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## ENHANCED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SUPPORT FAMILIES, SENIORS

More people will now benefit from enhancements to the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program, helping low-income families and seniors afford their rent.

“With the rising cost of living, we’re enhancing supports through the RAP and SAFER programs to ensure more families and seniors can access essential financial help,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. “These changes will help people stay in their homes in the communities they love and allow us to support more people as they manage the challenges of rent and living expenses.” Starting April 1, 2025, and as part of Budget 2025, RAP and SAFER programs have expanded eligibility criteria that will benefit more than 30,000 households in B.C. Existing eligible recipients will also see an automatic increase in their average benefits, providing them with more financial assistance to contribute toward rent. These changes build on the improvements to SAFER and the one-time RAP benefit introduced in April 2024.

“Seniors are vital to our communities, and they



should receive the support they need to live comfortably,” said Susie Chant, parliamentary secretary for seniors’ services and long-term care. “This change to eligibility requirements offers much-needed relief for low-income seniors and families facing rising living costs. These improvements will help seniors live safely and comfortably in their homes and in communities they’ve helped build.”

Improvements to RAP include: increasing the household

income limit for eligibility from \$40,000 to \$60,000 (before taxes) is expected to nearly double the number of families eligible for support from approximately 3,200 to nearly 6,000; increasing the average family supplement for existing recipients from \$400 per month to \$700 per month; implementing single provincial rent ceilings based on household size, which can now be reviewed and amended annually and will help ensure rent support for people remains adequate and flexible to

changes; and removing the requirement for employment income, which will result in low-income families that are not receiving income or disability assistance being able to receive rental assistance if other eligibility requirements are met. Enhancements to SAFER include:

increasing the household income limit for eligibility from \$37,240 to \$40,000, which is expected to benefit as many as 1,600 more seniors, for an estimated total of 25,000 SAFER recipients; and increasing the average supplement by nearly 30%, bringing the average monthly subsidy for existing seniors to \$337.

“The SAFER program is an essential support for low-income B.C. seniors living on fixed incomes who are struggling with the rising cost of rent, groceries and other items needed for healthy aging,” said Dan Levitt, B.C. seniors advocate. “I’m pleased more seniors will be eligible to receive SAFER, however, I’d still like to see the SAFER program be indexed to inflation and have government commit to ensuring the program is meeting its goal to have recipients paying no more

than 30% of their income on rent. The seniors’ demographic in B.C. is increasing rapidly and supports such as SAFER are critically important for the quality of life for low-income seniors.”

Through Budget 2025, the Province is investing an additional \$375 million over the next three years to enhance both RAP and SAFER programs. This includes the \$75 million committed through an agreement with the B.C. Green Party caucus to boost the programs and deliver more supports for families and seniors.

“The B.C. Greens have long advocated for stronger rental support, and we’re proud to see these improvements through our accord with the NDP,” said Rob Botterell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. “Housing must be a priority and the \$75 million we secured will help more families and seniors get the help they need to make rents more affordable.”

To ensure that eligible families and seniors are fully informed about the support available to them, BC Housing has launched a public awareness campaign.



*Chal Chaliye*  
**SABZI MANDI**  
*Chal Chaliye ...*

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# CANADA FREEDOM CONVOY LEADERS FOUND GUILTY OF MISCHIEF

Two leaders behind the "Freedom Convoy" protest that caused Canada's capital to descend into gridlock for weeks in 2022 have been found guilty of mischief but cleared of most other charges against them, Canadian media report.

Tamara Lich and Chris Barber faced six charges, including mischief, obstructing police, and intimidation.

Their lengthy criminal trial was heard over 45 days over a course of the year. Both had pleaded not guilty.

The two were part of a group that led a convoy of lorries to Ottawa to protest against Covid-19 measures and former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government.

The verdict was delivered on Thursday in an Ottawa courtroom.

Both were found guilty of counselling others to commit mischief and committing mischief, but that last finding was stayed after a request by Crown attorneys, CBC reported.



Barber was additionally found guilty of counselling others to disobey a court order. Their sentencing will be at a later date.

Over the course of the trial, the Crown had argued that the pair held prominent and leading roles in the protests - both had large social media presence and appeared

at convoy press events - and that many protesters took their cues from them. Defence lawyers argued their clients sometimes assisted police in controlling

the protests and never encouraged any unlawful behaviour.

The February 2022 protests were initially sparked by a federal vaccine mandate for lorry drivers crossing the US-Canada border.

Convoys of some 400 heavy trucks and other vehicles descended on Ottawa, Canada's capital, and blockaded city streets around parliament for three weeks.

City officials deemed it an "occupation".

Separate protests also blocked a key US-Canada border crossing near Detroit, and in the provinces of Alberta and Manitoba.

The protests received international attention and inspired similar copycat demonstrations abroad.

They came to an end after Trudeau invoked the Emergencies Act - the first time the Canadian law has been used - which allowed police to clear the streets and the government to impose bans on public assembly and other measures.

  
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## CANADA WILL RESPOND TO TRUMP TARIFFS ‘WITH PURPOSE AND WITH FORCE’, CARNEY SAYS

By Nadine Yousif

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has vowed to retaliate to tariffs issued by US President Donald Trump soon, “with purpose and with force”. Carney paused his federal election campaign for the second time in as many weeks to respond to the latest import taxes unveiled by Trump on Wednesday.

A new universal 10% tariff on US imports will apply globally but Canada was exempted because it has already been targeted by Trump with other measures.

But there was no confirmation of any reprieve from a new 25% tax that Trump will charge on Americans importing foreign-made cars, which could hit Canada hard.

Speaking to reporters in Ottawa, Carney said the existing tariffs on Canada would “directly affect millions”.

He added that Canada’s reaction would be hammered out once he meets with province and territory premiers on Thursday.

In his announcement on Wednesday, Trump said the blanket rate of 10% tax would apply to all goods imported by Americans from other countries.

He also unveiled a list of 60 nations facing higher rates - which he described as a “reciprocal” move - though Canada notably was not on that list.

So, after days of anticipation about what Trump’s “Liberation Day” would mean for Canada, the answer seems to be that little has changed. That has not brought relief to America’s northern neighbour.



Much of the American tariff scheme on Canada will stay the same: a blanket 25% on all goods, except those under the existing North American free trade agreement. Energy and potash is tariffed at a lower 10%, while a 25% levy on Canadian steel and aluminium remains in place.

Trump has tied those previously-announced tariffs to the flow of fentanyl and migrants into the US from both Canada and Mexico. Officials signalled that some may be lowered if an “emergency” declaration by Trump is cancelled.

Speaking at the White House on Wednesday, Trump also confirmed that his new 25% tariff “on all-foreign made automobiles” would come into effect at midnight on Thursday.

He did not say whether Canada, whose car industry is heavily intertwined with that of the US, would be exempt.

Carney’s response to the tariffs so far has been a political win for Carney and his Liberal party - now ahead in national polls - as the Conservative Party and its leader Pierre Poilievre trail slightly behind.

As the incumbent, Carney has the advantage of playing the role of prime minister while simultaneously auditioning for it, and national polls show Canadians trust him more with handling Trump and the Canada-US relationship.

This success - at least so far - has forced Poilievre to pivot his messaging. On Wednesday, the Conservative leader held an event in Toronto hours ahead of Trump’s announcement to outline his party’s response.

He pushed for immediate, “targeted” retaliation, and said his party would introduce a temporary loan program to support businesses directly hit. Poilievre urged Canada to

renegotiate the existing North American trade agreement with Canada, the US and Mexico as soon as possible. The agreement, known as CUSMA, is up for review in 2026.

“Why wait? Why not get it done now?” Poilievre asked.

The rest of Canada’s federal leaders laid out their own responses Wednesday - a sign of how much these tariffs have overshadowed Canada’s federal election, scheduled for 28 April.

New Democratic Leader Jagmeet Singh said during an early afternoon campaign stop in Winnipeg that his party would put measures in place to help workers impacted by the tariffs.

He also called Trump an “arsonist”, saying that the US president is “setting fire to the economy — his own economy, and ours as well.”

Bloc Quebecois leader Yves-Francois Blanchet,

whose party only runs candidates in French-speaking Quebec, said counter-tariffs should be “surgically chosen” to preserve the country’s “fragile” economy.

Meanwhile in the US Senate, an effort to block Trump from imposing tariffs on Canada passed, 51-48, on Wednesday, with four Republican senators aligning with all Democratic senators. But it is not expected to be taken up by the House of Representatives, which holds a narrow Republican majority.

While Canada has been spared from additional tariffs, this reprieve has not changed the overall tone in the country.

Candace Laing, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, said that Wednesday’s announcement means “the world is waking up to a reality that Canada has been living with for months.”

“Businesses around the world have had their uncertainty expanded, the effects of which will undoubtedly boomerang to Canada as well,” she said in a statement.

“This chain reaction of tariffs and counter-tariffs will have a real and distressing economic impact on Americans, Canadians and the global economy.”

Carney echoed those comments Wednesday, telling reporters the tariffs will “fundamentally change the international trading system.”

The focus for now, he said, is how Canada can protect its workers and build what he vowed will be “the strongest economy in the G7.”



# Mind and matter meet in Surrey collective art show

Surrey, BC – Surrey Art Gallery announces their spring exhibition *A Tangled Thicket* with Z-inc Artist Collective (Willa Downing, Lesley Garratt, Cora Li-Leger, and Claire Moore) at Surrey Art Gallery from April 5 to June 8, 2025. Admission is free.

Z-inc Artist Collective members are united by a profound passion for community, craft, natural materials, and ecological consciousness. A long-standing presence in Surrey art communities, the group has supported collaborative artmaking initiatives with an extended network of creatives and the public at large for over a decade.

*A Tangled Thicket* captures the ethos of connectivity that lies at the heart of Z-inc's practice. Drawing on theories of ecology, neuroscience, and ontology (the study of being itself), each artist expounds on the interconnection between nature and the human mind and how they are embedded within and shaped by each other.

Across painting, drawing, sculpture, textile, and handmade installations, each artist alludes to the porousness that separate humans from other species, as well as the stories we tell ourselves about "nature" and our relationship with it. Citing inspirations such as the neuroscientist Santiago Ramón y Cajal, ecologist Suzanne Simard, and local poet and author Aislinn Hunter, Z-inc's works vividly capture the resonance across all forms of matter: from the biochemical schemata of plant cells and brain neurons to the mycorrhizal networks of fungi, trees,

animals, people, places, families, and memories.

Z-inc constantly strives to push beyond the boundaries of their own practices, inviting responses in the form of interactive installations. The collaborative *Objects for Pondering* project encourages visitors to handle bespoke, handmade items—books, miniature figurines, ceramic sculptures, memorabilia—that prompt personal reflection and meaning-making. Made for the occasion of Surrey Art Gallery's 50th anniversary, the *Cultured:50* project includes 50 petri dishes filled with objects co-created by other artists south of the Fraser.

Elsewhere, the exhibition includes artworks that celebrate the inherent craft of each artist's approach, emphasizing organic materials, bodily sensation, and improvisation. Interactive sculptures by Claire Moore and ink paintings by Lesley Garratt imagine vibrant worlds of anthropomorphic creatures that move between realms, untethered by human categories, while artist books by Cora Li-Leger and large-scale installations by Willa Downing draw attention to the synergy between consciousness and history.

In the face of ever greater automation and social stratification, Z-inc proposes a radical creative togetherness imagined through the lives of artworks and the people who make, use, and respond to them.

The opening of the Gallery's spring exhibits, "Enter the Connectome," happens on April 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. where Z-inc members will discuss the relationships

between art, science, ecology, and consciousness. The evening will also include collaborative artmaking activities and the relaunch of the saga shop. Also in connection to *A Tangled Thicket* is a "Slow Looking Workshop" presented by the collective on May 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. as part of the Thursday Artist Talk series organized by Surrey Art Gallery Association. The artists will lead a guided workshop of their *Objects for Pondering* collaborative art project.

On June 7, Assistant Curator Rhys Edwards joins Z-inc Artist Collective for an in-depth tour of *A Tangled Thicket* from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event will conclude with a reading by Dr. Aislinn Hunter, a faculty member in Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Creative Writing Department.

#### About the Artists

Willa Downing (b. 1952, Taiwan) grew up in London, Ontario, and moved to Vancouver to study at the University of British Columbia where she obtained a PhD in Biochemistry. She has worked in scientific research in Canada and abroad. Passionate about making art, Downing also has a diploma in painting and drawing from the Emily Carr College (now University) of Art + Design (EC-UAD). Her artwork has been exhibited in BC and Alberta. Downing has taught at EC-UAD and has lectured in plant biotechnology at Simon Fraser University. She lives and works in Surrey where she is a founding member of Z-inc Artist Collective.

Lesley Garratt was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1951 where

she studied art for two years at Ontario College of Art (now OCAD University) and later received a BA in Psychology and Art at York University, notably studying with Vera Frenkel, the Canadian multidisciplinary artist. While maintaining a studio practice and exhibition roster, she worked as an art educator in Toronto, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Currently, Garratt lives and works in White Rock, British Columbia. A founding member of Z-inc Artist Collective and CAM (Contemporary Art Matters), the artist has worked over a decade within a collective voice to push the creative boundaries in the Greater Vancouver region.

After receiving a BFA from the University of Minnesota in 1975, Cora Li-Leger attended the Banff Centre School of Fine Arts under the tutelage of Joe Plaskett. There she met her husband Don and subsequently immigrated to Canada. She has lived in South Surrey since 1987. Through 2015, she had an active career as an expressive arts therapist. Having retired from that profession, drawing, bookmaking, and handiwork projects now comprise her practice. Much of her work engages in iterative processes, quietude, and meditative approaches. Li-Leger has participated in educational presentations, medical conference exhibitions, and artist book fairs, as well as exhibitions in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Washington, and the UK. Several Pacific Northwest permanent collections include her work.

Claire Moore was raised in apartheid South Africa where

she studied art at Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town. Moore's early work centred on human stories—people and place, power and control, belonging, and resilience. In 2007, Moore joined the fledgling Fort Gallery Collective where she showed work as a member for ten years. She participated in the local Day of Drawing movement, which morphed into Z-inc Artist Collective, and initiated over a decade of showing work in alternative spaces. Moore had exhibited in multiple venues across Surrey and the Lower Mainland, in a solo capacity at Douglas College (2017), and has commissioned paintings in Ojai (California), London (UK), and Sidney (Australia).

About Surrey Art Gallery  
Founded in 1975, Surrey Art Gallery presents contemporary art by local, national, and international artists, including digital and audio art. Recognized for its award-winning programs, the Gallery engages children through to adults in ongoing conversations that affect our lives and provides opportunities to interact with artists and the artistic process. The Gallery is located at 13750 88 Avenue in Surrey on the unceded territories of the Salish Peoples, including the (Kwantlen), and Semiahma (Semiahmoo) nations. Surrey Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges operating funding from the City of Surrey, Province of BC through BC Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Surrey Art Gallery Association.

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# City of Surrey proposes 2.8% general property tax increase, among lowest in region

Surrey, BC – The City of Surrey's 2025-2029 General Operating and Capital Budgets are now available for the public to view. The Budgets have been formulated based on direction from Mayor Brenda Locke and Surrey Council, reflecting City strategies, resource requirements to maintain service delivery and feedback on community priorities obtained during the City's budget engagement process.

"In these challenging and uncertain economic times with U.S. tariffs looming, our Council has dedicated itself to preparing a budget that proposes a modest 2.8% general property tax increase—among the lowest in the entire region," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "This is less than half of our general property tax increase in last year's Five-Year Financial Plan. Our Council has worked hard to ensure that we keep tax rates low while still addressing the essential needs of our growing community."

"Last year, we reached a critical crossroads regarding our police service, with the looming threat of massive tax hikes to fund the Surrey Police Service," Locke said. "Thanks to our unwavering commitment



and diligent negotiations, we negotiated up to \$250 million from the province—funding that Surrey's previous Council had neither sought nor even considered. This support has helped alleviate the financial burden on our taxpayers. Our Council remains committed to making prudent financial decisions that prioritize the well-being of our residents while upholding our responsibility for sound fiscal management."

The property tax increases proposed in the 2025 General Operating Budget are as fol-

lows:

2.8% General Property Tax increase (approximately \$77 for the average assessed single-family home) to fund:

General inflationary pressures

Hiring of additional 20 Fire Services positions and 10 by-law positions for 2025, as well as funding 25 police positions. City-wide operations

1% Roads and Traffic Levy (approximately \$27 for the average assessed single-family home)

If the proposed increases are approved, the City's portion of

property taxes for the average assessed single family home in the City of Surrey would be \$3,169, which would place Surrey in the bottom third of the region for property taxes collected for the respective average assessed home in Metro Vancouver.

"While we are being financially prudent, we are not compromising on the infrastructure our growing city needs," noted Mayor Locke. "We are proposing an ambitious \$701 million Capital Plan over the next five years, which is the largest financial commitment

in the City's history including funding for 36 projects—10 of which are new this year."

Among other key initiatives, the City is moving forward with transformative projects ranging from a 10,000-seat Sports and Entertainment Arena and an Interactive Art Museum—both set to become cornerstones of Surrey's emerging City Centre Entertainment District - to smaller investments including an Ash-Scattering Pier off the banks of the Fraser River.

The proposed Capital Plan also includes moving ahead with the new Newton Community Centre, as well as a significant \$446 million investment in capital road works over five years to enhance the City's transportation infrastructure.

A public meeting of the Finance Committee will be held April 14, 2025 at 1pm to consider the 2025 Budget.

The public can provide comments in person at the Finance Committee meeting or through written submissions (email [clerks@surrey.ca](mailto:clerks@surrey.ca) or fill out an online form). The deadline for written comments is April 11, 2024.

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**A**rms ਬਾਹਵਾਂ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਬਾਹਵਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਨੂੰ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?

**S**peech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਅਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ?

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# \$1.16 million upgrade to Softball City's field lights completed

Surrey, B.C. – New LED lighting has been installed and activated for all four fields at Softball City. The switch to LED lighting provides superior illumination for evening softball games, ensuring better visibility and a safer playing environment. Additionally, the LEDs are 40 per cent more energy-efficient, resulting in substantial cost savings and reduced environmental impact.



“The completion of the \$1.16 million upgrade to Softball City’s field lights marks a transformative moment for South Surrey’s Softball City,” said Mayor Brenda Locke. “With these state-of-the-art LED lights, we are not just illuminating the fields; we are igniting a passion for sport and solidifying Surrey’s position as a global hub for elite softball competition. As we welcome local leagues and international tournaments alike, we are building a brighter future for our athletes and showcasing our city’s unwavering support for women’s sports and athletic achievement. This \$1.16 million upgrade is part of Council’s \$3.1 million commitment to improving Softball City and further strengthen Surrey’s

reputation as the top destination for high-caliber international softball.” The new LED fixtures meet the City’s commitment to responsible outdoor lighting and are designed to minimize light pollution by directing most of the light towards the field, rather than upwards and into surrounding areas. To further enhance safety, additional lighting has been installed in pedestrian areas. “This much needed lighting upgrade at Softball City is a pivotal advancement in our organization’s ability to offer an elite playing environment, which in turn attracts new international level competition and events to Surrey,” said Greg Timm, chair of the Canadian Amateur Sports Society and the Canada Cup. “This is

a major milestone for Softball City and on behalf of our organization, and the thousands of athletes who use the park annually, as well as hundreds of volunteers from across our city who support the international competitions we host, I want to thank the Mayor and Council for their incredible contribution to supporting our athletes, and particularly women’s sports, by providing the best possible environment for success on and off the field.” Built in the 1990s, Softball City has increasingly attracted local, national and international tournaments and events. In addition to hosting the annual Canada Cup International Softball Championship, it has also been the competition venue for the 2016 World Baseball Softball Con-

federation (WBSC) Women’s World Softball Championship, the 2019 WBSC Women’s Softball Olympic Qualifier, and the 2021 Softball Canada Men’s and Women’s Canada Slo-pitch Championships. Last summer, the venue hosted the 2024 Men’s World Fast-pitch Tournament attracting 1,000 players from more than 10 countries. Upgrades to Softball

City contribute to the City’s Sport Tourism Strategy that aims to drive economic benefits and foster sport development opportunities in Surrey. In 2024, Surrey hosted 39 sporting events attracting thousands of visitors from across Canada and around the world contributing \$10.3 million in economic benefits for the city.

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South Asian

# CHOICE

## BOLLYWOOD ACTOR AND DIRECTOR MANOJ KUMAR DIES AT 87



Veteran Bollywood actor and director Manoj Kumar has died at the age of 87 in India's financial capital, Mumbai.

The actor died of "age-related health issues", Dr Santosh Shetty of Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, where the actor was admitted, said.

His son, Kunal Goswami, told ANI news agency that Kumar had been battling health issues for a long time.

Kumar leaves behind a rich legacy of patriotic films, which propelled him to fame in the 1960s and 1970s. Tributes from fans, celebrities, and politicians have been pouring in on social media, mourning his death.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called him an "icon of Indian cinema".

"Manoj Ji's [a term of respect in Hindi] works ignited a spirit of national pride and will continue to inspire generations," he wrote in a post on X.

Many contemporary actors mourned his death, calling him a source of inspiration.

Akshay Kumar said he grew up watching Kumar's films which inculcated in him a sense of love and pride for the nation.

Ajay Devgn praised Kumar for creating moments that are now part of "Indian cinema's golden history" and thanked him for inspiring storytellers like himself.

Kumar, who was originally named Harikrishan Goswami, was born in 1937 in the northern state of Punjab.

# HOW WILL INDIA NAVIGATE A WORLD ON THE BRINK OF A TRADE WAR?

By Nikhil Inamdar

Donald Trump's blanket tariffs have put the world on the brink of a possible global trade war. The European Union has vowed a united response, and China has threatened countermeasures. Ratings agencies like Fitch have warned that the mass tariff hikes could result in lower growth, higher inflation and potentially a recession in some parts of the world.

How will India - Asia's third largest economy - navigate these global tremors?

Trump has dealt the most brutal blow to Asian countries, slapping 34% tariffs on China in addition to the 20% previously levied. Vietnam and Cambodia will have to pay 46% and 49% respectively.

In relative terms, at 27% India has fared better.

But the rate is still steep and will severely affect major "labour intensive exports", says Priyanka Kishore of the consultancy Asia Decoded. "That will likely have a knock-on impact on domestic demand and headline gross domestic product at a time when growth is already stuttering," said Ms Kishore.

But the new trade realities also throw up opportunities for India. Its new tariff differential with Asian peers may potentially lead to some export re-routing. "We can bring the footwear and garments business from Asian peers if we get our act together," says Nilesh Shah, a veteran fund manager.

This will take time though. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government will thus have to be strategic in how it navigates the situation.

Foremost, the announcement should "give the government a greater sense of urgency in wrapping up a trade deal with the US",



says Rahul Ahluwalia, a public policy expert who previously worked for a government department. "The US is our largest export market, so this is serious stuff."

India exports some \$91bn (£69bn) in goods to the US, which account for 18% of its overall exports. Hectic trade negotiations have been under way with a fall deadline for conclusion. Ahluwalia says that deadline could now be compressed and brought forward.

While doing that, India must also expand export markets beyond the US and focus on regions where tariffs remain low, such as Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa, recommends Indian trade research agency GTRI.

In the last couple of years, India has shown a renewed appetite for trade deals, launching free trade agreement (FTA) talks with a range of countries and blocs, including the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Last year, Delhi signed a \$100bn free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - a group of four European countries that are not members of the European Union.

Experts say talks with other part-

ners could now be expedited as cracks deepen between the US and many other global economies over Trump's actions.

But even as trade negotiations carry on with global partners, the government will need a plan on how it deals with the domestic fallout of Trump's decision.

Impact on sectors that employ millions of people - like gems and jewellery and textiles - is likely to be significant. The government will need to extend support through means like expanding production-linked subsidies to ensure that India's domestic industry stays globally competitive and can leverage the new opportunities this has thrown up, according to the consultancy, Ernst & Young.

The tariffs are "fundamentally reshaping the global trading system", says Agneshwar Sen, a trade policy expert at Ernst & Young India. This will require a "fundamental reevaluation of trading strategies" as new supply chains emerge, he adds.

India will also have to be mindful of other risk factors that emerge from this - such as "Chinese dumping", says Mr Shah.

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<p><b>Name:</b> LUTZ-VEINOT, Christopher</p> <p><b>Age:</b> 30 <b>Height:</b> 6'1" ft <b>Weight:</b> 205lbs <b>Hair:</b> Brown <b>Eyes:</b> Hazel <b>Wanted:</b> Unlawfully at Large <b>Warrant in effect:</b> March 8, 2025 <b>Parole Jurisdiction:</b> Vancouver, BC</p> 	<p><b>Name:</b> DUGUAY, Ronald</p> <p><b>Age:</b> 56 <b>Height:</b> 6'1" ft <b>Weight:</b> 186lbs <b>Hair:</b> Grey <b>Eyes:</b> Hazel <b>Wanted:</b> Assault <b>Warrant in effect:</b> March 4, 2025 <b>Parole Jurisdiction:</b> Chilliwack, BC</p> 	<p><b>Name:</b> MCKAY, Trevor Robert</p> <p><b>Age:</b> 34 <b>Height:</b> 5'9" ft <b>Weight:</b> 220lbs <b>Hair:</b> Blonde <b>Eyes:</b> Blue <b>Wanted:</b> Unlawfully at Large <b>Warrant in effect:</b> March 10, 2025 <b>Parole Jurisdiction:</b> Vancouver, BC</p> 
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## 5 Acura RDX Premium Elite : Continues to Impress!

Review by  
Veeno Dewano

The 2025 Acura RDX Mid size SUV is the brands most popular compact -luxury models with an excellent specification and sporty performance. The latest Acura design direction adds a more aggressive grille mesh and gloss-black exterior trim. All RDX trims receive sportier wheel designs, including new standard; Berlina Black 19/20-inch wheels.

There is one engine choice only, a turbo-charged 272-horsepower 2.0-litre VTEC 4-cylinder unit with 280 ft Lbs torque - one of the most powerful in its class. It's paired with a smooth and responsive 10-speed automatic with standard Sequential Sport-Shift paddle shifters. Acura's signature Super Handling All-Wheel Drive (SH-WD) with true torque vectoring is standard on all RDX grades. Acura RDX models include various trim levels and numerous packages and options. The base RDX starts at a reasonable \$53,800, while the RDX A-Spec is listed at MSRP \$56,630. The top dog Platinum Elite



A-Spec is \$61,630.

The higher level RDX A-Spec and Platinum Elite A-Spec arrive with a sportier more aggressive appearance and a full blacked-out exterior treatment, new 20-inch wheels and A-Spec badges. New Berlina Black machine-finished 20-inch wheels are exclusive to the RDX Platinum Elite A-Spec. The RDX A-Spec features a new 10-spoke wheel design with a distinct Shark Grey finish.

Acura's have always been known for the level of technology, and the RDX is no exception with a plethora of advanced

features, including the Acura True Touchpad Interface featuring an all-new Android based operating System, a high-mounted 10.2-inch HD display and an innovative touchpad with the first-ever application of absolute positioning in a driving environment. There is Apple CarPlay compatibility, plus Wi-Fi-enabled over-the-air system updates and Android Auto.

We evaluated a premium RDX Platinum Elite A-Spec, that adds: 20-inch alloy wheels, body-color lower sills, larger-diameter bright exhaust finishers, as

well as gloss black and dark chrome decoration for the headlights, grille, window surround and rear tailgate spoiler. The RDX Platinum Elite A-Spec adds full leather upholstery, additional ambient lighting on the centre console, illuminated front- and rear-door speaker cones behind acid-etched speaker grilles. The sound system is also upgraded to an audiophile quality 16-speaker, 710-watt ELS Studio 3D audio system.

The Interior Acura refresh adds the gorgeous red leather seats with black suede inserts, more sound deadening material throughout for a quieter cabin, high quality materials with contrast stitching, cool metal textured highlights, a larger e-wireless charging pad and comfortable leather seats. Heated front seats are standard on all trims with heated rear seats too (Cooled up front) on the Platinum Elite version. All available Platinum Elite and the A Spec features including the Head-Up Display (HUD), Surround View Camera, Rear Outboard Heated Seats, and 16-way power

front seats. Meanwhile, the 841-liter cargo area can expand to 1,668 L with the rear seats folded down. The RDX interior is rich in appearance and quality of materials, and offers a sharp, highly effective look combining sport and comfort. Its driving experience is refined and engaging thanks to a powerful turbocharged engine.

On the road, the RDX offers a predictably sporting and entertaining experience for performance drivers. The RDX's firm suspension and quick steering and brake pedal action make it easy for the machine to be driven hard and makes short work of corners, winding roads, and fast highways cruising. The quick-shifting 10-speed automatic snaps off precise, instant acceleration. Platinum Elite models, also benefit from instant responding adaptive shocks for good control on all surfaces. there are four drive modes with the Sport+ mode the most entertaining. Comfort is for a more relaxing drive .Sport is for added thrills and tighter reflexes, while Snow, mode is for slippery sur-

faces. Acura's SH- AWD transfer's power from the front axle to the rear to increase traction as needed and can also vary the power on the left and right rear wheels to boost cornering ability on dry ground and traction on wet surfaces. In slippery road conditions we encountered the SH-AWD made an enormous difference.

Natural Resources Canada fuel consumption specs for the 2025 RDX are 11.0 L/100 km city, 8.6 highway and 9.9 combined. The A-Spec trims are a little less frugal at; 11.3 L/100 km city, 9.1 highway and 10.3 combined.

Not much to complain about - the dash is a tad fussy with a lot of buttons, sliders etc. and the touchpad interface has a bit of a learning curve, but that's about it. The RDX is firmly in Mercedes and BMW territory with its level of engineering, cabin ambience and excellent performance. Highly recommended.

2025 Acura RDX Platinum Elite Priced from \$61,430. Plus, PDE and freight.

More info at: [www.acura.ca](http://www.acura.ca)



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## Canadian Immigration Crackdown Could Slow Local Real Estate Market

Last Friday Canada updated its travel guidelines. Starting April 11th, Canadians visiting the United States for more than 30 days will now be required to register with the U.S. government as part of a new enforcement of immigrations laws, or they will face fines and even misdemeanor prosecution. The new crack-down

will affect snow-birds who spend their winter months here in the desert and directly impact our local real estate market. NBC Palm Springs Mary Strong sits down with local real estate expert Kathleen Sunshine O'Brien to talk more about the new immigration guidelines and the state of the local real estate market.





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<p><b>Starting at \$979,000</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 22811 Mclean Avenue</p> <p>Introducing Another Award Winning Community by Infinity Living "Richstone Hamilton" nestled in the quiet rapidly growing Richmond Suburb of Hamilton. 25 Farmhouse inspired townhomes with gorgeous finishings estimated for completion in May 2025. These 3 Bedroom townhomes boast designer kitchens, Fisher &amp; Paykel appliance package, authentic imported european tiles, Quartz countertops, custom wood work, Air Con/Heat Pump/HRV and double tandem/side by side garages. These units are very well appointed. Walking distance to Shopping, schools, parks, childcare and transit. Please contact us for more details and information.</p>	<p><b>\$2,298,000</b></p> <p><b>Chilliwack</b> 44477 Yale Road</p> <p>Over half an acre of prime development land next to Cap-It and other major anchors. The current use is non-conforming motel and 9 units are rented for great holding income. The property is M2 zoned for business industrial uses and ready for building permit for the development of your choice with very few restrictions. See City of Chilliwack M2 zoning permit guidelines.</p>	<p><b>\$2,770,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>Richmond</b> 3731 Royalmore Avenue</p> <p>Beautiful new home in a great neighborhood on the best street, sparing no expense this home has everything you could want and more. Marble entry, and custom wainscoting throughout the home.</p>	<p><b>\$2,398,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>Richmond</b> 6411 Blundell Rd</p> <p>Builders own home! Very Rarely on the Market this Gorgeous 6 Bed 5.5 Bath home with Coach House is not to be missed. Main home consists of 5 Bedrooms and 4.5 Bath Custom designed for the Owner/Builder. High Ceilings in the Living and Dining with beautiful wainscoting and custom woodwork throughout the home, all counter are either European stone &amp; marble, imported tiles, custom cabinetry in the gourmet kitchen. Backyard built for entertaining with a covered patio. Huge Bonus on this home is the legal COACH HOUSE 1 Bedroom Suite with a separate laundry. Location is Key on the west side of Richmond but a very central location. A stones throw from all Levels of Schools, transit, shopping, doctors and the hospital. School Catchment: Blundell Elementary school and Steveston London HS. OPEN HOUSE - Sat Sep 14 - 2-4pm.</p>	<p><b>\$2,988,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 8291 Bowcock Road</p> <p>A True Show Home that is absolutely stunning and totally remodeled with all high end finishing's to perfection. This home is located in a very desirable and prime family Neighborhood.</p>
<p><b>\$1,785,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 3440 Trumond Ave</p> <p>This property is located at 3440 Trumond Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Seafair. The current median list price for similar homes for sale in the vicinity is \$1,910,000.</p>	<p><b>\$1,450,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 10320 Railway Ave</p> <p>This property is located at 10320 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Steveston North.</p>	<p><b>\$2,365,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 10226 Railway Ave</p> <p>This property is located at 10226 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighborhood of Steveston North.</p>	<p><b>\$2,365,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 10220 Railway Ave</p> <p>This property is located at 10220 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Steveston North.</p>	<p><b>\$2,800,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 8811 Saunders Rd</p> <p>Prime Location! Well kept 2 story house good size nice lot 6,000 sq. ft in a desirable neighborhood in North Delta. This house offers 3 beds and 1.5 baths on main floor.</p>

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Discover this beautiful, bright and spacious 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom townhome in a highly desirable central location. The home features a spacious west-facing sundeck, perfect for soaking in the afternoon sun or enjoying evening relaxation. The double tandem garage offers convenient parking and extra storage. With public transit just steps away on Scott Road, commuting is a breeze. Families will love the proximity to top-rated schools, ensuring excellent education options. You'll also find a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment options nearby, making this home a perfect blend of convenience and comfort.



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**11132 PATRICIA DRIVE, DELTA**  
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Court Order Sale. This 5 bedroom 3 bathroom split-level home is very well maintained in a family oriented neighborhood. Quiet Street with tons of privacy, very easily convert downstairs into a suite (Kitchen and separate entry already downstairs). Home gets tons of natural light and has had a few updates throughout the years: new floors, kitchen cabinets, deck in the backyard. Quick access to Alex Fraser Bridge to get Richmond and New Westminster & Highway 17 to get to Langley & Surrounding areas.



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### 314-7445 120 Street



Apartment 1 bed 1 bath, 650 sf ,  
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### 103 13725 72A AVENUE



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### 6 12711 64 AVENUE



3 bedrooms upstairs and 4 bedrooms, over 1500 square feet of living space, laminate flooring, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, hot water tank (2019). Kitchen with large eating area. Central location. Well maintained 'Palatos on the Park' complex. Walking distance to Tamahevi Secondary, Pausonara Ridge, Beaver Creek Transit & Tamahevi Park (a few steps away)

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### 14948 62 AVE SURREY



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### #34 9088 HOLT RD, SURREY



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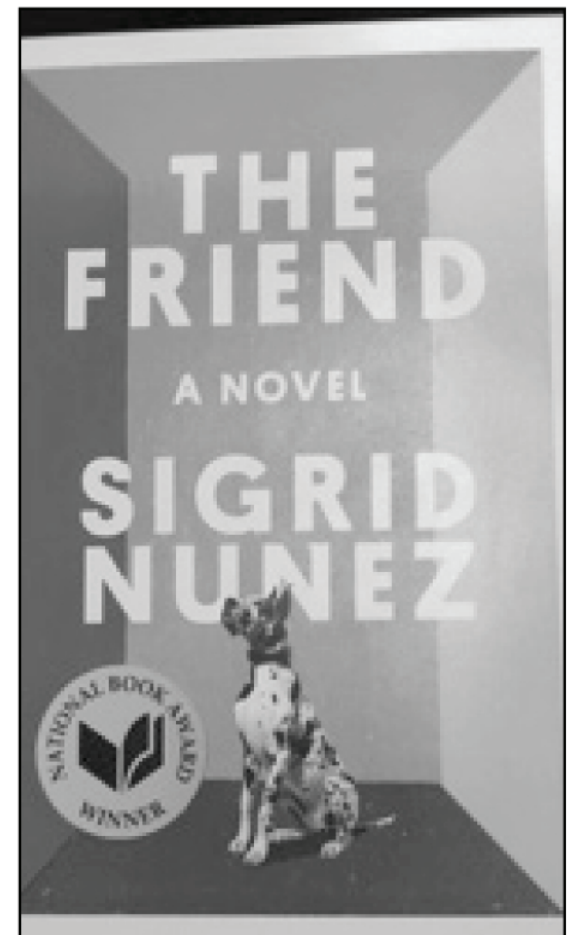


(PG)\*\*\*

## Puppy Love!

It's an unusual love story to be sure. Heartfelt and emotional are the performances that unfold effortlessly in the New York set *The Friend*. Brought to British Columbia by Mongrel Media this loving portrait is currently playing at Vancouver's Park Theatre. Losing a loved one is a painful process. So when author and educator Walter dies it leaves a big hole in the hearts of all his friends, including Iris. Funnyman Bill Murray (*Caddy Shack*) turns down the comedy while Naomi Watts rises to the occasion and steps up to take care of her friend's prized possession - a pooch named Apollo. (Played by Bing).

Maybe it's the dog that's the real star of this show as it takes centre stage turning Iris's life upside down. At first reluctant to take in The Great Dane over time the two "bond" in a poignant way. Just how this woman copes with looking after an animal in the big city is wonderfully depicted in an honest, accurate and emotional way. Front and centre in *The Friend* is the realistic way with which it portrays the grieving process. Adding to the drama are the problems associated when trying to find a place to rent which are exacerbated when an animal is thrown into the mix.



## The Friend

THE FRIEND  
A NOVEL  
SIGRID NUNEZ



### SALMAN KHAN AND SANJAY DUTT'S NEXT TITLED GANGA RAM; DEBUTANT KRISH AHIR TO DIRECT

In the last 2 weeks, both Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt independently confirmed that they are coming together on a rustic action film. Post that, we did our due diligence trying to collate information from industry sources. And we have some exciting, good news for all Bhai fans. Reliable sources confirm that Salman Khan is indeed teaming up with Sanjay Dutt on an action film.

"Salman and Sanju are coming to-

gether for a rustic action film titled *Ganga Ram*, with the duo in the titular role. It's a film developed by Salman and his SKF team in-house, and everyone is very excited to get back the OG's on the big screen in the action set-up. When Salman's team told the one-line to Sanjay, he was also more than excited to partner and join forces with Salman on a two-hero film," a source shared with Bollywood Hungama.

### South Asian Seniors - Filing Income Tax Returns Free - From March 15th 2025 to April 30th 2025

APNI South Asian Community Response Networks Surrey, can help you to file your Income Tax Returns for the year 2024 free of cost, through the community volunteer program of Canada Revenue Agency, from March 15th 2025 to April 30th 2025. If you are living in Surrey / Delta, the eligibility Criteria are as follows 1. Single individual with annual income limit up to \$ 42,000 or less. 2. Couples with annual income up to \$57,000 or less, add \$ 2500 for additional members. Interest income not over \$ 1,000.00 and this income will be included as total eligibility. With no investment income, no rental income, no business income or partnership income, no self-employed income and no capital gain or loss, not for deceased person, not if Bankruptcy filed in the Tax year or the year before and also not for Foreign Property or Foreign income. Sin# card and Govt. issued photo identity, All T4 & T5 Slips, Medical or disability receipts & Last year's Notice of Assessment will be required to prove the documents. Please contact Surendra Handa, Coordinator APNI South Asian Community Response Networks Surrey BC, Tel. 604 - 507 - 9945 for further information.



# Sacred land return, agreement advance reconciliation between Semá:th First Nation and B.C.

Sumas First Nation (Semá:th) and the Province are strengthening their relationship through the return of the sacred Lightning Rock site.

After purchasing it last year, the Province has now successfully returned the 36-hectare Lightning Rock site to the Nation. This land holds deep cultural and spiritual significance to Semá:th and serves as a repository of traditions and narratives passed down through generations.

“The return of this sacred place is of great significance to the Semá:th, the Stó:lō, the Salish, and to First Nations people in general,” said Semá:th Chief Dalton Silver. “The respect and recognition evident here with this agreement is something our peoples have sought for too long. I’m thankful for the support from so many who’ve all played a part in making this a reality.”

The site contains a transformer stone that came to be known as Lightning Rock and is one of more than 100 sites where Stó:lō history says ancestors were transformed to stone. The site also holds the ancestral burial place of smallpox victims dating back to the 18th century. Semá:th and the Province have worked in close collaboration to chart a path forward for the site’s protection since signing a memorandum of understand-



ing (MOU) in 2017. In March 2024, the Province announced the purchase of the Lightning Rock site as part of ongoing negotiations with the intention to transfer the lands to Semá:th First Nation.

Now, the Province is returning the land to Semá:th First Nation. To make this historic moment possible, the Province and Semá:th signed a reconciliation agreement and a road agreement last fall. Since then, the Province and Semá:th First Nation have been working together to finalize the

terms of the land transfer and engage with local interest holders so the agreement and the Lightning Rock return could be announced at the same time.

“Semá:th First Nation has spent decades advocating for this sacred land to be protected, and I am grateful to Chief Silver for his leadership in getting us to this point on our shared reconciliation journey,” said Christine Boyle, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. “This agreement is helping to protect this site, making a real

difference for Semá:th members and providing certainty for everyone in the region.”

Through the reconciliation agreement, the Province and Semá:th First Nation have reaffirmed their commitment to building a strengthened government-to-government relationship and protecting the Lightning Rock site.

Part of the agreement includes a commitment for the Province and Semá:th First Nation to establish a special initiative to plan for the stewardship of Sumas

Mountain. This initiative will be co-ordinated under the S’ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance – British Columbia (ST-SA-BC) Collaborative Stewardship Forum, a partnership between B.C. and 17 Stó:lō First Nations.

Other terms of the agreement include: transferring ownership of the Lightning Rock site to Semá:th First Nation; working together to formally protect the Lightning Rock site; facilitating discussions between Semá:th First

Nation and quarry operators about quarrying activity and potential economic opportunities; and supporting the development of a cultural education and healing centre through a \$1-million provincial contribution. In addition to a reconciliation agreement, the Province, Semá:th First Nation and the City of Abbotsford have finalized a road agreement to explore alternative routes for the quarry access road that runs through the Lightning Rock site. The access route is used by gravel-hauling vehicles travelling to and from five quarries on Sumas Mountain and Highway 1.

“We are pleased to celebrate this significant milestone with Semá:th First Nation as these lands transfer from the Province today,” said Ross Siemens, mayor of Abbotsford. “As neighbours, the City of Abbotsford remains committed to working closely with Semá:th First Nation to address ongoing considerations in this culturally significant area in Semá:th traditional territory.”

The Province, Semá:th First Nation and the City of Abbotsford have agreed to contract a third party that will investigate the potential for mutually acceptable alternate routes for the access road. This process is expected to begin this year.

## Provincial funding boosts support for deafblind people

Deafblind people in B.C. will continue to receive vital intervener services thanks to more than \$654,000 in additional funding to support the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Deafblind Community Services and the Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility.

Deafblind people re-



quire support to mitigate communication barriers resulting from dual loss of sight and hearing. Interveners provide specialized communication supports to people who are deafblind, making it easier for them to navigate day-to-day activities, such as grocery shopping, banking and attending appoint-

ments. Interveners support individuals who are deafblind using a variety of communication methods, including American Sign Language (both visual and tactile), two-hand manual, voiceover, print-on-palm and large-print notes.

This funding builds on more than \$1.1 million provided to CNIB since

2022 to support a pilot initiative for intervener services. The new investment will extend intervener services for another year and will support more deafblind adults by funding the Wavefront Centre in addition to CNIB Deafblind Community Services.



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