

ASIAN JOURNAL

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HOMEOWNER GRANT PROVIDES TAX RELIEF FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS

The threshold for the provincial homeowner grant for residential properties in B.C. has been set at \$2.075 million for 2026, providing modest property tax relief to eligible homeowners.

Basic grant amounts remain unchanged:

as much as \$570 for properties in the Capital Regional District, Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver Regional District

as much as \$770 for properties outside those areas Seniors, veterans and people with disabilities, or those living with a relative who has a disability, may be eligible for additional grants for a total of:

as much as \$845 in the Capital Regional District, Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver Regional District

as much as \$1,045 outside those areas

In 2025, nearly 500,000 seniors and more than 19,000 people with disabilities received this extra support.

To be eligible, the property must be the homeowners' principal residence. Homeowners must apply to receive the grant. Homeowners can submit their grant



application any time during the tax year.

The best time to apply is in May after property tax notices have been received and before the property-tax due date, typically in July.

Those who apply for the homeowner grant after their property-tax due date may face late-payment penalties to the unpaid portion of their property taxes normally

covered by the grant.

The quickest and easiest way to apply is online through the B.C. government website. Applications are also accepted at ServiceBC centres or by phone at 1-888-355-2700.

Homeowners may also be eligible for B.C.'s Property Tax Deferment Program if they:

support a dependent child (Families with

Children Program) are 55 or older during the current year are a surviving spouse are a person with disabilities

Quick Facts:

BC Assessment values are based on the market value of similar property sales as of July 1, 2025. This year's threshold is down from \$2.175 million last year.

Seniors with low incomes may be eligible for the low-income grant supplement if their home value exceeds the threshold.

Homes valued above the threshold may qualify for a partial homeowner grant, as the grant is gradually phased out at the rate of \$5 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Homes phase out at \$2.189 million in the

Capital Regional District, Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver Regional District, and \$2.244 million for the additional grant for seniors, veterans and people with a disability.

Outside of those areas, homes phase out at \$2.229 million for the basic grant and \$2.284 million for the additional grant.



Chal Chaliye
SABZI MANDI
Chal Chaliye ...

ਤਾਜ਼ੇ ਫਲ ਫਰੂਟ, ਤਾਜ਼ੀਆਂ ਸਬਜ਼ੀਆਂ
ਅਤੇ ਸਾਫ਼ ਸੁਥਰੀ ਗਰੋਸਰੀ ਲਈ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ
ਸਬਜ਼ੀ ਮੰਡੀ ਨੂੰ ਯਾਦ ਰਖੋ

Air India pilot landed in Canada drunk, failed smell tests; authorities seek action

Canadian authorities have accused an Air India captain of reporting for duty under the influence of alcohol at Vancouver International Airport, triggering a safety probe, possible enforcement action and sharp questions over compliance with aviation regulations. According to a formal communication sent to Air India by Transport Canada's Foreign Operations Department, the pilot was found unfit for duty on December 23, 2025, after two breathalyzer tests confirmed the presence of alcohol in his system. The captain was scheduled to operate Air India flight AI186 from Vancouver to Vienna on the same day.

The letter says the Royal Canadian Mounted Police intervened after concerns were raised about the pilot's fitness. "Two breathalyzer tests conducted by the RCMP at Vancouver International Airport confirmed this, after he was advised to leave the aircraft," the communication reads.

Canadian authorities have flagged multiple regulatory



breaches linked to the incident. The letter says the episode points to a contravention of Canadian Aviation Regulations 602.02 by both the operator and the crew member, and Regulation 602.03 by the crew member. It also cites a violation of condition (g) under Air India's Foreign Air Operator Certificate issued by Trans-

port Canada Civil Aviation. Transport Canada has asked Air India to carry out a comprehensive internal probe. The carrier has been directed to conduct "a thorough review and investigation under your Safety Management System (SMS)" and to submit details of corrective steps taken to ensure such incidents do not recur.

A response from the airline has been sought by January 26, 2026.

Flight AI186 was delayed at the last minute on December 23 after the cockpit crew member was offloaded before departure. Canadian authorities raised concerns over the pilot's fitness, following which he was taken away for further enquiry.

An alternate pilot was subsequently rostered to operate the flight, leading to the delay.

In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said, "Flight AI186 from Vancouver to Delhi on December 23, 2025 experienced a last-minute delay after one of the cockpit crew members was offloaded prior to departure. Canadian authorities raised concerns regarding the pilot's fitness for duty, following which the crew member was taken for further enquiry."

The spokesperson added, "In accordance with safety protocols, an alternate pilot was rostered to operate the flight, resulting in the delay. Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to its passengers and is fully cooperating with the local authorities. The pilot has been taken off flying duties during the process of enquiry. Pending the outcome of the investigation, any confirmed violation will attract strict disciplinary action in line with company policy."

Council moves ahead on medical clinics to expand family

Surrey, B.C. – On Monday, City Council authorized staff to begin negotiations with Total Life Care Granville Medical (TLC) to develop and operate Surrey's first two City-supported medical clinics in 2026. This marks a major milestone in the City's Community Medical Clinics Initiative, aimed at improving residents' access to family doctors.

"B.C.'s shortage of family doctors has hit Surrey especially hard, leaving residents waiting far too long for care," Mayor Brenda Locke said. "We're moving quickly to provide real solutions for our community. By working with TLC to open new clinics, we're bringing care closer to home and giving residents the

health care options they deserve."

These clinics will improve access to family doctors by providing sustainable, community-based health care and serve as teaching sites for Simon Fraser University's new medical school, opening next fall.

Total Life Care Granville Medical is a B.C.-based primary care network with a proven record of developing and operating clinics across Metro Vancouver, including two in Surrey, giving it strong local experience and knowledge of community health care needs.

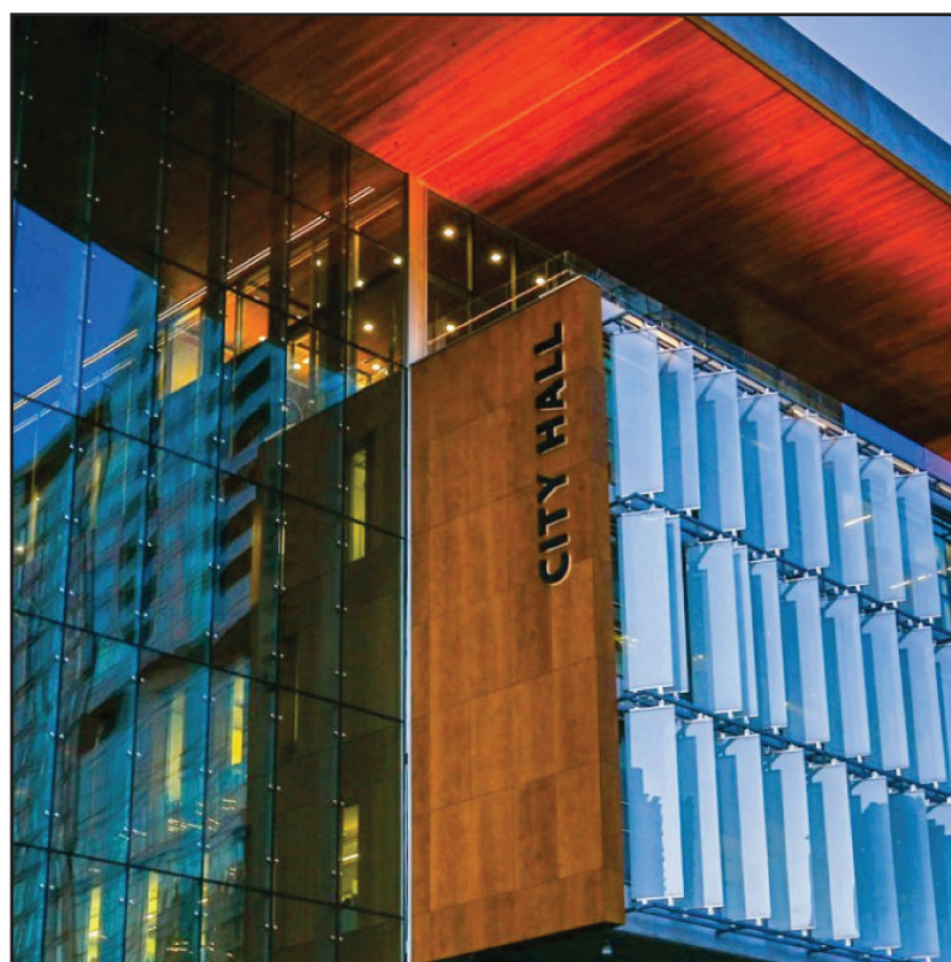
If negotiations are successful, TLC would: Identify and develop two clinic locations based on community need and accessibility.

Recruit and retain family doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

Implement advanced digital systems for patient care and security. Collaborate with SFU's Medical School to integrate medical education into clinic operations.

Each clinic is anticipated to be approximately 2,000 square feet, housing eight to 10 health care providers, along with administrative and support staff.

All financial details will be presented to Council for approval. While final costs will be set once negotiations with TLC are complete, financial modelling indicates minimal ongoing costs to the City.



ASIAN JOURNAL

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Why are over 1 million Indians at risk of losing legal status in Canada?

Canada is expected to see a sharp rise in undocumented immigrants, with nearly half coming from India, as millions of work permits expire. Data obtained by immigration consultant Kanwar Seirah from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) shows that around 1,053,000 work permits expired by the end of 2025, with another 927,000 set to expire in 2026.

These statistics were obtained by Mississauga-based immigration consultant Kanwar Seirah, who shared them with the Hindustan Times.

As work permits expire, holders lose legal status unless they secure another visa or transition to permanent residency. These options have become more restricted as the Canadian government continues to tighten immigration rules, particularly for



temporary workers and international students, while also introducing new measures to manage asylum claims. Seirah warned that

Canada has never faced such high numbers of people going out of status. In the first quarter of 2026 alone, nearly 315,000 expiries

are expected, creating a “bottleneck” in the immigration system. By comparison, the last quarter of 2025 saw over 291,000 expiries.

He estimates that by mid-2026, at least two million people in Canada could be living without legal status, with Indians accounting for roughly half of this number. Seirah described the figure for Indians as a “very conservative estimate,” noting that tens of thousands of study permits will also expire and many asylum applications may be rejected.

Potential social impact and rising challenges

The growth of the undocumented population has already caused social issues in parts of the Greater Toronto Area, including Brampton and Caledon. Tent encampments have appeared in wooded areas, housing people who are undocumented. Brampton-based journalist Nitin Chopra, who documented one such tent city, said there was anecdotal information that out-of-status immigrants

from India were working for cash, and that fly-by-night operators were opening bureaus for marriages of convenience.

Activists call for action on immigration crisis. Groups such as the Naujawan Support Network, which advocates for workers’ rights, are planning protests in January to highlight the crisis caused by expiring permits.

Bikramjit Singh, a Toronto-based activist with the Network, said they were working to “build momentum” to address the plight of immigrant workers without legal pathways to remain in Canada.

The Network’s campaign slogan, “Good enough to work, good enough to stay,” reflects its call for reforms that would allow temporary workers and students to remain legally in the country.

Canada’s grocery code of conduct kicks in Jan. 1, with buy-in from 5 major grocers

The voluntary grocery code of conduct for grocers, suppliers, wholesalers and primary producers in Canada is set to fully roll out on Thursday.

The grocery code is intended to promote fair dealings between grocers and their suppliers, including in the application of penalties and fees. It was set up in an effort to bring more transparency, fairness and predictability to the industry as a whole.

The code, governed by the Office of the Grocery Sector Code of Conduct, includes

trade rule provisions, a governance model and an adjudication and dispute resolution process.

Starting Jan. 1, the code — which was being rolled out in stages — will be fully operational, including the dispute resolution mechanism governing how complaints are addressed by the office and consequences for violations of the code.

Grocers, suppliers and other members will now be able to submit formal complaints. The office of the Canada Grocery Code will also

start collecting annual membership dues and releasing annual reports highlighting industry trends, systemic challenges and proposed improvements, according to the Canada Grocery Code website. However, experts who spoke to CBC News had mixed opinions on whether the code — which aims to improve relations between industry players, not bring down food prices — will have a meaningful impact on consumers. The industry committee tasked with creating the code was established in

response to contentious fees being charged to suppliers by large grocery retailers, an issue that came to a head in 2020.

Years of high food inflation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic stoked public frustration with the grocery industry. Although the code’s purpose wasn’t to lower costs, its adoption nonetheless became a political issue.

Some grocers were hesitant to sign on. Loblaw, for example, took issue with an early version of the code that it claimed would

lead to higher prices for shoppers. But the federal government warned it could make the code mandatory if all major players didn’t get on board.

The code lays out specific rules and guidelines for grocers and suppliers. For example, it includes detailed rules about fees and under what circumstances retailers can charge them. Another section sets out a process for resolving disputes if parties can’t come to an agreement themselves.

While the code is a first for Canada, other

countries, notably the U.K. and Australia, have their own grocery codes. Former Empire CEO Michael Medline was the first major grocery executive to call for a grocery code of conduct to level the playing field for Canadian grocers and suppliers.

He had cautioned it wouldn’t be a silver bullet for solving problems in the industry, but that it could lead to lower prices, shorter supply chains and more choice for Canadians.

Annette Dionne, last surviving Dionne quintuplet, dies aged 91

By Grace Eliza Goodwin

Annette Dionne, the last surviving sister of the Canadian quintuplets, has died at 91, the Dionne Quints Home Museum has announced.

The five identical sisters, born in Ontario at the height of the Great Depression in 1934, were the first known quintuplets to survive past infancy.

They quickly became a global sensation during their childhood - starring in feature films, appearing on the covers of magazines, and endorsing products from tooth-



paste to syrup.

"Much beloved, Annette had championed children's rights," the museum said in a statement announc-

ing her death.

The museum, which seeks to preserve their legacy and educate the public on the quintuplets' contro-

versial upbringing, added: "She believed it was important to maintain the Dionne Quints Museum and the history it provides

for the future of all children."

The quintuplets - Annette, Yvonne, Cécile, Émilie and Marie - were taken away from their parents by the Ontario government when they were infants.

For several years, the authorities displayed the children in a compound dubbed "Quintland", which became a popular tourist attraction.

The children were constantly examined and observed, and had limited contact with their parents and siblings. Their parents later re-

gained custody of the quintuplets.

As adults Annette, Cécile and Yvonne sued the Ontario government for compensation over the circumstances of their childhood, and they received a settlement totalling nearly C\$3m (£1.6m; \$2.2m) in 1998.

Annette was the last surviving sibling out of the 14 Dionne children, the Dionne Quints Home Museum said.

Prior to Annette and Cécile's deaths this year, Émilie died in 1954, Marie died in 1970 and Yvonne died in 2001.

Canadian couple found dead while vacationing in Dominican Republic

A Canadian couple was found dead while vacationing in the Dominican Republic, their bereaved family shared on social media.

Christine Sauvé and Alain Noël died in their sleep the night

of 25 December, Sauvé's brother Gilles Sauvé Jr told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in an interview.

Sauvé says the cause of the couple's deaths is still unknown, and that their bodies were

found by their son, who was on vacation with them.

Local authorities are investigating, he said, and they have told him to expect autopsy results in 45 days.

Sauvé told the CBC

that his sister had called him the night before, saying she was feeling dizzy and had visited the hospital.

She had bloodwork done and was supposed to have more scans the next day, he

said.

"In the end, it didn't come to that," he said.

Global Affairs Canada, the government's global outreach arm, told the BBC that it is aware of the deaths and is in touch

with officials in the area.

"Canadian officials are providing consular assistance and are in contact with local authorities to gather more information," it said.

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Motorcycles worth \$40m seized from FBI most-wanted Olympic snowboarder

Mexican officials have seized motorcycles worth \$40m (£30m) belonging to Ryan Wedding, the Canadian former Olympic snowboarder who is accused of running a vast drug dealing operation.

The vehicles were discovered by Mexican authorities over several raids, the FBI said in a statement, adding that the seizures came with assistance from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Los Angeles Police Department.

The motorcycles appear to include rare racing models. Last month, officials seized a \$13m Mercedes hypercar from Wedding, who is believed to be living under the protection of Mexican drug cartels. Officials allege Wedding is among the largest narcotics traffickers in North America.

The seizures took place



at four properties in Mexico City and the surrounding region, according to a statement from Mexican authorities.

Officials seized 62 motorcycles, many of which appear to be

Ducatis, according to photos released by the FBI.

Other items seized include luxury paintings, artworks, drugs and two Olympic gold medals.

It is unclear to whom



the medals belong. Wedding competed for Canada in the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, but did not win any medals. He came in 24th place in the men's giant parallel slalom ski event.

Last month, the FBI seized a rare 2002 Mercedes CLK-GTR, which had been valued at \$13m.

Wedding is on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list, with a reward of \$15m for information

leading to his arrest. Officials in the US have compared him to other famous drug kingpins in Latin America, including Pablo Escobar in Colombia and Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán in Mexico.

His aliases include "El Jefe," "Giant," "Public Enemy," "James Conrad King," and "Jesse King", the FBI says.

Officials allege that he launched his criminal enterprise following his release from a US federal prison in 2011, where he was serving a sentence for cocaine distribution.

Authorities allege he has ordered dozens of murders across the globe, including in the US, Canada and Latin America.

He has also been charged in the US with witness tampering and intimidation, money laundering and drug trafficking.

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Speech is it slurred or jumbled?

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ਸਟ੍ਰੋਕ ਦੇ ਸੰਕੇਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣੋ

Face ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਝੇਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਝਿਲ ਝਿਲ ਹੋਣ

Arms ਬਾਹਰ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਦੋਹਾਂ ਆਂਗੂਲਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉੱਚਾ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?

Speech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਆਸਰਸਰ ਹੋ ਰਹੇ ਹੋ?

Time ਸਮੇਂ: ਹੁਣੇ ਹੀ ਕਾਲ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ।

F A S T ਯਕੀਨਾ ਕਰੋ। ਜੀਵਨ ਨੂੰ ਬਚਾਉਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਇਲਾਜ ਹੁਣੇ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਹਿਤ ਹਾਲ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ।

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Stand-off between buyers and sellers leaves Canada's housing market stuck

Canadian homebuyers are playing the waiting game in a showdown with sellers, whose ranks have swelled in the past couple of years in parts of the country. The fall market has largely been a non-event as a result.

Home resales have neither grown nor shrunk across the country since July. They fell slightly by 0.6% in November from October, nearly offsetting a small increase the previous month. Whether buyers' measured approach is tactical or out of caution amid economic uncertainty, the implication is the same: Strong-arming sellers into reducing prices in many markets.

And, it's working to a degree. Canada's composite MLS Home Price Index edged 0.7% lower in the past four months and is now down 3.7% from a year ago.

The softness remains concentrated in Ontario and British Columbia, though prices have also dropped in Alberta. Buyers in these markets have a lot more choice than a year

ago and are able to shop around.


Strong competition among sellers could also be causing prospective sellers to hold off from listing properties. New listings have fallen 4% in the past three months nationwide, including a 1.6% decline in November from October.

If sustained, it would help drain some of the inventory built in Ontario and B.C., rebalance supply and demand, and stabilize prices.

In the meantime, buyers will no doubt continue flexing their bargaining muscle to extract further price concessions.







Less than half of local markets saw resales drop in November from October including Toronto (-0.6%), Ottawa (-6.7%), Montreal (-2.8%), Halifax (-12.8%), Victoria (-6.6%) and Winnipeg (-2.1%).


The small majority that notched an increase include Vancouver (4.6%), Edmonton (3.6%), Calgary (0.3%), Regina (6%) and Saskatoon (6.2%).




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COURT ORDER SALE

7299-194 A ST, SURREY

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 neighborhood. 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 & Echolaish Secondary. For more information please call. (30811618)

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\$799,999

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

45594 MEADOWBROOK DRIVE, CHILLIWACK
1,050,000



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11132 PATRICIA DRIVE, DELTA
\$81,340,000



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

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103 13725 72A AVENUE



13930 77 Ave Surrey BC



124 13725 72A AVENUE



314-7445 120 Street



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#22 12700 66 AVE
SURREY



#139 142 ST
SURREY



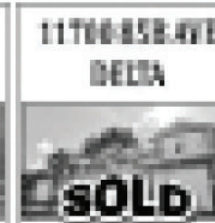
#200 13800 74 AVE
SURREY



14071 59A AVE,
SURREY



14448 62 AVE
SURREY



11700-858 AVE
DELTA



#24 1000 BOLT RD,
SURREY



11826 87 AVE,
DELTA



#202 7445
120 ST, DELTA



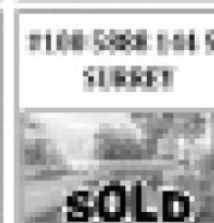
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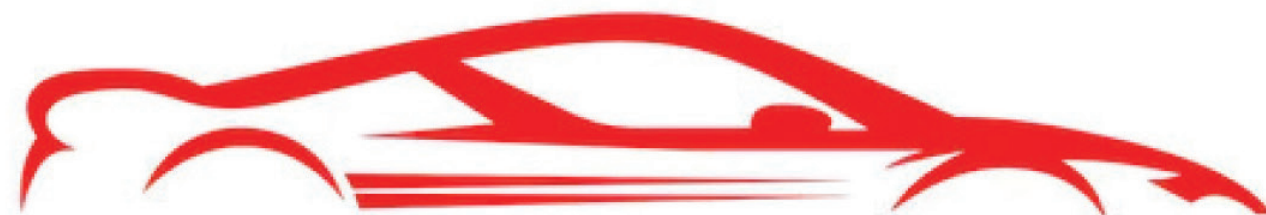
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2026 Acura ADX- New Premium SUV Competes with the Best!

Auto Review by Veeno Dewan.

The ADX is an all-new model for Acura and serves as the brand's smallest premium SUV. It shares its mechanicals and platform with Honda's subcompact HR-V. Looks wise, the ADX is nicely defined with a long hood, and a squat purposeful stance in the rear quarters. The Acura Pentagon grille and squinty headlights carry off a slightly aggressive vibe that is pleasing to the eye. There are only minor changes from the 2025 version.

Acura has opted for a retuned version of the turbocharged four-cylinder 1.5L engine from the performance Acura Integra sedan, which produces 190 horsepower, and 179 pound-feet of torque. The gear box is the continuously variable transmission (CVT). By the way- the ADX arrives with standard All-Wheel-Drive (AWD) in Canada. The ADX also debuts Acura's first-ever implementation of hill descent control.

The 2026 Acura ADX starts at just under \$49,000 - while the mid-range A-Spec is \$50,715. The as-tested top of the range Platinum Elite A-Spec starts at \$55,215. The entry models offer as standard 18-inch alloy wheels, dual climate zone controls, an 8-speaker Bang and Olufsen audio system. A 9.0-inch infotainment touchscreen is standard across the range as is a 10.2-inch digital gauge



display. Wireless Apple CarPlay, Android Auto connectivity, four USB-C ports, heated front seats, a sunroof, and a power liftgate is also standard.

AcuraWatch ADAS and Active Safety is standard kit along with Onboard Wi-Fi and a wireless smartphone charging pad is also included on every model.

ADX Premium Elite versions add black exterior accents, stylish 20-inch Berlina black wheels, heated/ventilated full leather seats with Alcantara inserts, panoramic sunroof, multi-view

camera system, Google built-in Apps, power-folding mirrors, and an upgraded 15 speaker Bang & Olufsen speaker audio system and adds extra options.

The ADX Interior cabin design is a sporty and stylish affair. The luxury is upped with quality soft-touch surfaces, contrast stitching details on the door panels and seats and weighty metal trim pieces. Legroom and head room is good and the rear quarters are spacious. Rear passengers get their own air vents and USB-C ports. Rear cargo volume in the trunk is

690L with 60/40 rear seatbacks up - among the largest in this segment and there is a hidden rear storage compartment under the load floor.

Key safety features include: AcuraWatch adaptive cruise, Standard automated emergency braking, Standard lane-departure warning with lane-keeping assist, Standard adaptive cruise control. On the road, the ADX, offers decent performance, precise handling, and a comfortable ride. Note, the German competition is faster

when it comes to speed and power, but the Integra and Honda Civic SI derived engine offer good acceleration and zip when you need it. It holds revs higher, and aids with top speed. Despite the CVT - using the paddle shifters behind the steering wheel for simulated shifts is quick and satisfying. The CVT has some tweaks to the gear ratios for more sporty performance. It keeps engine rpm higher and offers a more tuned throttle response. It also makes the engine sound sportier too! In addition to AWD, there are four selectable drive

modes - Snow, Comfort, Normal and Sport. The Platinum Elite trim adds a customizable Individual Mode setting. With a firm chassis, and light precise steering, the ADX is an enjoyable SUV for both urban driving and winding roads. Fuel economy is 9.1 L/100 km city, 7.7 highway and 8.5 combined. Highly recommended for discerning porty drivers with families everywhere.

2026 Acura ADX Palatium Elite A -SPEC Priced from \$55,215 plus freight, PDI and taxes. More info t www.acura.ca

Listening to businesses to keep B.C. competitive

The Province has received more than 260 submissions through the Ease of Doing Business initiative, and is reviewing and acting on recommendations to foster a business environment that supports good jobs and economic growth.

Launched on June 5, 2025, the Ease of Doing Business initiative invited businesses to share challenges and ideas with government through the EaseBiz BC submission portal.

To date, the majority of feedback has focused on:

- interprovincial trade barriers and tariffs
- streamlining regulations

- speeding up permitting and approvals

- improving access to skilled labour

- modernizing tax policy
- calls for housing investment, climate action, innovation support and support for Indigenous businesses

The Province continues to support businesses with resources, tools and services to help them start and grow,



including resources previously delivered by Small Business BC, with more that will be available soon.

Next steps

In addition to new submissions received through Ease of Doing Business, the Province has reviewed recommendations from re-

ports and open letters from business organizations, creating a central repository of more than 700 items to guide action. Ministries are continuously reviewing feedback and looking for opportunities to make changes to reduce or adjust rules and regulations and cut red tape.

To ensure businesses and business organizations can continue to provide feedback to government, the Ease of Doing Business initiative and the EaseBiz BC portal will remain open. This feedback will support government's efforts to help business grow, attract investment and im-

prove competitiveness. For transparency, regular updates on what feedback and actions government is undertaking will be posted on the Ease of Doing Business website.

The Government of B.C. remains committed to ongoing dialogue with businesses and business organizations.

Supporting economic growth

These efforts complement the Look West economic plan, and its goals of supporting businesses by diversifying markets, strengthening B.C.'s skilled workforce, and speeding up permitting and approvals to deliver major projects quicker. This includes B.C.'s leadership in the new Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement, which breaks down interprovincial trade barriers, making it easier for B.C. businesses to sell products across Canada, and for people to buy Canadian-made goods.

Recently, prompt-payment legislation for

the construction sector was passed, which will come into force after a transition period. It will set clear timelines for payment on construction projects, establish a fast-track adjudication process to resolve payment-related disputes and improve cash flow and stability across the construction industry.

In addition, the Province recently committed to doubling trades-training funding and permanently strengthening B.C.'s trades-training system, with a new \$241-million fund.

The Ease of Doing Business initiative builds on the work government has done through Better Regulations for British Columbians, which has delivered more than 2,000 regulatory amendments since 2016. This ongoing work has made for easier and quicker interactions between businesses and government services, enhancing overall accessibility and convenience.

Statement from the Mayor: Thanking those who make Surrey brighter this holiday season

At this special time of year, I am heartened by all the selfless individuals who give their time, energy, and resources to help those in need. Your consistent acts of generosity bring warmth and light to our community

and show what the Spirit of Surrey truly looks like.

Our city thrives because of people who bring purpose, dedication, and care to everything they do – whether it's delivering food ham-

pers, visiting seniors, or organizing toy drives. These efforts brighten lives and strengthen the fabric of our community. Surrey is showing Canada what a caring and connected community looks like.

Thank you to everyone who helps our city shine this season. Your commitment makes a lasting difference, and your spirit of generosity makes Surrey a better, more joyful place for everyone.

As we look ahead to the new year, let's continue supporting one another, embracing our shared responsibility to uplift our city, and creating a vibrant, welcoming community for everyone.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Together, let's keep building a city where kindness and collaboration flourish, and where the joy of the season inspires us to give, connect, and celebrate.

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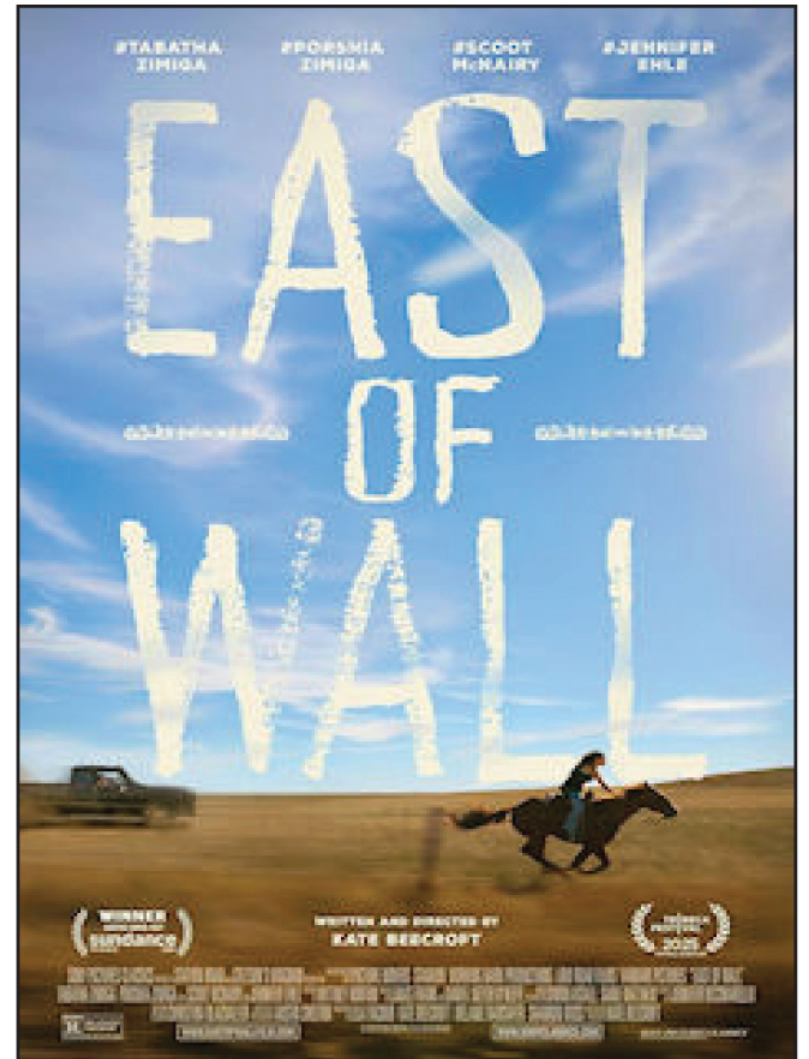
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Parenting 101!

See how a young woman overcomes lots of adversity in East of Wall. Chalk full of inspiration this high voltage drama from Sony Pictures Classics and Mongrel Media is a terrific example of the little film that could - and can! With a winning message East of Wall is playing currently at select Cineplex and Landmark Theatres across B.C. Not everyone is dealt a winning hand in life. Or a fair one. How one navigates those troubled waters helps determine one's future. East of Wall delves deep into the troubled waters of a young mom and an ambitious teen age daughter. Real life people Tabitha and Porshia Zimiga make for quite the odd couple. Bonded by a tragic event the pair are the toast of the rodeo circuit in The Badlands U.S.A. Make no mistake about it - horse training is a man's trade. Well, over

East of Wall

the years Tabitha busily tries to make a dent in that truism. Facing subtle discrimination at almost every twist and turn this gutsy woman has a way with horses and that shows up on the rodeo circuit but less so in the all important horse sales. Call it ingrained discrimination seeded over time. And as if that isn't enough on her plate this somewhat unconventional lass has a Robin Hood streak exemplified by her humanity and passion for taking in and sheltering wayward kids in an effort to build a better home grown community. Charity lives on. Yes, East of Wall is a small sorry. But all the performances are giant size. Memorable characters stick with you in this poignant tale of a family in trouble and its gutsy leader who goes all in to better all their lives. Impactful indeed!



DHURANDHAR DECLARED TAX-FREE IN LADAKH AMID SUCCESSFUL BOX-OFFICE RUN

Continuing its brilliant run since early December, Dhurandhar has emerged as a record-breaking box office performer and now the Union Territory of Ladakh has declared the Bollywood blockbuster Dhurandhar tax-free amid the film's historic box office performance and widespread audience response in India and overseas. The announcement was made by the Office of the Lt. Governor, Ladakh, through an official communication shared on X. Lt. Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta confirmed that the Aditya Dhar-directed espionage thriller will

be exempt from entertainment tax across the UT. Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Aditya Dhar, Dhurandhar is produced by Jio Studios and B62 Studios. The film stars Ranveer Singh in the lead, alongside a heavyweight ensemble cast that includes Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt and Arjun Rampal. Designed as a large-scale espionage thriller, the film traces covert intelligence operations set against intelligence operations inspired by real events.



SHIV SENA (UBT) WARNS SHAH RUKH KHAN

A political storm is brewing around Shah Rukh Khan's IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) after the franchise signed Bangladeshi fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season. The controversial decision has drawn sharp criticism not only from political leaders but also from the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray faction) — which warned that the player's IPL earnings could potentially be diverted to fund terrorism. The issue erupted after KKR selected Mustafizur Rahman, the only Bangladeshi cricketer picked in the 2026 IPL auction for Rs 9.2 crores. While some

commentators have framed the move as a purely sporting decision, it quickly became a political flashpoint, with critics linking the signing to broader concerns about national security and religious sentiments. On January 1, 2026, Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Anand Dubey issued a warning aimed at Khan — who co-owns KKR — saying that if the club allows Mustafizur Rahman to participate, the earnings he receives in the IPL might be used "to fund terrorism." Dubey suggested that removing the player from the team could earn respect, but alleged that permitting him to play would pose potential risks.



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