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PROVINCE SUPPORTS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRES TO KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

As British Columbia responds to increasingly frequent climate emergencies, the Province is funding local projects to better equip local governments and First Nations to respond to emergencies and support people who are evacuated.

“Local emergency operations centres (EOC) are crucial in co-ordinating response efforts and safeguarding communities during emergencies,” said Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. “That’s why we’re providing communities with tools and training for staff and volunteers at emergency operations centres. These supports will allow local governments and First Nations throughout B.C. to better respond to emergencies.”

The Province is providing nearly \$7 million to support 139 emergency operation centre projects, benefiting 183 communities through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF). These funds will be used to purchase supplies and fund training and exercises to support staff and boost response capacity. Emergency operations centres co-ordinate people, actions and resources, and support first responders on the ground. They also ensure people receive timely information, shelter assistance and other vital services throughout an emergency.

“Funding from the Community Emergency Preparedness



Fund is strengthening our emergency program,” said David Lind, fire chief, City of Vernon. “With new Rapid Damage Assessment kits and focused training for our emergency operations centre personnel, we’re ensuring our teams have the right tools and knowledge to quickly assess risks, co-ordinate responses effectively and better protect residents during emergencies and disasters.”

This funding will support projects throughout B.C., including: strengthening local emergency response in Vernon with new Rapid Damage Assessment kits and EOC training courses for staff and volunteers; enhancing emergency co-ordination in Saik’uz First Nation with a mobile office trailer to ensure better emergency co-ordination and continued

service delivery during evacuation; providing EOC staff with specialized training and essential equipment in Witset First Nation so the centre can respond more effectively when emergencies impact the community; and

upgrading EOCs in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Bamfield and Long Beach with new communication systems, power backups and supplies. Funding will also support interactive workshops, training courses and a multi-jurisdictional simulation exercise to strengthen regional readiness and improve response co-ordination.

The CEPF helps communities better prepare for the impacts of climate-related emergencies by funding local projects and initiatives in several categories. In addition to emergency operations cen-

tres equipment and training, other CEPF funding streams include:

volunteer and composite fire departments equipment and training; emergency support services equipment and training; public notification and evacuation-route planning; and Indigenous cultural safety and cultural humility training.

The Province has invested \$369 million into the CEPF since it was established in 2017. Including this intake, more than \$342 million has been provided to First Nations and local governments for more than 2,500 projects. Since 2017, approximately \$23 million has been invested to support local emergency operations centres. This fund is administered through the Union of BC Municipalities.

Quotes:

Chris Turner, emergency program co-ordinator, Witset First Nation –

“This funding for training, radios and a backup generator will significantly enhance Witset First Nation’s ability to operate our emergency operations centre effectively. With strong support from chief and council, our newly established emergency-management department is building critical capacity. This investment not only improves our local readiness but also strengthens co-ordination with regional partners like

the Town of Smithers and the regional district. Together, we’re advancing a more resilient emergency response across Bulkley Valley.”

John Jack, chair of board of directors, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District –

“This funding for the emergency operations centre will enable the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, along with our grant partners, to enhance situational awareness, strengthen inter-agency collaboration and deliver hands-on interactive workshops and simulation exercises. By investing in supplies, equipment, digital devices and training, we will ensure staff and volunteers can respond more efficiently to emergencies, protect public safety and ensure communities across our region are better prepared for multi-jurisdictional incidents.”

Trish Mandewo, president, Union of B.C. Municipalities –

“The Union of BC Municipalities deeply appreciates the Province’s continued investment in emergency operations centres, which strengthens our collective ability to respond swiftly and effectively to extreme-weather events and other crises when they arise. This funding is a vital step in safeguarding our communities during emergencies by strengthening emergency operations centres’ capacity to direct the dedicated teams on the front lines.”



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

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Minister's statement on May Labour Force Survey results

Diana Gibson, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, has issued the following statement on the release of Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for May 2025:

"Now, more than ever, it's critical for B.C. to focus on diversifying our economy and protecting jobs for British Columbians, and we are doing that work.

"This week, we announced the launch of our ease-of-doing-business review, to continue the work to cut red tape, modernize our regulatory and permitting systems, and foster innovation, as we secure B.C.'s position as the engine of Canada's new economy. Businesses are invited to share their ideas, challenges and suggestions through an online website portal until



fall 2025. Information gathered will help us to make it easier for companies and organizations of all sizes and sectors to do business in B.C., and to create more jobs so people can find stable full-time work in their home communities.

"Today's Labour Force Survey data shows that

despite the economic challenges posed by the U.S., in May, B.C. led across the country with a gain of 13,000 jobs compared to last month. So far this year, B.C. has gained 67,000 full-time jobs, the highest increase among provinces.

"In May, private-sector employment

has increased by 8,900 jobs compared to last month. Since July 2017, B.C. has gained 183,300 private-sector jobs. So far this year, we have the second-highest increase in private-sector employment among provinces at 14,700 jobs.

"B.C. leads in women's

employment, an increase of 11,000 this month. So far this year, B.C. has the highest increase in women's full-time employment among provinces at 32,900. Youth employment also increased in May by 1,400 jobs.

"Our unemployment rate is 6.4%, below the national average of 7.0%. And B.C. continues to lead the country with an average hourly wage of \$38.07, with our average wage increased by 2.9% compared to this time last year, the fourth-highest growth among provinces.

"The data this morning shows that in May, B.C. had employment increases in the construction sector at 23,800 jobs compared to this time last year. Professional, scientific and technical services continue to show strong and steady

growth overall with gains of 11,100 in May. "Next week, I will be leading a B.C. delegation to Europe to meet with investors, key government officials and stakeholders to build connections and showcase our world-class, made-in-B.C. technology. This mission will build on the work underway on Premier David Eby's trade mission focused on key markets in Asia, as we work to create trade opportunities for businesses in the province and good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

"Growing a stronger and more diverse economy will help protect people in B.C. from instability outside our borders, with investments that will bring good-paying jobs to the province as part of robust and sustainable industries."

Construction begins on Prince George long-term care home

Seniors in Prince George will soon have access to more long-term care as construction starts on a new long-term care village.

"Northern B.C.'s growing senior population highlights the need for modern, expanded long-term care options," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. "This new care village is a vital investment that will provide seniors with the comfort, respect and quality care they deserve, while strengthening our health system and creating good local jobs."

Once built, the new home will provide 200 new beds for seniors, with an eight-bed geriatric psychiatry unit. A new 30-person adult day program will include services that support seniors' living in the community by providing social interaction, activities and a sense of community, reducing loneliness and isolation. Also, 37 affordable licensed community child care spaces will create intergenerational connections in the home, with spaces prioritized for staff.

The new non-profit long-term care home is modelled after Canada's first public long-term care village based on the concepts of a dementia village that opened in July 2024 in Comox on Vancouver Island. The design features of the long-term care village foster a strong sense of belonging, purpose and community for residents. The Prince George village is set to open in early 2028 at 6500 Southridge Ave. "Growing older should always come with the assurance of being cared for in a familiar place,

surrounded by community and compassion," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. "This new long-term care village is a transformative addition to Prince George where residents will benefit from the expert, person-centered care and support they need to live with dignity as they age."

The village will include 16 close-knit "households," each home to 12 residents. Every household will offer private suites with ensuite bathrooms, along with a shared kitchen and

gathering spaces that are meant to create a sense of home. In addition to these living spaces, the village will feature a community hall, recreation areas, bistro, grocery store, art studio and therapeutic outdoor environments. Dedicated community and Indigenous-centred spaces — such as a sacred gathering space designed in consultation with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation — will foster a welcoming atmosphere for families, celebrations and cultural ceremonies.

Racist incident helpline making a difference

One year after its launch on May 30, 2024, the Province's racist incident helpline is making a difference for people in B.C. experiencing racism, with approximately 94% of callers reporting their needs were met.

"Racism has no place in B.C., but we know it exists, and we are determined to continue to fight it in all its forms, through all the tools available at our disposal," said Niki Sharma, Attorney General. "As part of that work, we are proud to provide this resource that is connecting so many people in need with services that can help them heal and reclaim their sense of safety and belonging. We will continue to strengthen and grow the helpline's network so that nobody ever has to navigate the impact of a racist incident on their own." The racist incident helpline is a toll-free, multilingual service for people who have been subjected to discrimination based on the colour of their skin, culture, ethnicity or place of origin. Callers receive support, guidance and referrals to local community-support services. One year after its launch, the helpline has received calls from 807 people seeking help dealing with racism, and has made more than 2,329 referrals to support services. This call volume is more than double the number of racism-specific calls reported by the



state of California for the first year its hate helpline was operational (2023-24), despite California's population being seven times the size of B.C.'s.

"I know this is a long process, but it makes me feel better to talk about everything," said one caller to the helpline, whose family was experiencing harassment, racism, aggression, micro-aggressions and intimidation from their neighbour on a shared yard. "Thank you for your time and for listening to me. I feel less pressured now. This has been really helpful."

This caller accepted referrals to resources for tenant rights, legal assistance and mental-health supports. On average, each caller was directed to three support services, indicating people coping with racism require help on multiple fronts,

such as legal advice, peer support and mental-health resources. To help strengthen the efficacy of these support networks, the Province invested \$2.2 million in 32 community organizations in the 2023-24 fiscal year, for enhanced services and to better meet the urgent and diverse needs of those affected by racism in their communities.

"The racist incident helpline is a core pillar of government's efforts to counter racism and discrimination in B.C.," said Jessie Sunner, parliamentary secretary for anti-racism initiatives. "It bridges a gap between people dealing with the trauma of racism and the essential services they need to heal. We are committed to continuing to empower local advocates, communities and organizations so that we can together create a province

where everyone feels safe, supported and valued."

The toll-free helpline is available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, at 1 833 457-5463 (1 833 HLP-LINE). Service is offered in more than 240 languages, and after-hours callers can request a call back during regular hours. For immediate assistance or in the case of an emergency, people should call 911.

Quotes:

Helpline staff member - "As a racialized person with lived experience myself, for me this extends beyond just a job - it is an honour to do this work. Getting to support and hold space for members of racialized communities who have experienced or witnessed a racist encounter brings me a sense of fulfilment and purpose. Amidst the daily landscape of race- and hate-motivated harms that can feel all-consuming, divisive, isolating and othering, each person I am able to support and each conversation I have is an act of solidarity."

Saša Loggin, executive director, Skeena Diversity Society -

"This funding has provided us with an invaluable opportunity to dedicate staff not only to respond to incidents of racism but also to develop workshops and resources. Through this, we have deepened our connections to or-

ganizations and resources across the northern region, honouring the unique characteristics of different communities while also turning our shared humanity into a source of strength."

Boma Brown, executive director, Support Network for Indigenous Women & Women of Colour -

"Our clients, who are racialized women, often experience racism at any point in their day, making culturally informed counselling an essential resource that we are able to provide thanks to this grant. This support is vital for empowering women and fostering healing in our communities."

Penny Bradley, executive director, Alex House, of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of B.C. -

"As a neighbourhood house in South Surrey and White Rock, we know that when people feel a strong sense of belonging, they thrive. Our approach is to bring together people from diverse backgrounds to learn from each other, because we believe that when we learn together, we grow together. This grant allows us to widen our reach and deepen our connections with the community. That is how we can create a community of allies that believe strongly in anti-racism."

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New classrooms open at Surrey elementary school

Families in Surrey will benefit from 295 new elementary school seats as part of the B.C. government's initiative to speed up school expansion.

"As more families choose to call Surrey home, we're urgently providing the infrastructure and services people need for communities to thrive," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. "That's why we're speeding up building and expanding schools with our historic capital investments - so children can learn and grow in supportive, welcoming environments right in their neighbourhoods."

The expansion brings 295 additional seats to Walnut Road Elementary. With a total provincial investment of \$18 million for the project, the completion means new, engaging learning environments for both students and staff at the school.

"As Surrey continues to grow, we are dedicated to investing in the future of our communities and ensuring that every student has access to safe, modern and supportive learning spaces," said Lisa Beare, Minister of Education



and Child Care. "The new classrooms at Walnut Road Elementary will allow us to accommodate more students and reflect our commitment to provide every child with quality education and the opportunity to succeed."

With an investment of nearly \$1 billion in Surrey school construction, this addition is part of government's on-

going work to deliver new and expanded schools over the past eight years.

In 2024, an 800-seat addition was announced for Fleetwood Park Secondary, a 500-seat addition was announced for Kwantlen Park Secondary and a 575-seat addition was announced for Tamanawas Secondary. This year, the newly opened Ta'talu Ele-

mentary created 655 student seats in Surrey.

Construction is also underway for the new Snokomish Elementary, which will accommodate as many as 655 additional students.

"Walnut Road Elementary is a wonderful example of how the Province and Surrey Schools can work together to deliver quick and creative

solutions to alleviate the district's capacity challenges," said Gary Tymoschuk, chair of the Surrey board of education. "We are delighted to see nearly 300 Walnut Road students occupying 12 classrooms in the annex, with another four classrooms ready for occupancy in September."

The use of prefabricated materials is helping to deliver modern classrooms to students faster than traditional construction. Walnut Road Elementary is among 37 schools in Surrey and throughout the province that have received funding for prefabricated additions.

Quote:

Jagrup Brar, MLA for Surrey-Fleetwood -

"As our city continues to grow, so does the need for strong, accessible public education. This new school addition represents a vital investment in our children, our educators and our future. We're committed to making sure every student has the space and support they need to learn, thrive and succeed close to home."

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ਸਟ੍ਰੋਕ ਦੇ ਸੰਕੇਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣੋ

Face ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਖਿਲਕ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ?

Arms ਬਾਹਰਾਂ: ਕੀ ਦੋਹੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਥਾਂਵਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਨੂੰ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?

Speech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਦੋਹਰੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਆਪਣੀ ਹੋ ਸਕੀ ਹੈ?

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New overdose prevention service standards will strengthen safety

New minimum standards for overdose prevention services are being introduced to enhance safety, improve consistency, and ensure greater oversight for clients, staff delivering life-saving services and members of the community.

"Every life lost to the toxic-drug crisis is someone's brother, sister, parent, or child, and every loss is a tragedy we cannot afford to ignore. Although we have made progress, families and communities are still deeply affected by the toxic-drug crisis, and it's essential that we keep working to create a seamless, comprehensive system of care," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. "Overdose prevention services are critical in saving thousands of lives, connecting people to treatment and reducing public drug use."

On June 5, 2025, the Province released the new minimum service standards for overdose prevention services to strengthen safety and support for clients, staff and communities. The standards provide a framework for better integration of overdose prevention services into communities focusing on quality, accessibility and cultural safety. Many overdose prevention services already meet and exceed these minimum standards. "When the episodic overdose prevention service was first introduced to the emergency department, staff were

unsure what to expect, but soon after, we realized this was a great addition," said Sarah Hyatt, nurse co-ordinator, emergency department, Surrey Memorial Hospital. "The team provides support and builds trusting relationships we were not previously able to establish. These relationships have led patients to access supports, go into treatment, find safe housing and avoid overdoses. Along with these benefits, our staff have gained exponential knowledge about substance use and how we can best support patients."

Overdose prevention services are harm-reduction services that provide the observed consumption of substances, ensuring rapid response to adverse events, such as toxic drug poisoning. Since January 2017, there have been more than 5.6 million visits to overdose prevention services or supervised consumption sites. Since 2019, these services are estimated to have prevented more than 12,400 overdose deaths. Overdose prevention services also serve as a first point of entry for many people into the substance-use system of care.

"The impact of having on-site overdose prevention services at St. Paul's Hospital has been profound," said Dr. Andrea Ryan, program director, Interdisciplinary Substance Use Program, Providence Health Care. "We have significantly reduced harms from

overdoses for patients and visitors of the hospital. The data clearly illustrates the positive impact on our critical care response team, reducing calls for overdose drastically since implementation. The overdose prevention services have not only improved safety for our patients, but also for our staff across the institution. The positive impacts cannot be overstated." Alongside the new standards, regional health authorities and Providence Health Care have been given directions on the provincial consultation and approval requirements for creating new overdose prevention services at hospital sites. There are nine overdose prevention services at hospitals, and a total of 58 overdose prevention services or supervised consumption sites around the province. The use of illicit drugs continues to be prohibited outside of overdose prevention services in hospitals and in public spaces.

All overdose prevention services provide a controlled and safer alternative to unsupervised substance use in public, helping reduce the risk of second-hand exposures. Overdose prevention services also keep people who use unregulated drugs safer by fostering connections to care and treatment, promoting safer substance-use practices and responding quickly to adverse events, such as overdoses.

Overdose prevention

services are one part of the government's broader response to the toxic-drug crisis, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the entire continuum of mental-health and substance-use care, ensuring people can access the right supports for them.

Quotes:

Dr. Nel Wieman, chief medical officer, First Nations Health Authority –

"Our data shows that between 2018 and 2022, at least 1,024 potential deaths among First Nations people who used substances were averted

due to evidence-informed, harm-reduction efforts across B.C. First Nations people and communities continue to be disproportionately impacted by the toxic-drug public health emergency. The ministry's efforts to strengthen and expand culturally safe access to overdose prevention services will save lives. It's also important that we recognize and support front-line staff in harm reduction and education for their dedication to this good work."

Ian Haynes, peer support worker, St. Paul's Hospital overdose pre-

vention services – "In the past, knowing that there was no safe place to manage substance use on site, one would have to hide when using drugs. Overdose prevention services reopen the doors to these folks, knowing they can stay in hospital and get the medical care they need, while managing the pain from withdrawal. This is meeting the needs of our community, providing a safe haven for the people who had every option taken away, including safe health care."

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South Asian

CHOICE

CANADA'S CARNEY INVITES IN-
DIA'S MODI TO JUNE G7 SUMMIT

NEW DELHI/TORONTO, June 6 (Reuters) - Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney invited his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to the upcoming Group of Seven summit in a phone call on Friday, as the two sides look to mend ties after relations soured in the past two years.

The leaders agreed to remain in contact and looked forward to meeting at the G7 summit later this month, a readout from Carney's office said.

India is not a G7 member but can be invited as a guest to its annual gathering, which will be held this year in Kananaskis in the Canadian province of Alberta, from June 15 to 17.

"Glad to receive a call from Prime Minister (Carney) ... thanked him for the invitation to the G7 Summit," Modi said in a post on X.

Modi also stated in his post on Friday that India and Canada would work together "with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests."

Bilateral ties deteriorated after Canada accused India of involvement in a Sikh separatist leader's murder, and of attempting to interfere in two recent elections. Canada expelled several top Indian diplomats and consular officials in October 2024 after linking them to the murder and alleged a broader effort to target Indian dissidents in Canada. New Delhi has denied the allegations, and expelled the same number of Canadian diplomats in response.

India is Canada's 10th largest trading partner and Canada is the biggest exporter of pulses, including lentils, to India.

Carney, who is trying to diversify trade away from the United States, said it made sense for the G7 to invite India, since it had the fifth-largest economy in the world and was at the heart of a number of supply chains.

"In addition, bilaterally, we have now agreed, importantly, to continued law enforcement dialogue, so there's been some progress on that, that recognizes issues of accountability. I extended the invitation to Prime Minister Modi in that context," he told reporters in Ottawa.

Four Indian nationals have been charged in the killing of the Sikh separatist leader.

AN INDIAN TEACHER WAS KILLED - THEN HE GOT
FALSELY LABELLED A "TERRORIST"

By Cherylan Mollan

Farooq Ahmed still bristles with anger when he talks about his brother's death.

Mohammad Iqbal, a resident of Poonch city in Indian-administered Kashmir, died in cross-border shelling on 7 May, the morning after India launched a series of air strikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir in retaliation to a militant attack in the town of Pahalgam that killed 26 people. Pakistan has denied having any role in the attack. Mr Ahmed says that Iqbal died where he had worked for more than two decades - Zia-ul-Uloom, a madrasa, or a religious centre focused on Islamic teachings, in Poonch. But his death, it turned out, was just the beginning of the family's troubles.

As the news spread, several media channels falsely accused Iqbal of being a terrorist, following which the police put out a statement refuting the claim.

"My brother was a teacher but they saw his beard and skullcap and branded him a terrorist," Mr Ahmed says.

"It was like having salt rubbed into our wounds. We had lost Iqbal and then the media defamed him. The dead can't defend themselves."

Indian officials say that a total of 16 people, including Iqbal, were killed in the cross-border shelling during the four-day military conflict that broke out between India and Pakistan following the airstrikes.

Pakistan has claimed 40 civilian deaths, though, it remains unclear how many of these were directly caused by the shelling.

The two nuclear-armed countries have shared a tense relationship for decades, as both administer the Himalayan region of Kashmir in part, but claim it in full.

They have fought three wars



over Kashmir since independence from Britain in 1947 and came back from the brink of another one earlier this month.

But as the military conflict escalated, another battle played out on social media - a disinformation war of claims and counterclaims that circulated online and on TV. Just like rumours about Iqbal's identity, other misleading and inaccurate information also found its way into some mainstream news channels and websites.

This included claims such as India having destroyed Pakistan's Karachi port, which was later debunked by the Indian government.

Some of the other fabrications were harder to spot, like an AI-generated video of a Pakistan army general claiming that his country had lost two aircraft in combat.

"The scale of misinformation and fact-free assertions being broadcast by the media was shocking," says Manisha Pande, managing editor at Newslaundry, an independent news platform.

She notes that while a degree of sensationalism is expected as channels compete for viewership, "the jingoistic and irresponsible coverage" of the conflict was unprecedented in its intensity — and unlike anything she had witnessed before.

No one knows this better than Mr Ahmed.

"I don't know where news channels got the information about my brother from," Mr Ahmed says.

"Who did they speak to? What kind of evidence did they have that my brother was a terrorist?" he asks.

Weeks later, the family is still reeling from the tragedy.

Mr Ahmed says that on 7 May, his brother left home for the madrasa in the morning as usual, but it was his body that returned home. By noon, they had buried him in a nearby cemetery.

For some time, the family had no idea about the misinformation that was being shared by some news outlets. They were busy performing Iqbal's last rites.

It was only hours later that a relative received a WhatsApp forward - a video clip of a prominent news channel claiming that the Indian army had killed a terrorist, with Iqbal's photo flashing on the screen.

"We were shocked. Soon, we began getting more calls from people asking us what was going on and why was the media calling Iqbal a terrorist," Mr Ahmed says.

The claim was shared by some prominent channels, including Zee News, ABP and News18. The BBC has reached out to the channels for comment.

One channel claimed that Iqbal was killed in an "Indian strike on a terrorist camp" in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and that he was a terrorist with Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

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2025 Volvo EX30 Twin Motor Ultra review. Awesome!

By Veenoo Dewan

The new 2025 Volvo EX30 is the Swedish brand's smallest premium SUV and expands the company's constantly growing, all-electric offering to four models. It's distinctly electric, with a confident, modern look with a cool digital rendition of the Thor's Hammer headlights. Stand out are the superior performance, advanced technology, connectivity, cabin interiors and luxury.

Volvo offer the EX30 with two powertrain options. A range maximising Single Motor Extended Range variant (As evaluated) with rear wheel drive, 268 horse power, and 253 lb-ft of torque, which accelerates from zero to 100 km/h in 5.3 seconds. If performance is needed, there is the Twin Motor Performance variant (As tested) with an additional second e-motor. This all-wheel drive variant of the EX30 provides 422 hp and zooms from 0-120 kph in a very quick 3.4 seconds – Volvo's officially fastest-accelerating car ever. The single motor version offers an extended-range battery with an estimated range of 442 kilometers between charges. The twin motor version range is good as well with an estimated 426 kilometres driving range available. Each model



is powered by a 69-kWh battery whose 400-volt architecture.

The EX30 has stellar fast charging capability. The extended-range Twin Motor variant has a charging capacity of up to 153 kW with a charge time of 10 to 80 per cent in a little over 26.5 minutes. Through the car's center display and app, you can set the amperage, maximum charging level and when you want to start charging.

In terms of the interior, Buyers can choose from four distinct interior trims or "rooms," each with their own expression, while there are smart storage options throughout the cabin. The materials, fit and finish are premium.

The front compartment is good sized although rear legroom is just about adequate for adults. There is a hidden rear compartment underfloor storage space. The portable charging cord meanwhile can be placed in the frunk under the front hood.

Standard on all EX30s is Google built-in, featuring native Google Maps and Google Assistant, a heated steering wheel, heated front seats, and advanced safety gear like a driver alert system with blind spot helpers. The Plus package adds Harman Kardon Premium Sound, a panoramic roof, 19-inch wheels, and a painted roof in Onyx Black. Top flight Ultra models gain next generation of

Pilot Assist with lane change assistance, 360-degree camera with 3D view, and Park Pilot Assist. Over-the-air software updates will make sure drivers will always have the most up-to-date features. The EX30 starts at \$53,700 for a single motor model in Core trim with the extended range battery. Moving up to a Plus or Ultra trim with that same powertrain configuration will cost \$56,900 and \$59,100.

The cabin is sparse and minimalist with few buttons and dials. Instead, the dash is dominated by a large, vertical-oriented infotainment screen with Google built-in commanding nearly all functions – from the navigation system to the volume to the heated seats and steering wheel to the climate control system. Startlingly there are few hard buttons adjust the individual mirrors using the steering wheel buttons. Opening the trunk or the glovebox is also done through the centre screen. Buttons for the windows and door locks are on the centre arm rest above the sliding cup holders. I think it's a bit of an overkill perhaps. Luckily, there is a voice command function with the Google Assistant feature. You do get overall comfortable seats, plenty of amenities and comprehensive

safety measures.

On the road, the EX30's compact size made it perfect for the urban environment, it's easy to manoeuvre with a nice tight turning radius and nimble handling. The powerful electric drivetrain delivers torque instantly and delivers excellent acceleration. It's more than capable on the highway. Good road manners, a quiet, composed ride and a hushed cabin make it a worthy competitor.

The 2025 Volvo EX30 is stylish, affordable, and loaded with technology. It happens to be pretty fun, to drive; even in our single-motor tester, you gain impressive acceleration and speed. It also has on-point green credentials with the EX30 composed of from 25 per cent recycled aluminum, 17 per cent recycled plastic and 17 per cent recycled steel. And the automaker says the overall lifetime carbon footprint of this vehicle is 25 per cent less than any other Volvo EV. So, to sum up – this is a very competent small premium SUV that is just ideal for all lifestyles. Highly recommended.

2025 Volvo EX30 Twin Motor Ultra priced from \$62,100 plus freight and PDI. For more information at www.volvocanada.ca

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Could Trump's tariff setback be good news for the real estate market?

The Bank of Canada held its overnight lending rate steady in a move that left some property industry professionals unsatisfied and looking for further reductions.

Following a decision in April to pause rate cuts for the first time in a year, the central bank said Wednesday it is keeping its trend-setting rate at 2.75%. The Canadian central bank has already cut its overnight lending rate 225 basis points, more than any other developed country's central bank, except for the Bank of New Zealand, which has reduced its overnight lending rate by the same amount, according to the Bank of Montreal.

Canadian real estate executives said U.S. President Donald Trump's lat-

est threat to raise tariffs on steel and aluminum imported into the country to 50% will adversely affect Canada's economy, as Canada is the largest supplier of both of those metals to the United States. While some commercial real estate professionals said they expected the central bank's decision to keep rates where they are, they were disappointed nonetheless.

"They made a mistake," said Christopher Wein, chief operating officer of Burlington, Ontario-based multi-family company Equiton, in an interview with CoStar News. "We need another quarter point, not because it moves the dial so much as it builds confidence. Canadian consumer con-

fidence has to be at an all-time low or 10-year low."

Canada's central bank most recently reduced its overnight lending rate by 25 basis points in March and again on Jan. 29. Last year, the Bank of Canada lowered interest rates in June, July, September, October and December.

Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem left open the possibility of lower rates later this year but did not provide specific conditions for a further hike. The central bank's next decision is expected on July 30.

Money markets and economists are still factoring in at least two more rate cuts by year-end, Marcus & Millichap said Wednesday.

"Further cuts to the overnight rate will have some advantages for commercial real estate investors. These include lower borrowing costs for those with variable-rate mortgages, as well as some benefits for those who use shorter-term money like developers," Marcus & Millichap said in a note. "Regarding property sales, however, the cost of borrowing is priced around longer-term money such as the five- and 10-year bond yield. Given tariffs being inflationary, along with the prospects of larger government deficits associated with tariff-related bailouts, some of Canada's major banks are forecasting rising bond yields over the coming years."



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Court order sale, duplex that requires some finishing. 3 level (non-strata) front and back duplex for sale with 4 bed room & 3 bath room with 1749 sqft on each side, big duplex, separate entrance in the basement. Purchaser must be able to have a new home warranty and be a licensed builder. Buyer must do their due diligence from the City of Vancouver regarding permits. Good size lot approx. 4,653.00 sq.ft with detached garage and lane access.

2,888,000

COMMERCIAL PLAZA FOR SALE
2638-2640 CEDAR PARK PLACE,
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\$7,500,000

7299 194A STREET



Court Order Sale. Property is sold as is where is. This 5 bedroom 4 bathroom split-level home is very well maintained in a family oriented neighbourhood. Quiet Street with tons of privacy, the generous kitchen boasts granite countertops and spacious island, while large windows flood the space with natural light. Private 2 car garage. Very well maintained. Located in a GREAT LOCATION with easy access to major highways, shopping, and schools. Measurements approx. buyer to verify if important. School Catchment: Maddaugh Elementary & Echelon Secondary. For more information please call. (30811618)

\$1,449,000

COURT ORDER SALE

#45 12036 66 AVE, SURREY
\$858,000

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.



NEW LISTING

45594 MEADOWBROOK DRIVE, CHILLIWACK
\$1,105,000

Court order sale built in 2019 5 bedrm, 4 bathrm perfect home very desirable location across the street from Meadowbrook park to raise your family. modern 3 story with 1 bedroom basement suite with separate entrance, home has amazing finishing w/top quality kitchen, stone counter tops, large island luxury spa bathroom, central air condition, fenced yard, outside BBQ connections, hi efficiency furnace tank-less water heater, Embrace the fabulous area with amenities within walking distance to Meadowbrook park, middle/high school, shopping, transit close access to HWY 1, BEAUTIFUL PLAYGROUND RTR IN FRONT.

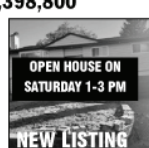


NEW LISTING

COURT ORDER SALE

11132 PATRICIA DRIVE, DELTA
\$1,398,800

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.



OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY 1-3 PM
NEW LISTING

COURT ORDER SALE



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SOLD

Richmond
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\$2,988,000

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Richmond
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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 & 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 .

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.

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 wainscotting throughout the home.

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 wainscotting and custom woodwork throughout the home, all counter are either European stone & 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.

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.

\$1,785,000

SOLD

Richmond
3440 Trumond Ave

\$1,450,000

Richmond
10320 Railway Ave

\$2,365,000

SOLD

Richmond
10226 Railway Ave

\$2,365,000

SOLD

Richmond
10220 Railway Ave

\$2,800,000

SOLD

Richmond
8811 Saunders Rd

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.

This property is located at 10320 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Steveston North.

This property is located at 10226 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighborhood of Steveston North.

This property is located at 10220 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Steveston North.

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.



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Apartment 1 bed 1 bath, 650 sf ,
Asking: 489K

103 13725 72A AVENUE



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This 2 Bedroom and 2 Bathroom Attractive and Beautiful located
in one of the best neighborhoods in Surrey is a MUST SEE!! With
almost everything required in the closest vicinity, Bear Creek
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transit, library, parks, theatre, restaurants & shopping, which
makes it the perfect area for your next home. Asking: 699K

6 12711 64 AVENUE



3 bedroom upstairs and 4 bedrooms, over 1500 square feet
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basement suites (2+1), 12000 Sf lot,
close to both schools

124 13725 72A AVENUE SURREY



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neighborhoods in Surrey is a MUST SEE!! Asking:
749K

314-7445 120 Street



NEW LISTING

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Asking: 489K



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including YMCA, Fresh Street Market & Pausanias
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#11 16357 15 AVE, SURREY



SOLD

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SOLD

6139 142 ST SURREY



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#201 13893 74 AVE SURREY



SOLD

14071 59A AVE, SURREY



SOLD

14948 62 AVE SURREY



SOLD

11700 85B AVE DELTA



SOLD

#34 9088 HOLT RD, SURREY



SOLD

11826 87 AVE, DELTA



SOLD

#202 7445 120 ST, DELTA



SOLD

#138 13898 64 AVE SURREY



SOLD

13343 STAMFORD PLACE SURREY



SOLD

10014 120 ST SURREY



SOLD

#100 5888 144 ST SURREY



SOLD

#71 13706 74 AVE SURREY



SOLD



(PG)****

Troubled Waters!

Back in 1975 a little known movie with an unknown director took the world by storm. That film was JAWS and it marked the effective debut of Hollywood wunderkid Steven Spielberg. Credited with ushering in the summer blockbuster Stevie has gone on to have a pretty successful career. Now that fear of the water comes full circle with the Elevation Pictures release of Dangerous Animals. Be prepared to think twice about going in The water if you dare see this thriller now showing at Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres across land-locked British Columbia.

Well made and precisely acted Dangerous Animals takes place in balmy Australia. Long known as a watery destination that lures both locals and tourists to gorgeous beaches something here may be amiss. Perhaps there's a killer or two on the loose. Oh oh.

Part of the fun of going to any coastal resort is fishing. Typically people hire boats with seasoned skippers to navigate all those troubled water. Loner type Bruce Tucker has a passion

for fish - and kidnapping. In just a brilliant performance as a demon of the seas is Jai Courtney. Besides enjoying such mainstream pastimes as fishing our sailer boy also likes the odd abduction or two of innocents.

Never the Twain shall meet. Tucker definitely has a thing for sharks and beautiful young women that he abducts and "stores" on his vessel. Call him a serial killer on the high seas. But just what this maniac does to his captives is so sickening and stomach churning. And when it's feeding time for these predators of the sea well you know exactly what's on the menu. Think SAW on the big wide ocean. Ghastly! And Grisly too.

So with Dangerous Animals you have danger everywhere - on land and on/under the ocean. Here we have two predators at the height of their cunning and prowess. So it's game on. But wait. Hold on. One of Tucker's new victims may give him and all those ever hungry sharks a run for their money.

Dangerous Animals



AAMIR KHAN CONFIRMS LOKESH KANAGARAJ'S SUPERHERO FILM

Superstar Aamir Khan is all set to release Sitaare Zameen Par on June 20. Usually, the actor has just one or no other project in hand before his immediate release. He decides his next only after his current release is out of the system. But this time, Aamir has made an exception. Last month, it came to light that he'll play the role of Dadasaheb Phalke, the father of Indian cinema and that it would be directed by blockbuster filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani. There have also been reports of him working with popular South director Lokesh Kanagaraj and also in talks for the sequel to PK (2014).

During a group interaction with journalists, Aamir Khan talked about his slate. He began by saying, "PK 2 is a rumour. I don't know anything about it." He added, "Dadasaheb Phalke film is definitely being made. Raju and I are working on it."

When asked about a film with Lokesh

Kanagaraj, he replied, "Lokesh and I are working on a film. It belongs to the superhero genre. It's a big-scale action film and will go on floors in the second half of 2026."

When asked more about it, he replied, "I can't say more than this. Yeh do saal aage ki baat hai!"

Aamir Khan also opened up on his ambitious venture, "Mahabharat has been my dream for the last 25 years. When you are making Mahabharat, you are not making a film. Aap yagna karne nikal rahe ho. You need to prepare, which I am trying to do. Whether my dream will be fulfilled or not, I can't say right now. Until I don't walk on that path and I don't have a basic foundation in front of me, I can't answer this question. Also, I can't tell you who will be cast in the movie. Whatever I'll answer will be wrong. I don't have the right information right now."

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.

Province makes progress in international credential recognition

The Office for International Credential Recognition's first annual report is showing progress creating more opportunities for internationally trained professionals in B.C. The International Credentials Recognition Act, which took effect on July 1, 2024, helps remove barriers for qualified professionals in 29 regulated fields. The legislation is making it fairer, faster and easier for people to use their skills to work in B.C., no matter where they were trained. Over the past year, the office has made progress by continually engaging with regulatory authorities and



helping them transition to the new law. This includes ensuring regulators understand the requirements, have the right information on their websites and update their rules and policies to comply

with the new legislation. The office has also made progress explaining and clarifying the new legislation with internationally trained professionals who want to work in B.C. The removal of Canadian work experience requirements for regulators comes into effect on July 1, 2025. By then, regulatory authorities will need to replace Canadian work experience requirements with alternative assessment frameworks, or apply for an exemption. This change will enable more applicants to demonstrate their competence in applied knowledge and skills, regardless of their Ca-

nadian work experience. The Office for International Credential Recognition oversees the process for regulatory authorities included under the International Credentials Recognition Act, with a goal to ensure fair, efficient and transparent recognition of international credentials and help professionals join B.C.'s workforce. The superintendent of the office is required by law to submit an annual report to the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills by May 31 each year.

New overdose prevention service standards will strengthen safety

New minimum standards for overdose prevention services are being introduced to enhance safety, improve consistency, and ensure greater oversight for clients, staff delivering life-saving services and members of the community. "Every life lost to the toxic-drug crisis is someone's brother, sister, parent, or child, and every loss is a tragedy we cannot afford to ignore. Although we have made progress, families and communities are still deeply affected by the toxic-drug crisis, and it's essential that we keep working to create a seamless, comprehensive system of care," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. "Overdose prevention services are critical in saving thousands of lives, connecting people to treatment and reducing public drug use." On June 5, 2025, the Province released the new minimum service standards for overdose prevention services to strengthen safety and support for clients, staff and communities. The standards provide a framework for better integration of overdose prevention services into communities focusing on quality, accessibility and cultural safety. Many

overdose prevention services already meet and exceed these minimum standards. "When the episodic overdose prevention service was first introduced to the emergency department, staff were unsure what to expect, but soon after, we realized this was a great addition," said Sarah Hyatt, nurse co-ordinator, emergency department, Surrey Memorial Hospital. "The team provides support and builds trusting relationships we were not previously able to establish. These relationships have led patients to access supports, go into treatment, find safe housing and avoid overdoses. Along with these benefits, our staff have gained exponential knowledge about substance use and how we can best support patients." Overdose prevention services are harm-reduction services that provide the observed consumption of substances, ensuring rapid response to adverse events, such as toxic drug poisoning. Since January 2017, there have been more than 5.6 million visits to overdose prevention services or supervised consumption sites. Since 2019, these services are estimated to have prevented more than 12,400 overdose

deaths. Overdose prevention services also serve as a first point of entry for many people into the substance-use system of care. "The impact of having on-site overdose prevention services at St. Paul's Hospital has been profound," said Dr. Andrea Ryan, program director, Interdisciplinary Substance Use Program, Providence Health Care. "We have significantly reduced harms from overdoses for patients and visitors of the hospital. The data clearly illustrates the positive impact on our critical care response team, reducing calls for overdose drastically since implementation. The overdose prevention services have not only improved safety for our patients, but also for our staff across the institution. The positive impacts cannot be overstated." Alongside the new standards, regional health authorities and Providence Health Care have been given directions on the provincial consultation and approval requirements for creating new overdose prevention services at hospital sites. There are nine overdose prevention services at hospitals, and a total of 58 overdose prevention services

or supervised consumption sites around the province. The use of illicit drugs continues to be prohibited outside of overdose prevention services in hospitals and in public spaces. All overdose prevention services provide a controlled and safer alternative to unsupervised substance use in public, helping reduce the risk of second-hand exposures. Overdose prevention services also keep people who use unregulated drugs safer by fostering connections to care and treatment, promoting safer substance-use practices and responding quickly to adverse events, such as overdoses. Overdose prevention services are one part of the government's broader response to the toxic-drug crisis, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the entire continuum of mental-health and substance-use care, ensuring people can access the right supports for them. Quotes: Dr. Nel Wieman, chief medical officer, First Nations Health Authority - "Our data shows that between 2018 and 2022, at least 1,024 potential deaths among

First Nations people who used substances were averted due to evidence-informed, harm-reduction efforts across B.C. First Nations people and communities continue to be disproportionately impacted by the toxic-drug public health emergency. The ministry's efforts to strengthen and expand culturally safe access to overdose prevention services will save lives. It's also important that we recognize and support front-line staff in harm reduction and education for their dedication to this good work." Ian Haynes, peer support worker, St. Paul's Hospital overdose prevention services - "In the past, knowing that there was no safe place to manage substance use on site, one would have to hide when using drugs. Overdose prevention services reopen the doors to these folks, knowing they can stay in hospital and get the medical care they need, while managing the pain from withdrawal. This is meeting the needs of our community, providing a safe haven for the people who had every option taken away, including safe health care."

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