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CANADA'S CARNEY CALLED OUT FOR 'UTILIZING' BRITISH SPELLING

By Nadine Yousif

Canadian language experts are calling on Prime Minister Mark Carney to ditch British spelling in official documents, and 'utilize' Canadian spelling instead. Canadian English has been the standard in government communications for decades. But eagle-eyed linguists and editors have spotted British spellings — like "globalisation" and "catalyse" — in documents from the Carney government, including the budget.

In an open letter, they asked Carney to stick to Canadian English, writing that it is "a matter of our national history, identity and pride".

They note that Canadian English is unique because it borrows influence from both the US and the UK due to geography and history.

It also includes "Canadianisms" that are unique to the country's lexicon, like the use of the word "toque" to describe a winter hat, or "washroom" instead of the American bathroom or the British loo.

A big distinction between Canadian and British spelling is the use of the letter 'z' ver-



sus 's' in words like analyse. But Canadian English takes from British English in other ways, like using 'ou' in colour, rather than the American 'color'. Other British terms, however, are never used, like tyre for 'tire'. In the letter, dated 11 December and shared with BBC News, the linguists wrote that Canadian En-

glish is recognised and widely used in Canada, arguing that "if governments start to use other systems for spelling, this could lead to confusion about which spelling is Canadian." They add that using Canadian English is "the simplest way to take an 'elbows up' stance", referencing an ice hockey term that Carney has

used to describe Canada's defiance in the face of US tariffs and 51st state jabs from President Donald Trump. The letter was sent by Editors Canada and signed by four professors of linguistics at various Canadian universities, along with the editor-in-chief of the Canadian English Dictionary. The BBC has reached

out to Carney's office for comment. One of the signatories, Professor Stefan Dollinger at the University of British Columbia, said he and others feel strongly about the issue "because language expresses identity". "It seems kind of counter-productive that the Prime Minister's Office would now walk the

clock back by half-a-century or more," Prof Dollinger told the BBC, noting how Canada's language has evolved from its past as a British colony.

There were at least two notable uses of British English by Carney's office, said Kaitlin Littlechild, president of Editors Canada.

The first was the Carney government's budget, released in November. The second is an October news release from the prime minister's office after a working visit to Washington, DC, where Carney met Trump.

Ms Littlechild said it is difficult to decipher whether it is a "misunderstanding" or a "targeted directive".

JK Chambers, a prominent Canadian linguist at the University of Toronto and another signatory, noted that Carney spent many years of his adult life in the UK, including seven years as governor of the Bank of England.

"He obviously picked up some pretensions while he was there," Prof Chambers said via email, but added: "So far, bless him, he has not resorted to 'gaol' for 'jail'."



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Chal Chaliye ...

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'Lost Canadians' citizenship bill now in place

Canada will now extend automatic citizenship to children born or adopted abroad to a Canadian parent also born outside the country.

There are conditions to the "Lost Canadian" rules that came into effect on Monday - the Canadian parent must show a "substantial connection" to the country by having spent at least three years there prior to their child's birth or adoption.

"Lost Canadians" refers to people who lost or never acquired citizenship because of what Ottawa deemed "outdated provisions" of its citizenship laws.

The changes on Monday stem from a 2023 Ontario court decision that ruled parts of the law limiting citizenship by descent were unconstitutional.

The court ruling came after the federal government under former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper passed a law in 2009 that removed the automatic right to citizenship for descendants of Canadians born abroad.



The current Liberal government did not appeal the 2023 Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruling, saying on Monday that at the time it "agreed the law had unacceptable outcomes for children of Canadians who were

born outside the country". Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada said it does not have an exact number of how many people will be affected by new regulations but expects that, over time, applications could be

in the tens of thousands. Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer - which provides independent analysis to parliamentarians - estimated in a 2024 assessment that this could affect about around 115,000 people over

the next five years.

In November, Conservative MP Michelle Rempel Garner, the shadow minister for immigration, raised concerns the bill would allow "unfettered citizenship by descent and create untold citizens of convenience".

The Conservatives, with the backing of the Bloc Québécois had sought amendments to the bill prior to it passing that would have demanded more stringent rules for citizenship, including language requirements and security checks for adults.

Those amendments failed to pass in the House.

One new Canadian who was able to gain citizenship under the changes is Alfie Jones, according to the Globe and Mail newspaper.

Mr Jones is a British-born football player recently recruited to play for Canada in the 2026 FIFA World Cup whose grandmother is from the province of Alberta.

Canadian airline Air Transat and pilot union reach tentative agreement

Canadian airline Air Transat and the union representing its pilots announced they reached a tentative agreement, which would avert a strike and suspension of flights.

Air Transat said the proposal would be "submitted to members for ratification in the coming days."

"Our operations are returning to normal," said Air Transat's announcement on Tuesday.

Captain Bradley Small, chair of the Air Transat ALPA Master Executive Council (MEC), said his union's "unity and resolve finally brought Air Transat management to the bargaining table to negotiate in a meaningful way."

More than 750 pilots must now vote on the deal.

The Air Transat Pilot Leaders (ALPA) union and the airline negotiated for 11 months, without reaching an agreement.

That stalemate boiled over on Sunday after 99% of

the union's pilots voted to strike. Air Transat then said it would begin scaling back flights in anticipation of the stoppage, set to begin Wednesday.

The union claimed its current contract "lags significantly behind industry standards," but that the tentative agreement would improve job security, compensation, and schedule flexibility for its pilots.

"We recognize that this period caused significant uncertainty, and we offer our sincerest apologies to customers whose travel plans were disrupted in recent days," the Air Transat statement announcing the tentative agreement said.

"Our priority now is to rapidly restore our operations and provide you with the best possible service."

This is the second major Canadian airline strike to occur this year.

In August, Air Canada flight attendants went on strike, resulting in hundreds of



cancellations and government intervention.

The Canadian Union of

Public Employees (CUPE) and Air Canada eventually reached a tentative agree-

ment after the appointment of a government mediator.

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Canada's population drops as country caps immigration

By Jessica Murphy

Canada's population dropped by 76,068 between July and October - a contraction driven mainly by limits on immigration, the federal statistics agency has said.

The decrease was due mainly to a drop in non-permanent residents, Statistics Canada said on Wednesday, and comes after Ottawa set a goal to restrict temporary residents to 5% of the 41.6 million population by 2027.

It's a sharp change from 2022, when the population grew by more than a million people for the first time, fuelled in part by efforts to recruit immigrants to ease labour shortages.

"We needed to bring our immigration level to a more sustainable level," Canada's finance minister, François-Philippe Champagne, told reporters.

Champagne, speaking from Berlin during a visit to Europe, said the government's goal is to "take back control over our immigration system and find a better balance between our capacity to welcome people and the number of people who want to come to the country".

The population drop is the "sharpest, and only second, quarter-over-quarter decline on record dating back to the 1940s", said Bank of Montreal senior economist Robert Kavcic in an analysis.

"A major population adjustment is well underway, and it remains one of the biggest economic stories in Canada," he added. Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made efforts to attract more immigrants to the country, including a plan to welcome half a



million immigrants a year by 2025.

By 2023, the vast majority of Canada's population growth - about 97% - was driven by immigration, according to federal data.

But the increase in newcomers was blamed for putting pressure on the cost of housing, stress on social services and youth unemployment rates.

Trudeau last year announced a sharp cut in the number of immigrants Canada allows into the country in an effort to pause population growth, saying his government "didn't get the balance quite right" when it boosted immigration post-pandemic to address labour shortages.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has continued in that vein, with Ottawa seeking to significantly

cut targets for new temporary residents from 673,650 to 385,000 next year, and 370,000 in 2027 and 2028.

According to Statistics Canada's preliminary numbers released on Wednesday, the country's population shrank by 0.2% in the third quarter of 2025 - the first decline since the Covid pandemic in 2020.

It was driven by a drop of non-permanent residents - primarily international students as well as temporary foreign workers - in the third quarter of 2025, the largest seen since comparable records began in 1971.

In October there were more than 2.8 million non-permanent residents in Canada, about 6.8% of the total population.

The provinces of Ontario and British Columbia

saw the biggest drops in population. Only Alberta and the territory of Nunavut saw their populations grow.

Economists say the population contraction is likely to have mixed effects across the economy, easing pressure in some areas while creating new challenges in others. A slowdown in population growth could provide some relief to Canada's strained housing market, where rents and home prices surged during the post-pandemic period as demand outpaced supply. Analysts note that fewer temporary residents, particularly international students, may reduce competition in rental markets in major cities such as Toronto and Vancouver, where housing affordability has become a dominant political

issue.

However, business groups have warned that a sharp pullback in immigration could deepen labour shortages in key sectors, including healthcare, construction, agriculture and hospitality. Many employers rely heavily on temporary foreign workers and international students to fill entry-level and seasonal roles, especially as Canada's population continues to age. According to federal projections, nearly a quarter of Canadians will be aged 65 or older by 2030, raising concerns about long-term workforce sustainability. Universities and colleges are also bracing for financial fallout as international student enrolments decline. Tuition from

foreign students represents a significant revenue stream for many institutions, particularly in Ontario and British Columbia. Several colleges have already announced hiring freezes, program cuts and budget reviews as visa caps and stricter eligibility rules reduce student intake.

Provincial governments, meanwhile, face growing pressure to adjust their own economic and infrastructure planning. Ontario Premier Doug Ford has previously argued that immigration levels must be better aligned with housing starts and healthcare capacity, while British Columbia officials have called for closer coordination between Ottawa and the provinces on population targets.

More than 100 new homes for families, seniors open in Vancouver

Seniors, families and individuals in Vancouver have access to 114 new affordable homes and community services with the opening of Powell Horizons, a new mixed-use building in the Downtown Eastside community.

"Having a safe, affordable home makes a real difference in a person's life," said Christine Boyle, B.C. Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. "For seniors, families and workers in Vancouver, these 114 new homes mean security, stability and a sense of belonging. We are providing not only housing but also access to community services that will help people thrive."

Powell Horizons at 508 Powell St. is the result of a partnership between the Province, through BC Housing, the federal government, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the City of Vancouver and Lookout Housing and Health Society.

"The federal govern-



ment is committed to helping communities develop local solutions to housing need and homelessness, and this project demonstrates what can be achieved when all levels of government work together," said Gregor Robertson, federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada. "These 114 homes will

provide residents in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside with the security and peace of mind that comes with having an affordable place to live. It's also another step forward in our bold, ambitious plan to build Canada strong." Operated by Lookout, the seven-storey building includes affordable homes on floors 3 to 7, with a mix of micro-dwellings, studios and one-

, two- and three-bedroom units. Residents will also have access to two amenity rooms and communal lounges that encourage connection and community. Commercial spaces occupy the second floor.

"Lookout Society is beyond thrilled to open the doors of Powell Horizons to our community," said Shayne Williams, CEO, Lookout Housing and Health Society. "These new homes, supported by the City of Vancouver, CMHC and BC Housing, are more than housing, they represent community. This is just one step toward meeting the Downtown Eastside's inclusive housing needs."

On the first floor, Lookout's Powell Street Getaway Resource Centre offers more than 7,500 square feet of space for programs, classes and services that promote health, learning and connection, including a commercial kitchen.

The Province, through BC Housing, is provid-

ing more than \$10 million from the Building BC: Community Housing Fund and approximately \$344,000 in annual operating funding. The federal government, through the Affordable Housing Fund, is investing nearly \$35.9 million for the project. The City of Vancouver contributed approximately \$3 million from the Community Housing Incentive Program.

This project is part of a \$19-billion housing investment by the B.C. government. Since 2017, the Province has more than 93,600 homes delivered or underway, including almost 11,800 homes in Vancouver.

Quotes:

Amshen-Joan Philip, MLA for Vancouver-Strathcona -

"Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Powell Horizons is an important step toward building a stronger, more inclusive Vancouver, where people can access housing and services that support their

well-being and sense of community."

George Chow, B.C. parliamentary secretary for Downtown Eastside and Chinatown -

"The Downtown Eastside is a vibrant community that deserves strong support. Powell Horizons delivers affordable homes and essential services that will make a real difference for people who need them most. I'm proud to see this partnership create opportunities for connection, stability and well-being in the heart of Vancouver."

Ken Sim, mayor of Vancouver -

"We're adding more than 100 affordable homes and vital community services where they are needed. This project is a big step forward for Vancouver and it's a great example of how collaboration can create lasting benefits and strengthen neighbourhoods for seniors, families and individuals across Vancouver."

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Making homes available for people with speculation and vacancy tax

The speculation and vacancy tax (SVT) continues to help make more long-term housing available, according to the Province's annual report for mayors in communities where the tax is in effect.

Findings suggest owners are changing their behaviour by moving in, renting out or selling their vacant properties.

"Making housing more affordable is a top priority for our government, and this report shows that our policies like the speculation and vacancy tax are making a difference," said Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance. "We can't afford to let B.C.'s housing market open to speculation. The speculation tax is making more homes available for British Columbians."

More than 99% of property owners who live in



B.C. did not have to pay the tax in its seventh year. The number of exemptions claimed for properties used as an owner's principal residence or occupied by a tenant increased by almost 200,000, mainly due to the expansion of the tax to 13 new communities in 2024.

Funding more homes in B.C. Revenue from the tax goes directly toward affordable housing initiatives in the regions where the tax applies. The tax raised \$79.6 million in 2024, totaling \$550 million since it was introduced. In

the 2024-25 fiscal year, the B.C. government invested \$1.9 billion toward housing in the SVT-specified areas.

Changes for 2026

The Province considers changes to the SVT every year to ensure the tax is working effectively for communities and freeing up homes for people in British Columbia. In its seventh year, changes coming to the SVT in 2026 include:

As announced in Budget 2025, foreign owners and owners with most of their income unreported in Canada will be subject to a tax rate of 3% starting in the 2026 tax year, up from 2%. This is based on independent advice that increasing the SVT rates may further motivate people to use, rent out or put their empty homes on the market. Canadian citizens and

permanent residents with empty or underused homes will pay a rate of 1%, up from 0.5%.

The tax credit for B.C. residents will be increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000. The SVT tax credits are available to those who don't qualify for the more than 20 exemptions from the tax. Vacancy rates in the province have seen substantial increases in 2025, including in communities where the SVT applies, such as Kelowna, Chilliwack, Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford-Mission. A recent Rentals.ca report shows asking-rent prices are steadily declining in B.C., with particularly high declines in areas with SVT, such as New Westminster, Vancouver and Surrey.

With Canada ending its federal Underused Housing Tax, it is im-

portant for B.C. to continue to discourage speculation to help people access good housing. The speculation and vacancy tax is part of B.C.'s Homes for People plan, ensuring more people can find an affordable home in the communities where they live and work.

Quick Facts:

Every year, the Ministry of Finance consults mayors from areas where the tax applies to share data and gather feedback. This data helps inform discussions about how the tax is working in the 59 communities where the tax applies. Together with other housing measures, the speculation and vacancy tax has helped add more than 20,000 units to the long-term rental market in Metro Vancouver since 2018.

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- F**ace ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਢਿਲਕ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ?
- A**rms ਬਾਹਵਾਂ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਬਾਹਵਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਨੂੰ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?
- S**peech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਅਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ?
- T**ime ਸਮੇਂ: ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਅਹਿਮੀਅਤ ਸਮਝੋ - ਬਟਪਟ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

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Activity shows growth in Canada's real estate market in November

Many major real estate markets in Canada showed month-over-month sales growth in November, though resales remain well below levels saw last year. A new report from RBC Economics suggests the growth was "notable" given most markets started the fall season — the second busiest time of the year for transactions behind spring — so slowly.

Still, RBC added that not all markets experienced growth.

Notably, Toronto and Hamilton saw more activity month over month in November.

For example, Toronto sales were up 0.6 per cent from October to November. On a year-over-year basis, resales in Toronto were off nearly 16 per cent while prices were down close to six per cent.

Resales were down year over year in most markets, RBC further noted, including Edmonton and Calgary, off about 14 and 13 per cent respectively. British Columbia's Fraser Valley market saw the steepest decline in

resales year over year at 17 per cent. Vancouver's activity dropped about 15 per cent.

Even Montreal, one of Canada's hottest markets this year, saw sales drop year over year by nearly nine per cent.

Only Ottawa saw sales increase, about two per cent, compared to November last year.

Notably, Ottawa's new listings were also up about 19 per cent, the highest among all major markets. Edmonton's new listings were 11 per cent. The metric points to growing supply for both markets that had seen tighter conditions earlier this year.

Yet RBC further pointed to the decline in new listings in other cities as a possible sign of growing activity with new inventory potentially being purchased by buyers seeing deals in their respective market. On that front, Toronto led all cities for the largest decrease percentage-wise for new listings at four per cent.



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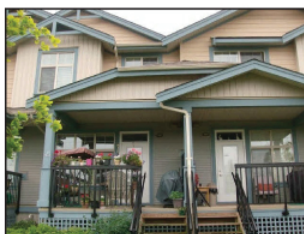
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AUTO TRENDS

Friday, December 19, 2025

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2025 Ford F-150 Super Crew Platinum Review – High Opulence Hybrid Pickup!

Auto review by Veeno Dewan.

The Ford F-150 is still the best-selling vehicle in North America. And for good reason, it is versatile, reliable, roomy and comes in a variety of cab styles and bed configurations. There are five engine choices, including a full Electric Lightening version and hybrid. Trims range from well - equipped entry versions, mid-level luxury, off road orientated models to

optioned-out cruisers, and hairy V8 Performance monsters. Add comfortable well-equipped cabins, and various tow and payload hauling options and the F-150 is still a winner. Engine choices for 2025 include the 2.7L EcoBoost V6 with 325 hp/400 lb-ft and the 3.5L EcoBoost V6 is available in two versions: 400hp/500 torque or the tuned 450hp/510 torque in the performance Raptor model. The ultimate F-150 id of course, is the high-performance F-150 Raptor R with a supercharged 5.2L V8 with 720 hp. All engines use a ten-speed automatic transmission.

One cool option is the Power Boost 3.5L hybrid model, also available with a 7.2-kW generator in the truck bed which can power a wide variety of electric tools and appliances. It can even serve as an emergency household generator in case of a power blackout. The maximum towing



capacity for the 2024 Ford F-150 ranges up to 13,500 pounds depending on trim and equipment specs.

The F-150 now has the new 2-inch infotainment screen and a 12-inch digital gauge cluster on all trims along with a new heads-up display if optioned. Outback in the bed, a must-have optional feature is the new Pro Access tailgate, featuring a swinging center section that allows quick bed access whilst hooked to a trailer or at any time without having to open the complete tailgate. Covered storage in the cargo bed walls is also new. SuperCrew models with four full doors

and a 5.5-foot short box measure 231.7 with a 79.9 inches width. The SuperCab trucks have the 6.5-foot box, but cleverly keep the same exterior dimensions.

We tested the 2025 F-150 Super Crew Hybrid Platinum model - this is a top tier version of the F-150 with the 3.5L Power Boost® Full Hybrid V6 Engine, which provides 430 horsepower and 570 lb.-ft. of torque, delivering both gas and electric power. There is up to 7.2kW available from the hybrid system to power external appliances or tools.

Exterior additions to the Platinum include larger 22-inch wheels with painted inserts, a

chrome single-bar grille with a satin chrome surround, all -round LED lighting, and body-color bumpers. Interior luxury is enhanced with Platinum trim upgrades such as premium leather seating surfaces plus a Bang & Olufsen sound system, and heated and cooled leather seats. Standard technology features include: SYNC 4, infotainment system, wireless phone connection, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and available Ford BlueCruise, which is the hands-free highway driving assistant.

Our tester came with a whopping \$11,850 worth of options. Base price of our tester was

\$105,240 whilst the option package boosted the price to \$117,090 plus destination and delivery. The Platinum package is not an inexpensive truck by any means. The Platinum edition is a truly luxurious truck with an opulent two-tone Smoked Truffle leather trimmed interior. Bright metal and chrome details off set the plush quilted surfaces and rich materials to good effect. It really looks like a business class jet in there!

The roomy comfortable front cabin also has a large pop-up extended flat worktop between the front seats. The front passenger seat

folds flat as well. The cabin materials, fit-and-finish and execution was excellent. On the road, the steering is responsive, and stability is good with the slightly wider track steering. The truck is surprisingly smooth and car-like to drive around town and offers little noise and vibration. Throttle response is quick with eager torque. The hybrid powertrain automatically switches between gas and electric power with a barely noticeable transition. Officially Canada Energy Fuel economy is rated at L/100km - 10.7 combined. 11.7 City. 10.0 Highway. Downsides are few - the Platinum package is expensive and adds a hefty premium to the price.

To sum up, the 2025 Hybrid Platinum is a stellar offering to the expansive F-150 range. Positioned as a premium luxury offering, it remains a solid, highly capable work and play truck with the on-board power generator for true versatility. Other lesser priced F-150 versions offer more value for money and make more sense. However, if a super loaded - true luxury-hauler is all that will do - The F-150 Platinum is made for you - at a price! Highly recommended.

2025 Ford F-150 Platinum Super Crew Priced from \$105,240. Price as tested - \$117,090 plus destination and delivery

New Indigenous court opens in Chilliwack

Indigenous Peoples within S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō territory) will be able to access culturally appropriate justice informed by local Indigenous traditions and practices, with the opening of the Chilliwack Indigenous court. "Indigenous sentencing courts give Indigenous Peoples going through the criminal justice system a chance to heal and move forward in a way that respects their culture and community," said Niki Sharma, Attorney General. "I would like to thank our Indigenous and Provincial court partners for coming together to work with us to address the harm caused by colonial systems and create space for accountability and hope. We will continue to work to build a justice system that better respects and addresses the needs of Indigenous Peoples."

Indigenous sentencing courts help contribute to safer communities in B.C. by strengthening community connections, creating a justice system that works better for all. The Chilliwack court, which is the 10th of its kind in B.C., was developed in partnership with the Qwí:qwelstóm Justice Program, the Provincial Court, and local First Nations, Elders and leaders, as part of government's ongoing commitment to address the over-representation of Indigenous Peoples in the justice system. Each Indigenous court takes a holistic and restorative-justice approach to sentencing and is uniquely designed to meet the needs of the community it serves.



active-justice approach to sentencing and is uniquely designed to meet the needs of the community it serves.

How the court works
The Chilliwack Indigenous court will operate as a pilot until March 2027. Future decisions will be informed by discussions with Indigenous communities and justice partners and will take into account available funding and resources.

Indigenous courts focus on understanding the root causes of offending behaviours. Participants collaborate with a team that includes Elders, a judge, legal counsel and Native court workers to develop an individualized healing plan tailored to their needs and the community.

By working with Elders

and justice partners, the court helps participants reconnect with culture and community, access supports such as counselling and housing, and reduce the risk of reoffending. "The opening of the Chilliwack Indigenous court is an important step toward community-driven solutions to justice that meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples," said Melissa Gillespie, chief judge of the Provincial Court. "Indigenous courts focus on sentencing and use a holistic, restorative approach in which Indigenous people before the court take responsibility for their actions. I look forward to the opening of the court and continuing to work with Indigenous communities interested in creating Indigenous sentencing

courts."

Other Indigenous courts in B.C. There are currently nine other Indigenous courts operating in B.C.:

New Westminster First Nations court
North Vancouver Chet wa nexniw ta S7ekw'í7tel Indigenous court
Kamloops Cknu'cwentn First Nations sentencing court
Duncan First Nations court
Nicola Valley Indigenous court
Prince George Indigenous court
Williams Lake Indigenous court
Hazelton Indigenous court
Lillooet Indigenous court
Supporting Indigenous justice

Indigenous sentencing courts are one of the services and programs designed to build a justice system that better respects and addresses the needs of Indigenous Peoples, which includes Indigenous Justice Centres and the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy. These initiatives are part of B.C.'s ongoing work to advance reconciliation and create a justice system that is fair, accessible and culturally responsive for everyone.

Quotes:
Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – "The new Indigenous court in Chilliwack will make it easier for Indigenous people to navigate the justice system

and obtain support. A restorative approach to justice that offers a healthy path, grounded in community and culture, is an important part of our commitment to make life better for Indigenous people."

Alisha E. Peters, Qwí:qwelstóm wellness co-ordinator, Stó:lō Nation – "The Chilliwack Indigenous court reflects this vision by focusing on healing and accountability, not shame or punishment, so individuals, families and communities can move forward together. The Stó:lō Elders Panel unanimously supported the establishment of an Indigenous court in S'ólh Téméxw. Hon. Steven Point stated, 'I think we just need to open our doors, hang a shingle out, and start doing the work'."

Quick Facts:
Indigenous people represent about 6% of B.C.'s population but account for roughly 36% of those in provincial custody. Indigenous courts do not conduct trials. Indigenous sentencing courts are available to people who identify as Indigenous and have Crown counsel's agreement to participate. Eligibility depends on the types of offences that the Elders and Indigenous Court Advisory Committee have agreed to accept, with most cases being for less serious offences.

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(PG)**

Food for Thought

Everyone everywhere is subject to the high cost of living. Now more than ever affordability is top of mind. And the most urgent need is being able to afford food. Without food you die away. This truism makes up the plot of 40 Acres. Trust Mongrel Media to again bring forth a top notice movie, currently showing at select Cineplex cinemas and Landmark Theatres across B.C.

Set in old times historically people were allotted forty acres upon which to farm, till and grow crops. Unfortunately a turn for the worse has seen settlers under prey owing to a vast food shortage in the United States following The Civil War. Survival is key. One family has somehow managed to stay above the fray as others go by the wayside..

For parents Galen and Haley Freeman preserving their family and farm mean everything. Together Daniel Deadwyler and Michael Greyeyes are convincing and compelling as parents who have taught their kids well. Comrades in arms this family has a work ethic and survival mode that kicks into high gear when outsiders ransack their farm . The threat is real and a group of survivalists due what they can to survive this apocalyptic war ravaged world.

Director/writer R.T. Thorne has pulled off an impressive film here. You can sense the fear, desperation and raw emotion that symbolizes the plight of this family. Gripping and exciting 40 Acres features a new story with gritty actors under the mist trying conditions imaginable, and rather unbearable.

40 Acres



SHILPA SHETTY BREAKS SILENCE ON ALLEGED RS 60 CRORES FRAUD CASE

Actor Shilpa Shetty has issued a detailed clarification after her name surfaced in connection with an alleged Rs 60 crores fraud case under Section 420 of the IPC. Responding to reports, Shetty termed the attempt to link her to the matter as “baseless” and said her association with the concerned company was limited and non-operational.

In her statement, Shetty clarified, “I am deeply saddened by the baseless attempt to link my name to this matter. My association with the company was strictly in a non-executive capacity,

with no role in its operations, finances, decision making or any signing authority. In fact like several other public figures I had endorsed certain products for the home shopping channel , in a professional capacity , for which payments due to me remain outstanding.”

Shetty further revealed, “I want to put it on record that almost 20 Cr rupees has been loaned to the company by us as a family and the said amount remains unpaid.”



SHIVALEEKA OBEROI ANNOUNCES FIRST PREGNANCY WITH HUSBAND ABHISHEK PATHAK

Actress Shivaleeka Oberoi is expecting her first child with filmmaker husband Abhishek Pathak, sharing the joyful news via a heartfelt social media post as the couple prepares to welcome Baby Pathak in 2026.

The parents-to-be posted a tender photo of themselves in a warm embrace, with Shivaleeka holding tiny knitted baby socks, captioned: “Our love story has found its sweetest verse, a tiny blessing is joining our universe,” accompanied by baby angel, evil eye, and dizzy emojis.

A second image showed them by a Christmas tree holding an ornament reading “Baby Pathak arriving 2026,” sparking an outpouring of fan love in the comments.

Industry friends quickly congratulated the duo, with Rakul Preet Singh commenting “Oh wowwww congrats” alongside red hearts, Sharib Hashmi writing “Many many congratulations aap dono ko,” and Ishita Dutta and Esha Gupta dropping hearts and evil eye emojis.



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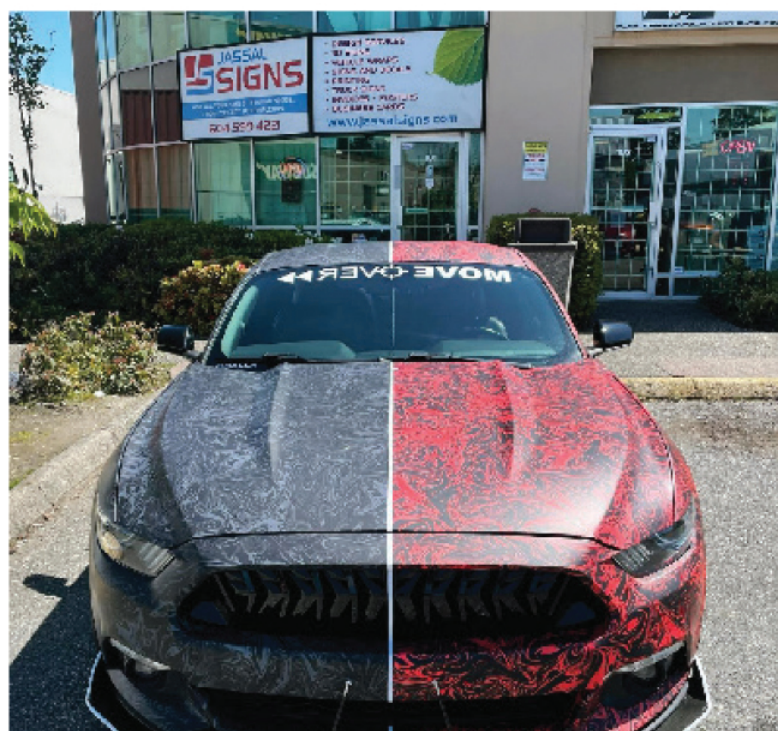


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