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MORE INDOOR SPACES, SUPPORTS COMING FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN PENTICTON

People experiencing homelessness in Penticton will soon be better supported and have more places to stay indoors with a new partnership between the city and Province, and a new site to build temporary homes.

"We're working on every front to help people leave encampments and find a safe place to stay where they can access the support they need," said Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. "We know there's an urgent need for temporary housing in Penticton, and that's why we're working with the city, snpink'tn Indian Band and local partners to provide these spaces and supports as quickly as possible. Homelessness and encampments are a complex challenge. We'll keep making progress through meaningful partnerships to build safer, stronger communities."

The Province, through BC Housing and in co-operation with the City of Penticton, is taking the next steps with 616 Okanagan Ave. E. as a site for up to 50 new temporary tiny homes with on-site supports for people experiencing homelessness. On Nov. 4, 2025, the City of Penticton will consider



a temporary-use permit for this purpose. Pending municipal approvals, these homes will be offered to people experiencing homelessness in the community, with wraparound supports to support them on a permanent pathway to housing. To help bridge demand for indoor housing, BC Housing extended funding for the 2025 temporary winter shelter to stay open over the past summer and winter, and added five more spaces. BC Housing will select an experienced non-profit organization to manage the site, which will provide daily meals, 24-7

staff support, including mental-health and addiction referrals and supports, employment assistance and help accessing permanent housing. In addition, several security measures will be built into the site design, such as a fully fenced perimeter, gated access, lighting and security cameras. "This initiative marks a significant step forward in addressing the impacts of the encampment on our community," said Julius Bloomfield, mayor, Penticton. "It's the result of months of co-ordinated work between the city, the Province, BC Housing,

snpink'tn Indian Band and our local partners. This is about restoring safety and dignity, both for those sheltering outdoors and for the broader community."

The city and Penticton Indian Band have worked with BC Housing to identify suitable land for these much-needed spaces.

"The snpink'tn Indian Band welcomes this important step forward with our partners in the Province and the City of Penticton," said Greg Gabriel, Chief, Penticton Indian Band. "Homelessness is a challenge that affects the whole community and together we must find solutions that are safe, compassionate and sustainable. This announcement reflects the shared commitment to care for all people and to ensure that no one is left without dignity or support. For our people, and for the wider Penticton community, these initiatives represent a path toward healing, stronger relationships and safer futures for everyone."

BC Housing will share further information as the site progresses and provide further details on the Let's Talk project page: <https://letstalk-housingbc.ca/penticton-okanagan-ave-east>.

The program is part of the Province's commitment to expand the Homeless Encampment Action Response Team (HEART) and Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) programs into new communities, as part of the 2025 Co-operation and Responsible Government Accord (CARGA) with the B.C. Green Party caucus.

"Meaningful partnerships can deliver real, lasting results," said Rob Botterell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. "The leadership of the snpink'tn Indian Band, the city and local partners shows that communities thrive when compassion guides collaboration. Through CARGA, we helped advance these solutions. The B.C. Greens will keep working to ensure every British Columbian has the same access to housing, health care and dignity." Penticton is part of an expanded group of local governments partnering with the Province to put in place homeless and encampment response and temporary housing solutions, building on progress made in Abbotsford, Campbell River, Chilliwack, Duncan, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Powell River,

Prince George, Vancouver and Victoria. As the third Interior community to adopt temporary housing, Penticton is taking a significant step toward helping more people transition safely indoors.

This work is part of the Province's Belonging in B.C. plan to help prevent homelessness and bring more people indoors quickly. Since 2017, the Province has more than 93,600 homes delivered or underway, including more than 360 homes in Penticton.

Quick Facts:

The Province, through BC Housing, will provide annual operating funding and will fund the new spaces through the Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) program, with funding details to be made available once confirmed.

Budget 2023 included a \$1.5-billion investment in the Belonging in B.C. Plan, with \$228 million dedicated to encampment-related initiatives. The Province is also investing as much as \$90 million over three years from Budget 2025 to expand access to housing and supports, helping people move from homelessness to stability and dignity.



Chal Chaliye
SABZI MANDI
Chal Chaliye ...

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ASIAN JOURNAL

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Canada's Carney to visit Xi in China, marking 'turning point' in relations

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney accepted an invitation to visit China extended by President Xi Jinping, signalling a "turning point" in the countries' relationship.

The invite came after the two leaders met for 40 minutes on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit on Friday. It was the first meeting between a Canadian prime minister and the Chinese president since 2017.

The countries have had a strained relationship since a diplomatic row in 2018 and been locked in a trade dispute since 2024.

But as trade tensions between Canada and the US continue to rise, Carney has said the country will turn to strengthening its ties with other major economies.

He has signalled his desire to double Canada's non-US exports in the next decade, in response to President Donald Trump placing punishing tariffs on



Canadian goods and some of its critical sectors.

That includes closer trade ties with "the economic giants of Asia", Carney said last week.

Speaking briefly to reporters after his meeting with Xi on Friday, Carney said he believes Canada and China have hit a "turning point" in relations that will yield positive developments for the Canadian economy.

"Distance is not the way to solve problems, not the way to serve our people," the prime minister said.

In his own remarks, Xi said "China is willing to work with Canada to push China-Canada

relations back onto a healthy, stable, and sustainable correct track" that benefits both countries.

The two leaders directed their officials "to move quickly to resolve outstanding trade issues and irritants," according to a readout released by Carney's office after the meeting.

A trade dispute has been escalating since Canada placed a 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) in October 2024, mirroring similar action by the US. Later that same month, Canada placed a 25% tariff on Chinese steel and aluminium.

China retaliated in March by imposing

tariffs on several Canadian agricultural products, including a 76% levy on Canadian canola seed imports and a 100% levy on canola oil, meal and peas.

These measures have hurt farmers in the western part of the Canada, as China is by far the largest importer of the country's canola seeds.

Some western provincial premiers, including Wab Kinew of Manitoba and Scott Moe of Saskatchewan, have since called on the federal government to drop tariffs on Chinese EVs. Kinew said earlier this month that Canada has now found itself in a "two-front trade war" with its two largest trading partners — the US and China.

Separately, the US has imposed a 35% tariff on all Canadian goods not covered by an existing free trade agreement, as well as a 50% levy on steel and aluminium and a 25% levy on automobiles.

Last week, US-Canada relations hit a new

low after Trump suspended all trade talks over an anti-tariff advertisement run by Ontario Premier Doug Ford that featured an address on free trade by former US president Ronald Reagan.

On Friday, Trump said the two countries will not restart trade talks. Trump has also threatened to raise tariffs on Canada another 10%, though it is unclear if and when that would come into effect.

Prior to the tariffs, C a n a d a - C h i n a relations were already reeling from a diplomatic row that resulted in Beijing detaining two Canadian citizens, Michael Spavor and Michael Kovring.

The two were accused by China of espionage and were taken into custody in 2018. Their arrest came days after Canada detained Meng Wanzhou, a Chinese technology executive and chief financial officer of Huawei, at the request of the US.

All three were subsequently released

in 2021 after the US Department of Justice dropped an extradition request for Ms Wanzhou on charges of fraud.

China was also one of the countries called out for possibly meddling in Canada's 2019 and 2021 elections, prompting a Canadian public inquiry into foreign interference. That inquiry concluded that attempts by foreign states to meddle in recent elections were "troubling" but had "minimal impact".

China has denied any allegations of meddling.

Carney's APEC meeting with Xi in South Korea comes one day after the Chinese president met with Donald Trump - the first between the two in six years.

In that Thursday meeting, Xi and Trump agreed to dial back their countries' trade war. No formal agreement has been signed, but the two signalled they are closer to a deal that would lower tariffs.

Construction begins on monument park honouring Japanese Canadians

Residents and visitors to Victoria will have a new destination for reflection and learning as construction begins on a monument park honouring Japanese Canadians in B.C. who were forcibly displaced, dispossessed and interned during the Second World War. "The forced displacement and internment of Japanese Canadians was a grave injustice when government failed in its duty to protect people's rights and dignity," said Niki Sharma, Attorney General. "This monument park will stand as a lasting

place of remembrance, honouring the families and communities who endured so much and ensuring their stories are never forgotten. It is also a commitment to keep learning from the past toward a more just future." The monument park is being developed in partnership with the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society. It will be located on Academy Close in Victoria, directly south of the St. Ann's Academy National Historic Site and within walking distance of the legislature and Beacon Hill Park.

"We are grateful to government for recognizing the contributions of the many Japanese Canadians who helped shape this province," said Susanne Tabata, CEO, Japanese Canadian Legacies Society. "By honouring our people, most of whom have been lost to time, we reconnect their names to the communities we once called home, seeking healing across generations." The park's centrepiece will be a wall of names honouring 22,000 people of Japanese descent — most born in Canada — who were displaced from their

homes in B.C. during the 1940s. It will also include the names of 3,000 children born after uprooting. The wall will be surrounded by a Japanese-inspired garden that will provide space for quiet reflection and community gatherings.

"This monument park is a powerful reminder of the harm caused when racism and fear are allowed to shape public policy," said Amna Shah, parliamentary secretary for anti-racism initiatives. "It honours the strength and resilience of Japanese Canadians and

invites all of us to confront racism wherever it exists. By remembering this painful history, we help ensure that such injustice is never repeated."

Development of this site has been conducted in consultation with B.C.'s Japanese Canadian community, Victoria residents and Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. KPMB Architects and PFS Studio have been contracted to design and construct the monument park, which is expected to be completed by fall 2026.

Halloween for everyone: Surrey supports accessible trick-or-treating



Surrey, B.C. – The City of Surrey welcomed families to the Treat Accessibly Halloween Village on 69A Avenue in Newton on Oct. 25, as part of a nationwide initiative to make Halloween more inclusive and accessible for kids of all abilities. The residential street was transformed into a barrier-free trick-or-treating experience, with sensory-friendly stations so that every child could participate in the fun.

“For the fourth consecutive year, the Treat Accessibly organization brought its Halloween Village to Surrey,” said Mayor Brenda Locke. “It was wonderful to see the Newton community come alive with joy and excitement. Every child deserves the chance to experience Halloween, and this initiative reflects Surrey’s ongoing commitment to accessibility and belonging.” The program encour-

ages homeowners to host trick-or-treaters from their driveways, ensuring that vehicles are parked on the street or in the garage and that the paths to their trick-or-treating station are well lit. This event is part of Surrey’s broader efforts to foster inclusion and improve accessibility for all residents. To learn more about the City’s Accessibility Action Plan and other projects, visit surrey.ca/accessibility.

\$3.5M to upgrade Surrey parks, including heated picnic shelters in Newton



Surrey, B.C. – At the Regular Council Meeting on Oct. 20, Surrey City Council approved nearly \$3.5 million in contracts to enhance park amenities across the city. Projects include new large, heated picnic shelters in two Newton parks, parking upgrades at Softball City, and new softball fencing and dugouts at Sunnyside Park.

“These latest park projects reflect Council’s commitment to creating comfortable, functional, and inclusive spaces for people across Surrey,” said Mayor Brenda Locke.

“Residents told us that year-round gathering spaces matter, and the heated picnic shelters help meet that need. The upgrades give neighbours spaces to gather, watch their children play, enjoy the outdoors, and help build community.”

The approved contracts include:

\$997,000 to Renault Construction Ltd. for large, heated picnic shelters for year-round use at T.E. Scott Park and Chimney Heights Park.
\$1.8 million to Canadian Landscape and

Civil Services Ltd. for parking lot upgrades at Softball City.

\$670,000 to Ace Link Fence Ltd. for the installation of softball fencing and dugouts for four renovated softball diamonds at Sunnyside Park.

Work on all three projects will begin in November and be completed in the new year. Funding comes from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department’s capital projects budget. For information on other ongoing or planned projects, visit surrey.ca/capitalprojects.

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Surrey calls for 150 additional police officers to address extortion

Surrey, B.C. – The City of Surrey is calling on the federal and provincial governments to temporarily deploy 150 officers from the RCMP and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit to tackle the ongoing shootings and extortions targeting residents and business owners.

"We are living it every single day – the fear, the intimidation, the violence," Mayor Brenda Locke said. "Families and business owners have had their lives and livelihoods deeply affected. It is gut-wrenching to see our community impacted so profoundly. Our city cannot, and will not, endure it any longer." On Thursday, Mayor Locke travelled to Victoria to meet with Public Safety Minister and Solicitor General Nina Krieger to discuss Surrey's public safety crisis and urge immediate action. "The provincial government is responsible for adequate and effective policing in



B.C.," Mayor Locke said. "The scope and scale of this challenge require leaders in the federal and provincial governments to take action and help end the violence that no Canadian city should have to endure."

In letters dated Oct. 29, Mayor Locke asked Minister Krieger and federal Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree to make the wave of shootings and extortions in Surrey a top law enforcement priority. She re-

quested the deployment of 150 combined officers, particularly those specializing in organized crime, financial crime, and firearms interdiction, to lead a coordinated police response until the violence is brought

under control.

Mayor Locke also urged the Justice and Immigration ministries to strengthen organized crime provisions in the Criminal Code so law enforcement can better respond to nimble and

sophisticated criminal networks. "We need the provincial and federal governments to work with us as full partners to restore safety to our community and end this cycle of violence before another resident is injured or someone is killed," Mayor Locke added.

"We will not stop pushing until the extortion and shootings have stopped and every person in Surrey can feel safe again." The City of Surrey has acted decisively to strengthen community safety. Recent actions include launching a \$250,000 reward fund for information leading to convictions, creating a Public Safety Department to unify city-wide safety efforts, and adding staffing hours to provide immediate, 24/7 response to law enforcement requests for recordings from more than 600 traffic cameras, with improved resolution in target areas.

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ਸਟ੍ਰੋਕ ਦੇ ਸੰਕੇਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣੋ

Face ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਢਿਲਕ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ?

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

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

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

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Bank of Canada cuts rate again in move real estate executives expect to spur deals

The Bank of Canada lowered its target overnight rate by a quarter percentage point to 2.25% in a move commercial property professionals expect to boost activity in the market.

The rate cut, the second by the central bank in less than two months, reflects ongoing economic weakness and an inflation rate expected to remain close to the 2% target. In mid-September, the Bank of Canada also lowered its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points.

"The Canadian economy faces a difficult transition," the bank said in announcing its decision Wednesday. It cited structural damage from an ongoing trade conflict with the United States that "reduces the capacity of the economy and adds costs," limiting the role monetary policy can play in boosting demand.

The bank's Governing Council said "the current policy rate is about the right level to keep inflation close to 2% while helping the economy through this period of structural adjustment." Commercial real estate leaders welcomed the central bank's decision.

"The Bank of Canada's move to cut the overnight rate is the good news we need right now," said Mark Fieder, President of Avison Young Canada, in a statement emailed to CoStar News. "Lower interest rates will further stimulate our market, generating appetite from those investors who have been cautiously holding off on the sidelines while fueling already-active investors with even more optimism." Fieder added that some economic indicators are coming in better than expected, such as last week's inflation report, but he cautioned that unpredictability remains. Residential brokers echoed that positive sentiment.

"With the Bank of Canada cutting its key interest rate to 2.25%, the second consecutive reduction, we could see a much-needed boost in consumer confidence across Canada's housing market," said Don Kottick, president of Re/Max Canada, in an emailed statement. "While inflation remains a concern, today's decision signals cautious optimism and may encourage more buyers to re-enter the market after months of hesitation."



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COURT ORDER SALE

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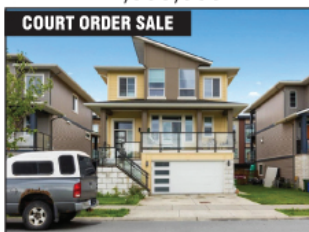
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13930 77 Ave Surrey BC



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314-7445 120 Street



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11700 85B AVE DELTA



#34 9088 HOLT RD, SURREY



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#138 13898 64 AVE SURREY



13343 STAMFORD PLACE SURREY



10014 120 ST SURREY



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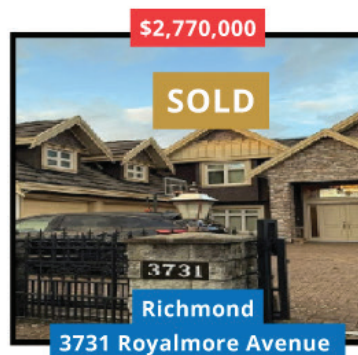
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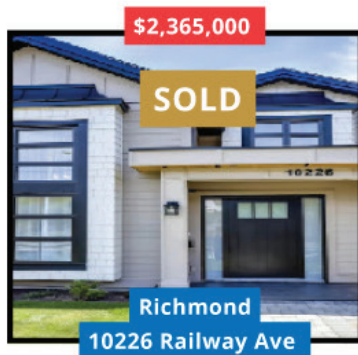
A True Show Home that is absolutely stunning and totally remodeled with all high end finishing's to perfection. This home is located in a very desirable and prime family Neighborhood.



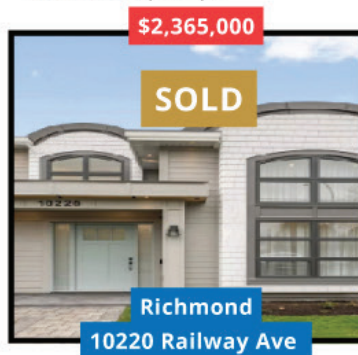
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This property is located at 10320 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Steveston North.



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First Drive: 2026 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid and PHEV. Impressive!

By Veenoo Dewan

Recently I made it to the Ontario launch of the new 2026 Toyota RAV4 and also visited the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Company (TMMC) in Woodstock, Ontario where the new RAV4 is produced - a very impressive and efficient factory. It is a simply an incredible place to see.

The exterior design is more evolutionary than revolutionary with Toyota's sensible, cautious and restrained approach to styling. Intersecting lines offset mild curves and the new slightly aggressive "Hammerhead" grille and headlight design is well executed. There is a new full-size panoramic roof and the front grilles on the multitude of models are different on some versions and certain trims are available with a contrasting black roof.

In terms of powertrains - there are only hybrid four-cylinder options. The non-Plug-In Hybrid now has 17 extra horsepower for a total of 236 hp thanks to more powerful electric motors. There's 242 lb-ft of torque in all, allowing for excellent take off and more power at low rpms. The Plug-In Hybrid (PHEV) is powered by a larger 22.7-kilowatt-hour battery, increasing electric-only range boosted to an excellent 77-84 kilometres (That's up from the 68 km from the previous model.)

The 2026 RAV4 model range is extensive with



front or All Wheel Drive versions in; LE, XLE, XSE, Limited trim lines and two new models. The new upscale Woodlands version and the GR Sport version with a healthy 324 horsepower - developed in partnership with the Toyota's Gazoo Racing division for more performance.

Interior changes to the 2026 RAV4 include the implementation of the new Toyota Arena software platform. This software adds the latest more responsive and powerful features to the connectivity, security,

and safety technology. All RAV4s have a 12.3-inch instrument panel that can display navigation guidance. Depending on model grade, the center infotainment screen is either a 10.5-inch unit on entry trims or a 12.9-inch screen with split-view capability. Meanwhile, a head-up display is available on the Limited hybrid and XSE PHEV. The new infotainment system also allows dual Bluetooth and two phones to be connected. Toyota also says the native voice assistant will have quicker

responsive times. Also of note is a new "Drive Recorder" that captures all the images from the RAV4's cameras for added safety and security. The new RAV4 is the first Toyota model to come with the Toyota Safety Sense 4.0 suite of safety and driver assistance features.

The new RAV4 interior cabin is much improved with a neat dash and nice ergonomics. The upholstery choice ranges from durable cloth trim to synthetic leather-like material trim on the seats. The GR and XSE grades

gain microfibre trim as well. Like the rest of the upgrades, the 2026's interior feels much more accomplished than the previous generation.

On the road - first impressions was the smoother and more solid feel to the RAV4. Toyota says the new chassis has been reinforced with more high-tensile steel and extra spot welds and this is apparent. The engine is not only more powerful - it feels it. Handling and steering is exemplary and the stiffer chassis and retuned suspension means the RAV 4 feels

like a larger premium SUV. The seating and ergonomics are good all-around and the new tech works great.

I have to say first impressions of the new 2026 RAV hybrid are very positive and it is going to be a winner with Canadian families for sure. It won't surprise me if it wins a few Awards too! Look out for a more detailed test drive soon.

The RAV4 Hybrid will be on sale at the end of 2025. The PHEV will be available in the Spring of 2026. Full pricing is to be announced.

Construction begins on monument park honouring Japanese Canadians

Residents and visitors to Victoria will have a new destination for reflection and learning as construction begins on a monument park honouring Japanese Canadians in B.C. who were forcibly displaced, dispossessed and interned during the Second World War.

"The forced displacement and internment of Japanese Canadians was a grave injustice when government failed in its duty to protect people's rights and dignity," said Niki Sharma, Attorney General.

"This monument park will stand as a lasting place of remembrance, honouring the families and communities who endured so much and ensuring their stories are never forgotten. It is also a commitment to keep learning from the past toward a more just future."

The monument park is being developed in partnership with the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society. It will be located on Academy Close in Victoria, directly south of the St. Ann's Academy National Historic Site and within walking distance of the legis-



lature and Beacon Hill Park.

"We are grateful to government for recognizing the contributions of the many Japanese Canadians who helped shape this province," said Susanne Tabata, CEO, Japanese Canadian Legacies Society. "By honouring our people, most of whom have been lost to time, we reconnect their names to the communities we once called home, seeking healing across generations."

The park's centrepiece will be a wall of names honouring 22,000 people of Japanese descent — most born in Canada

— who were displaced from their homes in B.C. during the 1940s. It will also include the names of 3,000 children born after uprooting. The wall will be surrounded by a Japanese-inspired garden that will provide space for quiet reflection and community gatherings.

"This monument park is a powerful reminder of the harm caused when racism and fear are allowed to shape public policy," said Amna Shah, parliamentary secretary for anti-racism initiatives. "It honours the strength and resilience of Japanese

Canadians and invites all of us to confront racism wherever it exists. By remembering this painful history, we help ensure that such injustice is never repeated." Development of this site has been conducted in consultation with B.C.'s Japanese Canadian community, Victoria residents and Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. KPMB Architects and PFS Studio have been contracted to design and construct the monument park, which is expected to be completed by fall 2026.

"When completed, the monument park will

be a testament to the spirit and tenacity of Japanese Canadians who continue to thrive after the tremendous hardships they have endured," said Diana Gibson, Minister of Citizens' Services and MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head. "I am pleased that my ministry could play a partnership role with the Attorney General and Japanese Canadian Legacies Society to help mark the many contributions Japanese Canadians have made to society and signify that this special space will be a place to preserve their legacy for generations to

come."

This project is part of a \$100-million redress package announced by the Province in May 2022 to support heritage, cultural and education initiatives to provide lasting recognition of historical wrongs committed by the Province of B.C. against Japanese Canadians during the Second World War.

Quick Facts:

Beginning in early 1942, more than 90% of Japanese Canadians living in British Columbia were detained under the War Measures Act and were stripped of their homes, possessions and businesses.

After the war ended, Japanese Canadians were given the choice to move east of the Rockies or go to Japan, a country many had never known. In 1949, four years after the end of the Second World War, Japanese Canadians were allowed to return to the West Coast.

They were subjected to racist policies and treatment for years, and many communities never recovered.

Long-term repairs begin on Highway 97 at North Beach site

Drivers are advised of upcoming traffic changes on Highway 97 between Callan Road and North Beach Road as long-term stabilization work begins at the North Beach rockslide site.

Starting Monday, Nov. 3, 2025, Emil Anderson Con-

struction Inc. will begin painting new traffic lines and reducing cones and traffic structures to direct traffic for the duration of the repair work. The traffic-pattern changes will remain in place until spring 2027. Drivers in the area should

expect delays. Site preparation will begin in November 2025. During construction, brief highway closures may be required between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. These will be limited to no more than two per day and will last no more than 20 minutes. Clo-

sures will be scheduled only when necessary and will occur intermittently throughout the project. Site-preparation work will include rock scaling and controlled blasting. Work on the project is scheduled to take place Monday to Friday from 7

a.m. to 5 p.m. with potential for weekend work. No traffic-affecting work will take place on holidays or long weekends. Drivers are asked to use caution through the area, obey posted speed limits and follow the directions of traffic-control personnel.

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(PG)****

Second Chance?

Incredible and intense. Two words that perfectly describe the events depicted in Roofman. And smart! All these elements come together in the highly unexpected and thoroughly entertaining Roofman, the latest crowd- pleaser from Paramount Films now showing at Cineplex Cinemas and Lionsgate Films across beautiful British Columbia. Now more than ever security matters. And so it did back in the 1980s. Or so we thought. Based on a true - yes true - story. Roofman recounts the tumultuous life of family man Jeffrey Manchester. Once a soldier, always a soldier charts a troubled course for Jeffrey as upon his return home like so many other veterans he faces problems not entirely of his own making. Likeable Channing Tatum (White House Down) relies on all his charm and bravado as he navigates his way in an effort to provide for his young family. Short of funds this good old boy relies on some petty crimes to provide the necessities of life for his young daughter and twin (?) baby boys. All that military training comes in handy as Jeffrey sees an opportunity to rob the Golden Arches themselves. In a crime wave that makes the recent \$100,000,000 Pink Panther robbery at The Louvre seem like child's play Jeff's crime spree involves robbing Some 45 local

Roofman

McDonalds restaurants along with the odd Burger King. Done with kid gloves in a nice sort of way this master criminal treats his victims oh so nice. But, as we all know, sooner or later all good things come to an end. One would have thought Jeffrey would have learned his lesson when sent to jail. But no, not this guy. Missing his family somehow Jeff manages to break free. Back in civilization and again short of funds our misaligned misguided boy returns to what he knows best - crime. So the chase is on as the state Keystone Cops try to nab a career criminal who just wants to get by - and see his kids once again. That second life is a bit "healthier" as our Clouseau ditches all those greasy burger profits for wholesome toys with Toys R Us becoming target #1. In between capers this ultimate loner/loser manages to form a friendship with a new lady played coyly by Kirsten Dunst (Spider-Man)in a zestful new friendship. Unpredictable, funny and sad Roofman hits the tri-actor and is all fun from the get go. So hard to believe but so damn engaging director and co-writer Derek Cianfrance hits all the right notes and delivers a knockout movie fit for all ages,



JAYA BACHCHAN ON GRANDSON AGASTYA NANDA IN IKKIS

The Bachchan legacy continues as Agastya Nanda steps into the spotlight once again this time in Sriram Raghavan's much-awaited war drama Ikkis. The film's trailer introduces Agastya as Param Vir Chakra awardee Arun Khetarpal, one of India's youngest and most celebrated war heroes. Directed by Sriram Raghavan, known for acclaimed thrillers like Ek Haseena Thi, Badlapur and Andhadhun, Ikkis brings to screen the extraordinary courage and humanity of a soldier who laid down his life in the 1971 war. The trailer

hints at a sensitive and restrained take on patriotism a hallmark of Raghavan's storytelling. The film also stars Dharmendra and Jaideep Ahlawat, with Agastya Nanda leading the narrative as the brave, idealistic officer whose story continues to inspire generations. A third-generation actor from the iconic Bachchan family, Agastya, son of Shweta Bachchan and grandson of Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan, who made his acting debut in Zoya Akhtar's The Archies. With Ikkis, he takes a sharp turn into a more intense and realistic



KANTARA: CHAPTER 1 TO BE RELEASED IN SPANISH

Hombale Films' Kantara: Chapter 1 continues to dominate the box office, breaking records with each passing day. Celebrated by audiences across the nation, the film's unstoppable run and the overwhelming love from viewers have cemented its status as a truly monumental success. Amidst its successful run, the makers have dropped the Spanish trailer ahead

of its release on October 31, 2025. Kantara: Chapter 1 is all set to roar beyond borders with its release in Spanish. The newly released Spanish trailer speaks volumes about the film's massive scale and global appeal. The film shows no signs of slowing down, achieving international recognition with each passing day.

Construction starts on new BC Cancer centre in Nanaimo

Shovels are going in the ground for a new BC Cancer centre that will deliver expanded cancer care and treatment for people in Nanaimo and nearby communities.

"The new BC Cancer centre in Nanaimo will transform cancer care for people across central Vancouver Island," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. "This facility is a generational investment in health care for the central Island. It will deliver better care for cancer patients for many years to come by providing vital services closer to home, so patients won't have to travel long distances for treatment." Located on the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital site, the new BC Cancer centre is expected to open in 2028 and will offer cancer treatments, such as radiation therapy and chemotherapy, all in one location. The new three-storey centre will include:



16 treatment bays and two treatment rooms for systemic therapy administration and consultations with care teams; advanced imaging tools, including CT and PET/CT scanners, to help doctors find cancer and plan treatment more precisely; an oncology ambulatory care unit with 12 exam rooms, four

consult rooms and space for medical physicists and radiation therapists; four linear accelerator vaults used to safely deliver radiation treatment; more parking, including a parkade and surface lot; and a new oncology pharmacy designed to meet the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authori-

ties standards. "I am thrilled about the new BC Cancer centre breaking ground in Nanaimo," said Joanne Falvai, a cancer survivor. "When I received radiation treatment, our family had to relocate from Qualicum Beach to Victoria for seven weeks. Cancer can take so much from you – you and your family need

all the love, care and support you can get to focus on your health and what's in front of you each day." Once the cancer centre opens to patients in 2028, it is expected to host 11,000 patient radiation consults and followup appointments annually. In its opening year, the centre is expected to provide approximately 20,000 treatments for as many as 1,600 patients. This will save patients and their families time, stress and the burden of long-distance travel during care. The new facility will be operated by BC Cancer in partnership with Island Health. The estimated cost of the project is \$311 million, shared between the Province, through Island Health, the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District and the BC Cancer Foundation. This is a part of more than \$730 million that is being invested to support the growing

population in the region. The investments have contributed to more than 60 health-care capital projects, including the newly opened urgent primary care centre, a new intensive care unit, high acuity unit and a new MRI machine at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. "The new BC Cancer centre in Nanaimo represents a milestone in health care on Vancouver Island," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. "By bringing advanced, integrated cancer treatment closer to home, we are not only improving access for patients and families, but also supporting them through some of the most challenging moments of their lives." This project is part of the work to improve and expand health-care services for people in Nanaimo and throughout B.C.

Fund supports next generation of B.C. farmers

Farmers beginning operations in British Columbia are getting help to plan and grow their agricultural businesses so they can succeed and offer B.C. families fresh and local food. "New and young farmers are the future of agriculture in Canada," said Heath MacDonald, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "Investments through the New Entrant Farm Business Accelerator Program are helping early-stage B.C. farmers with planning and pursuing new growth opportunities that will support their long-term success." The New Entrant Farm Business Accelerator Program will be opening for eligible farm-

ers to apply to develop or update a farm business plan and prepare a growth strategy for their farm operations. "B.C. farmers play a key role in our regional food systems, and it is crucial that we support the next generation of farmers so they can continue to feed British Columbians," said Lana Popham, B.C. Minister of Agriculture and Food. "The program is helping new and young farmers plan and then invest in the tools they need to be successful in their farm businesses, while supporting economic growth and food security in B.C." Eligible farmers will also be able to apply for funding to implement

their growth strategy, including support for on-farm infrastructure and other investments, in spring 2026. Farmers that participated in the last intake of the program have succeeded in increasing farm income and productivity. For example, Mikayla MacLeod of Charnwood Flowers in Chilliwack received support to purchase a large cold-frame greenhouse so she could extend the growing season. This new addition on the flower farm helped the business increase sales by having more flowers to sell throughout the year. Louise Lecouffe and Jed Wiebe of Elderberry Grove Farm in Salmon Arm received support

to build a larger on-site facility with better storage and processing space. These improvements make it possible to offer more elderberry products to consumers. In Duncan, Cowichan Station Creamery received funding to purchase hay feeders that reduce the hay waste lost from their current dairy-cow feeding system. This has helped the owners, Henry Rekers and Renee Davy, increase efficiency by making it easier and quicker to feed their dairy cows and improve labour productivity. Applications are open Nov. 3-24, 2025. The program is supported by the Sustain-

able Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year (2023-28), \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri food and agribased products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities, and a \$2.5-billion commitment cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by Provinces and territories. Quotes: Mikayla MacLeod, co-owner, Charnwood Flowers –

"We were able to use the funding from this program to build a cold-frame greenhouse, which has been instrumental in expanding our business and growing season. We are very grateful that this program is available to new farmers to help with the costs of adding necessary infrastructure." Louise Lecouffe, owner, Elderberry Grove Farm – "We're so grateful for the support we received. It feels amazing to have a space that works perfectly for elderberry. Having the right facility makes our work easier and helps us share even more of this wonderful berry."



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