Coroners Service, identified as experiencing homelessness."

For the purpose of the report, an individual experiencing homelessness was defined as: unsheltered: a person living outdoors, in a make-shift shelter, a parked vehicle, a vacant home or any other structure not intended for habitation;

sheltered: a person staying at an emergency shelter (overnight) or who is temporarily sheltered (suspected to be for less than 30 days) by friends or family, in a short-term shelter, safe house for youth, or transition house for women



and children fleeing violence; and persons residing in short-term shelters, safe houses, or transition houses for an unknown length of time. More than half of deaths reported in 2023 were people between the ages of 30 through

49, and 79% of decedents were males. The data also shows that nearly half of those deaths were males who were unsheltered (47%).

In 2023, 91% of deaths of people experiencing homelessness were classified as accidental (419), and 86% were

due to accidental unregulated drug toxicity (394).

Additional notable findings from the report include: about 46% of individuals met the criteria for unsheltered homelessness, versus 35% for sheltered homelessness; in 2023, 41% of female dece-

dents were sheltered, compared to 34% of males; the highest proportion of deaths of people experiencing homelessness occurred in winter (28%), followed by spring (27%) in 2023;

26% of deaths of people experiencing homelessness in 2023 occurred in the Fraser Health Authority (117), followed closely by 25% within Island Health (114); and in 2023, the health service delivery area of Vancouver had the highest number of deaths (77), followed by central Vancouver Island (55), which includes the Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Tofino, and then Fraser East (50), which includes Abbotsford and Hope.

Note that mortality rates within the report should be interpreted with caution. The BC Coroners Service does not investigate all deaths of individuals experiencing homelessness and the number of deaths within the report excludes individuals experiencing homelessness that did not meet the legal criteria of the Coroners Act for reporting. Additionally, the data is preliminary and subject to change as coroners' investigations conclude.

Learn the signs of stroke

Face is it drooping?

Arms can you raise both?

Speech is it slurred or jumbled?

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heartandstroke.ca/punjabi



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ਸਟ੍ਰੋਕ ਦੇ ਸੰਕੇਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣੋ

Face ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਢਿਲਕ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ?

Arms ਬਾਹਵਾਂ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਬਾਹਵਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਨੂੰ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?

Speech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਅਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ?

Time ਸਮੇਂ: ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਅਹਿਮੀਅਤ ਸਮਝੋ - ਬਟਪਟ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

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Trump mulls exemption for some carmakers from tariffs

US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has said President Donald Trump is considering a deal that would offer exemptions from tariffs on Canada and Mexico, including potentially for carmakers.

The possibility of a rollback, which he said could be announced on Wednesday, came as many US businesses raised concerns about Trump's decision to hit US imports from its two closest trade partners with a 25% import tax.

After two days of declines, the main US stock indexes were trading slightly higher early on Wednesday.

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly told the BBC's Newsnight on Tuesday that her office had not been contacted about any plans around reducing tariffs.

US officials "can say many things" but "the only one that really takes a decision is President Trump," Joly said.

The US president used a large part of his speech to Congress on Tuesday to outline his trade policies, but he did not say whether he planned to cut the tariffs that came into effect this week. Canada and Mexico announced retaliatory import levies on the US after Washington's 25% tariffs on its two neighbours came into effect on



Tuesday.

Goods worth billions cross the borders of the US, Canada and Mexico each day and their economies are deeply integrated.

Trump says he wants to protect American industry and boost manufacturing, but many economists warn such tariffs could lead to prices rising for consumers in the US.

On Wednesday, Lutnick said tariffs would be in place, but suggested some goods could be "left out".

"There are going to be tariffs - let's be clear - but what he's thinking about is which sections of the market that maybe he'll consider giving them relief until we get to, of course, April 2," Lutnick told Bloomberg on Wednesday.

"It will be 25% but there will be some categories left out - it

could well be autos. It could be others as well," he added.

A day earlier on Fox News, Lutnick had raised the possibility of a compromise and reduction of tariffs for Mexico and Canada, saying Trump was weighing offers to meet his allies "in the middle".

Trump has said he would move ahead on 2 April with plans for reciprocal tariffs on other countries around the world that he sees as treating the US unfairly.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has slammed Trump's sweeping tariffs on his country, calling it a "very dumb thing to do" and vowed to conduct a "relentless fight" to protect its economy.

Trudeau announced retaliatory tariffs on US exports and warned that a trade war would be costly

for both countries.

But Trump pushed even further in a post on his Truth Social platform, saying: "Please explain to Governor Trudeau, of Canada, that when he puts on a Retaliatory Tariff on the U.S., our Reciprocal Tariff will immediately increase by a like amount!"

Trudeau accused the US president of planning "a total collapse of the Canadian economy because that will make it easier to annex us".

"That is never going to happen. We

will never be the 51st state," he told reporters.

Washington also ramped up its trade war with Beijing on Tuesday as a new 10% levy on Chinese imports that came into effect - which adds to existing levies from Trump's first term and those announced last month.

"China will fight to the bitter end of any trade war," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said after their country announced tit-for-tat tariffs on agricultural imports from the US.

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CHOICE

283 INDIANS REPATRIATED FROM MYANMAR AFTER BEING TRAPPED IN CYBERCRIME RACKET

New Delhi: In a significant diplomatic and humanitarian effort, the Government of India successfully secured the release and repatriation of 283 Indian nationals from Myanmar on Monday.

These individuals had been lured to Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar, with fraudulent job offers, only to be forced into cybercrime and other fraudulent activities at scam centres operating along the Myanmar-Thailand border.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Indian embassies in Myanmar and Thailand worked tirelessly in coordination with local authorities to facilitate the repatriation.

A special Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft was deployed to bring the 283 nationals back to India from Mae Sot, Thailand. This marks the latest in a series of efforts by the Indian government to combat human trafficking and cybercrime rackets in the region.

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AFGHANS HIDING IN PAKISTAN LIVE IN FEAR OF FORCED DEPORTATION

By Azadeh Moshiri and Usman Zahid

"I'm scared," sobs Nabila.

The 10-year-old's life is limited to her one-bedroom home in Islamabad and the dirt road outside it. Since December she hasn't been to her local school, when it decided it would no longer accept Afghans without a valid Pakistani birth certificate. But even if she could go to classes, Nabila says she wouldn't.

"I was off sick one day, and I heard police came looking for Afghan children," she cries, as she tells us her friend's family were sent back to Afghanistan.

Nabila's not her real name - all the names of Afghans quoted in this article have been changed for their safety.

Pakistan's capital and the neighbouring city of Rawalpindi are witnessing a surge in deportations, arrests and detentions of Afghans, the UN says. It estimates that more than half of the three million Afghans in the country are undocumented.

Afghans describe a life of constant fear and near daily police raids on their homes.

Some told the BBC they feared being killed if they went back to Afghanistan. These include families on a US resettlement programme, that has been suspended by the Trump administration. Pakistan is frustrated at how long relocation programmes are taking, says Philippa Candler, the UN Refugee Agency's representative in Islamabad. The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) says 930 people were sent back to Afghanistan in the first half of February, double the figure two weeks earlier. At least 20% of those deported from Islamabad and Rawalpindi had documentation from the UN Refugee Agency, meaning they were



recognised as people in need of international protection.

But Pakistan is not a party to the Refugee Convention and has previously said it does not recognise Afghans living in the country as refugees. The government has said its policies are aimed at all illegal foreign nationals and a deadline for them to leave is looming. That date has fluctuated but is now set to 31 March for those without valid visas, and 30 June for those with resettlement letters.

Many Afghans are terrified amid the confusion. They also say the visa process can be difficult to navigate. Nabila's family believes they have only one option: to hide. Her father Hamid served in the Afghan military, before the Taliban takeover in 2021. He broke down in tears describing his sleepless nights.

"I have served my country and now I'm useless. That job has doomed me," he said.

His family are without visas, and are not on a resettlement list. They tell us their phone calls to the UN's refugee agency go unanswered.

The BBC has reached out to the agency for comment.

The Taliban government has previously told the BBC all Afghans should return because they could "live in the country without any fear". It claims these refugees are "economic migrants".

But a UN report in 2023 cast doubt on assurances from the Taliban government. It found hundreds of former government officials and armed forces members were allegedly killed despite a general amnesty.

The Taliban government's guarantees are of little reassurance to Nabila's family so they choose to run when authorities are nearby. Neighbours offer each other shelter, as they all try to avoid returning to Afghanistan.

The UN counted 1,245 Afghans being arrested or detained in January across Pakistan, more than double the same period last year. Nabila says Afghans shouldn't be forced out. "Don't kick Afghans out of their homes - we're not here by choice, we are forced to be here."

There is a feeling of sadness and loneliness in their home. "I had a friend who was here and then was deported to Afghanistan," Nabila's mother Maryam says.

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2054 Hyundai Kona Electric Ultimate review: Refreshed and Renewed!

By Veen Dewan.

The Hyundai Kona has been Canada's strongest-selling compact crossover since its introduction in 2018. A five door, fuel efficient and tremendous value for money family transport; for 2024 it arrives with a full redesign with more advanced technology. The 2025 version arrives in a single Preferred Trim, with options packages. The Preferred adds a power sunroof, leather-look upholstery, digital key, LED interior lighting and wireless charge. The top line Ultimate version (Electric version as tested) receive a hands-free power liftgate, and all Kona models now have rear air ventilation vents. Also standard is exterior vehicle-to-load (V2L) capability, allowing electric devices to be powered by the vehicle. A sporty N-Line Kona package is also added to the Ultimate.

The Kona Electric's electric powertrain carries over from the last-generation model. A 150-kW motor and 64.80-kWh & Lithium-Ion battery power the Kona. It still makes 201 hp, with 188 lb-ft foot



of torque. It is front-wheel drive (FWD) only, as it is single electric motor equipped. Also carrying over is a larger battery size -increased from 64.0 kWh to 64.8 kWh, and EV range increases from 415 km to 420.

Further good news is that on a Level 2 charger -the charging time to a full battery drops to only three hours, down from six hours and there is now a heated front-mounted charging door for those freezing Canadian winters. To also cope with sub zero conditions, the battery also gets an improved

pre-charging optimization for pre-conditioning heating and cooling systems.

The 2025 Hyundai Kona Electric model comes in 6 trim levels, with pricing ranges from \$46,499 to \$52,199. The entry-level, Preferred model starts at \$46,499 for the Electric. The price for the mid-range Preferred with Ultimate Package trim is \$51,299. The new Preferred with the N Line Ultimate Package is priced at \$52,199. This adds 19-inch wheels, N Line styling package, front sport seats, leather-wrapped

steering wheel, and sport pedals. Freight and PDI is \$1,950 for all models.

The Preferred trim arrives with standard with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, heated steering wheel and front seating, dual-zone automatic climate control. There is also a heat pump, navigation system, adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go function. Safety includes emergency front braking, blind-spot monitoring, lane-keep assist, automatic high-beam control, and highway driving assist that provides steering assist around bends.

The top tier 2025 Hyundai Kona Electric 'Ultimate' starts from \$51,199 plus \$1,925 freight and PDI. This trim adds premium upholstery, wireless device charging, ventilated front seats, 360-degree camera views, power-adjustable driver's seat, upgraded stereo, wireless smartphone charger, and head-up display. There is also: a sunroof, digital key access via a paired smartphone or watch. Safety upgrades include Surround-view cameras, camera-based blind-spot

monitoring, and remote parking assist is also standard. This system enables owners to move the vehicle into or out of a parking space with the key fob while outside the vehicle. Also added is an advanced update to the Hyundai Highway Driving Assist 2 system, which enhances the steady hands-on, eyes up ADAS to turn in and leave extra space if a vehicle is detected off to one side when driving. The interior is smart and functional and includes a cool multifunction display that incorporates two 12.3-inch screens, one for infotainment and the other for instrumentation. One good feature is that there are still tactile hard buttons or dials. The front seats are comfortable, and rear-seat legroom is on par for the segment.

Interior storage is excellent with plenty of cubbyholes and compartments plus rear cargo volume increases to 723 L with the rear seats in place and 1,803 L when they are folded. There's a dual-height cargo floor, and a detachable load cover with on board storage. A small "frunk" storage compart-

ment under the hood.

On the road, the Kona Electric has wonderful road manners on the highway in city traffic, and urban areas. There is smooth acceleration and the Kona is powerful enough for all situations. Drivability and economy has been sacrificed for power, but it is no slouch. The steering is responsive, it corners well, and the ride is smooth and well-composed. This is no dual motor rapid sport CUV although this may change in the future. The key attributes are the comfortable, interior, and smooth-driving everyday livability. The 2025 Hyundai Kona Electric has an NRCan efficiency ratings of 16.3 kWh/100 km city, 20.3 kWh/100 km highway, and 18.1 kWh/100 km combined.

To sum up the 2025 Hyundai Kona remains an extremely attractive electric vehicle for family life and has great versatility. Highly recommended. One my favourite compact SUV's.

2025 Hyundai Kona Electric priced from \$46,399 - \$52,199.

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Canada Real Estate Market Size to Surpass USD 231.5 Billion by 2033

The Canada real estate market remains dynamic, shaped by shifting interest rates, evolving buyer demand, and regional trends that influence home prices and investment opportunities. According to the latest report by IMARC Group, The Canada real estate market size reached USD 183.8 Billion in 2024. Looking forward, IMARC Group expects the market to reach USD 231.5 Billion by 2033, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 2.60% during 2025-2033.

Canada Real Estate Industry Trends and Drivers:

Canada real estate market is changing fast. This change is due to shifting demographics, urbanization, and new consumer preferences. Cities like Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal see high demand for homes, driven by population growth and immigration. However, the COVID-19 pandemic changed housing needs. Many buyers now want larger homes, suburban properties, and spaces for remote work. This shift has spurred demand for single-family homes with home offices or outdoor areas. At the same time, rising prices and affordability are big concerns, especially for first-time buyers. To help, the government is introducing initiatives like tax incentives and foreign buyer restrictions to stabilize the market. Low interest rates also encourage borrowing and real estate investment, boosting market activity. Despite these positive trends, the market faces challenges. Supply shortages and construction delays are pushing prices up and creating competitive bidding. Still, Canada's real estate market remains strong, backed by solid economic fundamentals and ongoing demand.

Technological advancements and sustainability are key trends in Canada real estate market. Prop-Tech innovations, like virtual tours, AI property valuations, and blockchain transactions, change how properties are bought, sold, and managed. These tools improve transparency, efficiency, and convenience for buyers and sellers. Sustainability is also a priority. Developers and homeowners focus on energy-efficient buildings, green certifications, and eco-friendly materials. This change comes from growing environmental awareness and regulations to cut carbon emissions. The rental market is evolving too. There is a rising demand for flexible leases and co-living spaces, especially among younger people. Meanwhile, commercial real estate adapts to hybrid work models. Businesses are rethinking office spaces to enhance collaboration and employee well-being. Despite challenges like economic uncertainty and changing interest rates, Canada's real estate market is set for growth. It benefits from innovation, demographic shifts, and its strong reputation as a stable investment destination.



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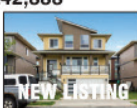
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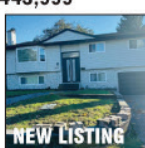
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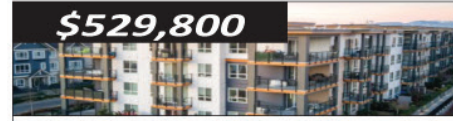
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4.363 acres of prime land in the heart of Surrey. Near 152st and 68ave. ALR is designated as an industrial business park. (Truck parking only not allowed)

2 UNITS WAREHOUSE

total 2625 Sq ft, prime location 123st and 84 ave area, \$2,900,000 for both.

3000sq ft. warehouse, 1500sq. ft. up and down, near payal business center
\$1,800,000.00

In Newton, available January 1304sq ft., with approved paint booth warehouse for sale or lease.
Price \$1,200,000.

ASSIGNMENT

19 Acres in Cloverdale Low assignment fee 1 House and Barn Can Build new home closing December 2023 on 168st.

SOLD

NEW LISTING

6000sq ft. building, with 12,423sq ft. land, with 6 units, all leased. In Whalley, listed \$4,900,000.00. with upto 7.5 FSR plus potential bonus.

HOUSE IN FLEETWOOD

Almost 10,000sq ft. with subdividable potential. Great investment property (house with 3 income property)
\$1,499,000.

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PIZZA BUSINESS

Very profitable Pizza Business with high sale over \$100,000 a month.
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SOLD

Custom build 3 storey house in White Rock, steps from the beach. No cost spared listed at **\$2,499,000.** Dream house perfect for multifamily living.

Premier announces new measures to defend B.C. from Trump tariffs

Premier David Eby has announced new tariff-response measures with the intention of bringing forward legislation that will defend British Columbians, workers and businesses from U.S. President Donald J. Trump's tariffs on Canadian goods and energy.

"The White House started a trade war we didn't want, and we must answer with strength," Premier Eby said. "We are responding to this unprecedented attack with several targeted measures and in the coming weeks we will arm ourselves with even more tools as next steps to fend off a sustained economic aggression."

The B.C. government intends to introduce tariff-response legislation in the coming days that will give the Province new tools to defend B.C. jobs and businesses and respond swiftly and nimbly to emerging challenges brought on by Trump's trade war. This would enable a range of responses, including the ability to remove interprovincial trade barriers, mandating that low-carbon fuels added to gasoline and diesel be produced in Canada, and allowing B.C. to apply tolls/fees to U.S. commercial vehicles using B.C. infrastructure to travel to



Alaska.

"The tariffs imposed by Trump are a profound mistake and are hurting families on both sides of the border," Premier Eby said. "My team will continue to work hard every day to defend British Columbians through this and come out stronger on the other side. Every option is on the table."

The Province's initial response to tariffs includes directing the BC Liquor Distribution Branch to immediately stop buying American liquor from "red" states and remove red-state brands from the shelves of public liquor stores.

The B.C. government and Crown corporations have also been directed to buy Canadian goods and services first.

The counter-measures are a first step and part of a Team Canada approach that includes 25% tariffs on \$155 billion worth of imported U.S. products imposed by the federal government, as well as additional measures from other provinces and territories.

First ministers have also agreed to take meaningful action to reduce barriers to internal trade and labour mobility by June 1, 2025. The B.C. government's plan

to fight back against the tariffs and defend British Columbians includes:

- responding to U.S. tariffs with tough counter-actions and outreach to American decision-makers;
- strengthening B.C.'s economy by expediting projects and supporting industry and workers; and
- diversifying trade markets for B.C. products so British Columbia is less reliant on U.S. markets and customers, including by breaking down domestic trade barriers.

As part of this approach, B.C. is moving full steam ahead on new ac-

tions to seize economic opportunities and find new trade markets to reduce B.C.'s reliance on the U.S.

The Province is accelerating approvals and permits on major projects that are ready to move forward to create good jobs and support B.C.'s economy in the face of tariffs. The initial list of projects is valued at \$20 billion in investment and is expected to create 8,000 family-supporting jobs, especially in rural and remote communities.

To support B.C.'s strong tariff response and ensure actions are swift, responsive and co-ordinated, Premier Eby has established a trade and economic security task force to bring together business, labour and Indigenous leadership. A new task force on agriculture and the food economy will help ensure B.C.'s food supply and food economy continue to grow in the face of tariffs, a B.C. softwood advisory council is developing a diplomatic and trade strategy to fight for B.C.'s interests in the ongoing softwood lumber dispute, and a new cabinet committee is co-ordinating the whole-of-government approach the Province is taking.

Quick Facts:

Estimates indicate 25%

tariffs on Canadian mineral exports will cost American companies more than US\$11 billion and have a profound effect on the U.S. defence industry, energy production and manufacturing.

The share of B.C.'s goods exports to the U.S. dropped to 52.8% in 2024, compared to 65.8% in 2000. At the same time, B.C. has expanded its trade relationships with key Asian markets, including China and South Korea.

In comparison, approximately 88% of Alberta's goods exports and an average of 76.1% of Ontario and Quebec's goods exports went to the U.S. in 2024. This places B.C. in a relatively better position than other provinces when it comes to mitigating the impacts of U.S. tariffs. However, the impact would still be significant.

Some sectors are more reliant on the U.S. for exports. For example, in 2024, B.C. exported approximately half of its natural gas and electricity and 74.8% of its softwood lumber to the U.S.

For goods coming into B.C., U.S. imports make up 34.5% of total incoming trade, including machinery and equipment, agriculture and food, as well as energy products

Premier's, attorney general's statements about resolution of tobacco litigation

Premier David Eby and Attorney General Niki Sharma have issued the following statements about the resolution of a long-standing legal battle with tobacco companies:

Premier David Eby said:

"After a 28-year fight to hold multinational tobacco companies accountable for their deceptive actions, I'm pleased a resolution has finally been reached. The plan approved today is the largest resolution of its kind in Canadian history and the third-largest ever anywhere.

"While no amount of money will ever bring lost loved ones back or fully compensate for the harm done, this agreement ensures there are real consequences for corporate wrongdoing and will pro-

vide essential resources for public-health initiatives in B.C.

"Our government will never stop fighting for the people in British Columbia. We'll continue to be relentless in pursuing legal avenues to get justice for those harmed by bad corporate actors who put profits over people's health."

Attorney General Niki Sharma said:

"Today's resolution with tobacco companies after this long-standing litigation will provide direct compensation to people harmed by the effects of smoking, deliver critical funding for health-care systems across Canada and establish a foundation to support treatment research.

"This plan builds on the work being done

here in British Columbia and across the country to reduce the number of Canadians who smoke. Through concerted actions, we've cut the smoking rate by more than half since we started this legal action – from 21% to less than 9% today.

"British Columbia has been a leader in standing up to powerful corporate interests, including taking on opioid manufacturers and delivering a first-of-its-kind settlement for their responsibility over the overdose crisis.

"As attorney general, I'm committed to continuing the work on cases like this and committed to ensuring that people and powerful interests alike are held accountable for their wrongdoings that harm the health and safety of others."

Quick Facts:

The total settlement is valued at \$32.5 billion.

B.C. will receive approximately \$3.7 billion over approximately 18 years to invest in cancer treatment and primary care, expand research into treatments and to promote smoking cessation.

In December 2024, all provincial and territorial governments, as well as class-action plaintiffs, voted to accept a plan proposed by a court-appointed mediator.

In 1998, B.C. initiated legal action against the three principal Canadian tobacco manufacturers and their foreign parent corporations to recover the cost of treating tobacco-related diseases.

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