

ASIAN JOURNAL

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B.C.'S FUTURE DOCTORS START CLASSES AT SFU STEPHENS FAMILY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

People throughout the province are one step closer to strengthened community and primary care access, as the new Simon Fraser University (SFU) Stephens Family School of Medicine welcomes its first cohort of future doctors.

"Like many places, B.C. is facing a shortage of doctors. But our plan is making a difference - connecting thousands of people to a family doctor or nurse practitioner every week and helping B.C. lead the country in doctors per person," said Premier David Eby. "The long-term solution is to train more doctors here at home. The students starting at the SFU Stephens Family School of Medicine today will care for families through some of life's happiest and hardest moments. We need to keep building on the progress we're making to ensure care is there for you when and where you need it." On Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026, the cohort of 48 medical students have their first day of orientation in the school of medicine's interim learning space.

A curriculum for com-



munity

The new students will complete a curriculum designed to advance primary care and train doctors to provide team-based, person-centred care to serve diverse communities throughout B.C.

The three-year program will deliver a comprehensive medical education through a year-round curricu-

lum, including summer studies. Students will graduate one year quicker than many other medical schools so they can deliver care sooner.

Students will graduate with a doctor of medicine degree, and start their residencies as early as 2029. While the focus of the curriculum is community and primary care, students will be

well equipped to pursue residencies across the full range of specializations.

"We're taking action to train more doctors right here at home, so British Columbians can get the care they need, when and where they need it," said Jessie Sunner, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. "I want to congratulate the in-

augural class of medical students as they begin their journey to becoming doctors. SFU Stephens Family School of Medicine, and the students committed to receiving their medical education and serving the community, will strengthen the entire health-care system, improving access to primary care throughout B.C."

While 48 medical students make up the inaugural 2026 class, the student cohorts will increase in phases, reaching a steady state of 120 students a year by 2035. Improving access to community and primary care in B.C. requires more than just training more doctors. It also means changing how the health-care system works. That's why medical students at the SFU school of medicine will help drive that system change through: partnerships with Indigenous communities "I am incredibly excited to join the SFU Stephens Family School of Medicine this August," said Jasper Delichte, a student. "I was drawn to the program's commitment to advancing health equity through community-embedded medicine, which aligns with the kind of physician I aspire to become. I hope to build my career in a community health centre, providing trauma-informed and culturally safe care, while advocating for equitable access to health care across British Columbia."



Chal Chaliye
SABZI MANDI
Chal Chaliye ...

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ਸਬਜ਼ੀ ਮੰਡੀ ਨੂੰ ਯਾਦ ਰਖੋ

Minister's statement on July Labour Force Survey results

Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth, has issued the following statement about the release of Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for July 2026:

"At a time when the United States continues to impose tariffs and the global economy faces uncertainty, British Columbia is focused on creating opportunities here at home and expanding trade with new markets.

"Today's Labour Force Survey underscores the strength and growth of B.C.'s economy, with 17,800 new jobs in July 2026. As more people found work, B.C.'s unemployment rate fell for the second consecutive month to 6.2%, the fourth-lowest among provinces. At the same time, the province led the country in full-time employment growth, adding 32,500 full-time jobs.



"Growth was also seen across key sectors of the economy, with B.C. leading the country in manufacturing employment growth, adding 3,100 jobs in July and a total of 10,400 jobs so far this year.

"Over the past three months, B.C. has created nearly 51,000 jobs. So far in 2026, we've seen strong employment growth in health

care and the social assistance sector, as well as construction and educational services. These gains reflect continued investment in the health-care system, skills training and the infrastructure needed to support major projects and growing communities throughout the province.

"B.C.'s agriculture sector is also seeing strong

growth, with employment up 43.5% since the same time last year. Growth in agriculture helps strengthen local supply chains and build a more resilient economy in the face of global uncertainty.

"Women are also benefiting from growing opportunities in B.C. In July, women's full-time employment increased by 16,200 jobs,

the second-highest gain in Canada. Compared to a year ago, women's full-time employment is up 47,900 jobs, again ranking second among provinces, reflecting continued demand for workers across a range of industries.

"B.C. continues to be a leader in hourly wages across the nation with an average of \$38.71, the second highest among all the provinces. This province has the highest wage growth of any province, with wages increasing by 46.5% since 2017.

"Throughout British Columbia, major projects are moving from planning to construction.

"In Delta, the \$2-billion Phase B expansion of the Tilbury LNG facility will create 1,100 jobs annually during the four years of construction, while growing a made-in-B.C. indus-

try that supplies lower-emission marine fuel.

"In Prince George, Enbridge's Sunrise Expansion Program is expected to create 2,500 jobs and generate significant economic benefits for communities across northern B.C.

"Last month, LNG Canada reached an agreement with five First Nations that would provide an option to invest up to \$1 billion in the proposed second phase of the project. It's a significant example of how Indigenous communities can participate in, help shape and share in the long-term benefits of major economic development. When First Nations are true partners in projects, we can create jobs, strengthen communities and grow British Columbia's economy together.

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ASIAN JOURNAL

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Canada's only three-pitch water-based field hockey complex opens at Tamanawis Park

Surrey – City Council celebrated the completion of a third water-based synthetic turf field at Tamanawis Park, making it the only field hockey complex in Canada with three elite-level fields built for high-performance competition.

"We've seen Surrey grow into one of the country's leading destinations for field hockey, hosting major tournaments at every level, including Field Hockey Canada's 2026 U18 National Championships," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "By investing in facilities like this, we're creating more opportunities for young people to get active, build confidence, and pursue excellence in sport -- right here in Surrey."

Water-based turf – required for high-level competition – features short, dense artificial grass that is sprayed with water at intervals to provide a smooth and fast-playing surface. The \$4.94-million investment in the new field was supported through the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department



capital budget, provincial gaming revenue and the Canada Community-Building Fund.

"Our government is committed to investing in outdoor parks and recreation facilities, which support the health and wellbeing of Canadians," said Sukh Dhaliwal, Member of Parliament for Surrey Newton. "We are proud to celebrate

the completion of the Tamanawis Park Field Hockey Pitch, a place where the community can get active, play and enjoy together."

"Completion of this project is a major milestone for Surrey's Sport Tourism Strategy," said Cllr. Gordon Hepner, chair of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee. "These kinds of investments

strengthen our ability to attract national and international competitions, drive economic activity and showcase Surrey as a destination for high-performance sport."

Located in Newton, Tamanawis Park spans 19.5 acres and offers a baseball diamond, sport court, picnic shelters and walking paths that connect to the Serpentine

Greenway. Additional improvements are planned, including a new \$3.26-million fieldhouse with change rooms and washrooms. Together, these improvements represent a total investment of \$8.2 million in the park that will enhance the experience for athletes and park visitors alike. "Surrey is a world-class destination for sports, and this new field will

bring athletes together for hundreds of hours of community connection at Tamanawis Park," said Garry Begg, Parliamentary Secretary for Surrey Infrastructure and MLA for Surrey-Guildford. "Partnerships like this are a great example of how governments can work together to create positive change."

Surrey's popular \$20 tree sales return this summer

Surrey, B.C. – The City of Surrey's highly popular \$20 tree sales return this summer, giving residents an affordable way to add trees to their properties while helping grow Surrey's urban forest. The first online sale opens Aug. 18 at 9 a.m., with pickup scheduled for Sept. 13 at the Surrey Operations Centre. The second will open Sept. 29 with a pickup date of Oct. 25.



"Trees planted today will benefit Surrey for decades to come," said Mayor Brenda Locke.

"It's exciting to see so many residents take part in this program, with more than 25,000

trees purchased since it began. These affordable sales make it easy for people to beautify their properties while helping build a greener, healthier and more resilient city."

A thousand trees will be available during each sale on a first-come, first-served basis, and they often sell out quickly. To help more Surrey households participate, the

purchase limit has been set to two trees per sale. "Fall is one of the best times to plant trees, and the City's tree sale program is a meaningful and effective way for residents to help protect and grow Surrey's urban forest," said Rob Landucci, urban forestry manager. "More than half of Surrey's tree canopy is located on private property, so homeowner

participation plays an important role in growing and protecting our urban forest."

Residents can choose from a variety of fruit and ornamental trees, including apple, cherry, plum, dogwood, maple, and magnolia. Trees offered are selected for their popularity with residents, suitability for Surrey's climate, and ability to support local biodiversity.

Premier's statement about arrival of more international support to fight B.C. wildfires

Premier David Eby has issued the following statement about the arrival of support from Mexico, Australia and New Zealand to help fight wildfires in B.C.:

"As wildfires continue in British Columbia, our thoughts are with everyone who has been forced from their homes, living under evacuation alerts and orders, or dealing with the uncertainty and smoke these fires bring. We know this is an incredibly difficult time for many families and communities – and we're doing everything we can to support and protect people."

"Over the past few days, I have spoken with local leaders on the front lines of these wildfires. I have heard stories of devastation and heartbreak, but also of the remarkable resilience, compas-



sion and generosity of British Columbians.

"In the face of these challenges, communities are coming together to help those most affected. I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who is stepping up and working around the clock to protect people throughout our province. This includes the BC Wild-

fire Service, First Nations and local government leaders, local fire departments, emergency support staff and volunteers.

"This week, we are grateful to welcome a second wave of firefighters from Mexico, as well as crews from Australia and New Zealand. They will join personnel from Alberta, Quebec and

the Yukon, demonstrating the strong partnerships that exist across borders when communities are facing emergencies.

"British Columbia has long stood alongside our neighbours when they have needed help. Our wildfire personnel have supported other provinces, territories and countries

during challenging wildfire seasons. We extend our sincere thanks to every firefighter who has travelled far from home to help protect people and communities throughout our province.

"Wildfire conditions are challenging in many parts of the province and we are bracing for difficult conditions in the weeks ahead. The additional people and resources arriving this week will help strengthen our response as crews continue their tireless work. The BC Wildfire Service is closely monitoring conditions and deploying resources where they are needed most.

"We encourage everyone to stay informed by monitoring local emergency information. The best way to avoid long lines at reception centres and ensure you and your

family get support quickly is to pre-register for Emergency Support Services by calling the helpline at 1-800-387-4258 or visiting: <https://ess.gov.bc.ca>

"Follow evacuation orders and alerts if they are issued and check the latest wildfire conditions before travelling. Smoke can affect people far from active fires, so people should also take steps to protect their health when air quality deteriorates.

"To everyone affected by this wildfire season: know that you are not facing this alone. We will continue working with local governments, First Nations, emergency responders and our partners across Canada and around the world, to keep people safe and support communities through this challenging period."

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Strengthening consumer protection in B.C.

People in B.C. have stronger protections against automatic contract renewals, high-pressure direct sales and other business practices that can lead to unexpected costs.

"When people are focused on managing the cost of living, they shouldn't have to worry about paying for services they no longer want or getting locked into unfair contract terms," said Niki Sharma, Attorney General. "Our government is committed to saving people money, and stronger protections like these will help reduce unexpected charges, increase transparency around renewals and make it easier for people to cancel services when they choose." Amendments to the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act that came into effect on Sat-



urday, Aug. 1, 2026, modernize B.C.'s consumer protection laws that regulate consumer contracts to better reflect the marketplace, promote fairness and transparency, strengthen consumer rights and help people make informed financial decisions.

The measures will better protect people from unclear contract terms, unexpected automatic subscription renewals of services, such as food delivery and stream-

ing subscriptions, and predatory sales practices on everyday items and services.

"As the regulator responsible for administering consumer protection laws in this province, we welcome these changes to reduce risks and enhance protections for consumers," said Tayt Winnitoy, acting president and CEO, Consumer Protection BC. "Both businesses and consumers now have the information they need to understand how these changes will affect them."

Strengthening contract transparency and fairness

The new amendments introduce rules to prevent people from being charged for unwanted renewals and protect against one-sided terms that allow businesses to unilaterally change the terms of a con-

tract. The changes apply to any business that offers subscription services, including internet, phone, streaming, food delivery and other renewable services.

Changes include:

introducing rules against automatic renewal of subscription contracts without advance notice to customers, so people can decide if they want to renew a subscription and are not charged unexpectedly introducing a requirement for businesses to allow cancellation of a subscription renewal at any time, before or after the renewal date, without charge or other penalty ban high-pressure door-to-door or direct sales for certain high-cost household products and services, such as air conditioners and furnaces ban offering or arranging credit as part

of a direct sale, reducing the risk of predatory loan-term tactics often used in door-to-door sales

"I had to sign up for a subscription to purchase gum from an online business, which was complicated to cancel, and I was charged for another order before my first package even arrived," said Hanna Wahlberg, a consumer from Vancouver. "I'm still waiting for a refund months later, even though the company claims to provide moneyback guarantee with full refund within 30 days. I'm glad these new rules are being introduced because they will help people avoid surprise renewals and have more control over what they are buying."

The new rules will protect vulnerable consumers, including seniors, newcomers

and people with lower incomes or disabilities, and help people save money.

"Better Business Bureau regularly hears from consumers who did not realize they had signed up for a subscription, were surprised by an automatic renewal or struggled to understand how to cancel a service," said Simone Lis, president and CEO, Better Business Bureau, B.C. and Yukon. "Clearer contracts and stronger rules around renewals and cancellations can help prevent that confusion before it becomes a complaint. These protections give consumers greater confidence, while helping responsible businesses strengthen customer relationships, uphold transparent business practices and compete on a more level playing field."

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Face is it drooping?

Arms can you raise both?

Speech is it slurred or jumbled?

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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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"Together with \$88 billion in proposed major projects advancing through the province, these investments are creating opportunities for workers, businesses, communities and Indigenous partners.

"Young people continue to play an important role in B.C.'s workforce, with youth employment gaining 3,800 new jobs in July, the second largest increase in Canada. As new projects move forward throughout the province, we are working to ensure

young people in British Columbia can access the training, education and skills they need to connect to the opportunities being created. Recent investments in skilled-trades training have expanded the number of trades seats available at institutions in B.C. by 5,000, helping more people prepare for in-demand careers. In addition, the opening of B.C.'s new medical school at Simon Fraser University is helping train the next generation of health workers who will care for our growing province and build on the strong employment growth seen in health care and the social assistance sector since last year.

"Through our Look West strategy, we are investing in major infrastructure, critical minerals, energy, tourism, and trade opportunities that diversify our economy and reduce our reliance on the U.S.

"British Columbia cannot control global uncertainty, but we can control how we prepare for it. By investing in major projects, training the next generation of workers and opening new markets, we are creating good jobs today, while building a stronger, more resilient economy for the future."

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(R) ***

Lady Luck!

All the luck in the world is needed for a woman out to protect her daughter in the action-packed *Seven Snipers*. Based somewhat loosely on the famed Japanese classic *Seven Samurai* Well Go USA Entertainment has "modernized" Akira Kurosawa's fabled masterpiece. See the results on Blu-ray and DVD as well as on digital for those who just can't wait. Contact your local cable company or internet provider to see *Seven Snipers*.

Sunny dusty Australia is the perfect place for a getaway. Out to build a new life and doing a good job of it so far is macho woman Voodoo Child. Don't you just love that name! Australian actress Radha Mitchell puts on a brave face as her past is about to come calling. Once upon a time Voodoo was a top notch sniper in the army. That past

becomes a liability as an evil warlord called Dragon decides her lease on life is up. Time's up as stone faced killer Tim Roth (*Planet of the Apes*) meticulously stalks this lone-some lady, now aided and defended by some crew from her past?

Survival is the order of the day in this hunt thriller that's dripping with tension - and blood. With a gritty and grimy atmosphere director Sandra Sciberras achieves here her aim in this violent surreal thriller,



MANOJ BAJPAYEE'S GOVERNOR TOPS PRIME VIDEO INDIA CHARTS AFTER LEADING RENTAL RANKINGS

Manoj Bajpayee's latest film, *Governor*, has reached the No. 1 spot on Prime Video's overall movie trending charts in India following its move from the rental service to regular streaming. The film, backed by Sunshine Pictures and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah, is based on the 1991 financial crisis and explores the story of an unsung figure whose decisions played an important role during the period of economic uncertainty. Directed by Chinmay Mandlekar, *Governor* first released in theatres, where it drew attention for its subject and realistic portrayal of a significant chapter

in India's economic history. Following its theatrical run, the film made its digital debut on Prime Video's rental service before becoming available for regular streaming to subscribers in India. During its initial OTT release, *Governor* climbed to the top of Prime Video's Rent Charts, surpassing several international titles, including *Obsession*. After becoming available to all Prime Video subscribers, the film continued its digital run by securing the No. 1 position on the platform's overall movie trending charts in India.



AVIKA GOR HOSPITALISED WITH DENGUE AFTER FIVE DAYS OF HIGH FEVER

Avika Gor, who rose to fame as Anandi in the popular television show *Balika Vadhu*, has been hospitalised after being diagnosed with dengue. The actor had been battling a high fever for five days before she was admitted to the hospital. Her husband, Milind Chandwani, shared an update on her health and requested fans to keep her

in their prayers as she recovers. On Friday, Milind shared a video on Instagram in which he revealed that Avika had been admitted the previous night. He also spoke about how she continued to fulfil her professional commitments despite suffering from a high fever.



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2026 Ford Mustang Mach-E California Special - Fast and capable!

Review by Veenoo De-
wan.

The legendary California Special trim package known as the 2026 Mustang Mach-E GT California Special (GT/CS) is based on the current Mustang Mach-E GT model. The California Special is a purely cosmetic upgrade and the Electric powertrain and power output is unchanged with the performance GT models 480 hp and 700 lb-ft of torque. It retains the dual-motor AWD setup of the standard Mach-E GT, and MagneRide damping.

The California Special uses the Rave Blue hood stripe, an illuminated Rave Blue Ford pony emblem at the front, and 20-inch carbonized grey wheels with gloss black aero covers.

Inside, the blue theme continues with GT performance seats that are upholstered in ActiveX and Miko (a synthetic leather and cloth, amaterial.) that are finished in d Navy Pier blue. The seat also gain a silver stripe highlight. New carpets match the blue and silver theming of the upholstery.

The cabin has been refined over the last few years for the Mach-E and remains a high quality, roomy and comfortable place to be. The California Special trim, color upgrade and contrast colour details really do set off the interior.



The front GT sports are body hugging and provide good lateral and lumbar support. They also feature 8-way power and 2-way lumbar adjustment. Controls wise, there are few buttons in the Mach-E's cabin - most of the functions are operated via the crisp 15.5-inch portrait screen that has dominates the dashboard. It operates with the proprietary Ford SYNC 4 software with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. A smaller 10.2-inch display sits ahead of the driver. A nice thick-rimmed wheel with

remains with handy audio and cruise buttons. The main climate controls thankfully has it main driver as a large physical dial. The Mach-E California has the GT spec upgraded Bang & Olufsen premium audio system. The rear cabin fits two adults fit easily, while the middle seat is flatter and firmer for a third passenger. Cabin storage is reasonable with cup holders, and a few cubbyholes. The rear cargo area offers 29.7 cu ft with the seats up and 59.7 cu ft when folded. There is also a 12-volt outlet, and tie-

downs. The rear seat does fold down for more cargo room.

The Active safety system include blind-spot warning, rear cross-traffic alert, forward collision warning, lane keep assist, and adaptive cruise control. The semi-Autonomous BlueCruise hands-free driving system uses infrared sensors on the steering column to monitor driver attention.

On the road, with 480 horsepower and 700 ft-lbs of torque, the CS/GT has tremendous acceleration from standing starts and is a thrill to

drive. The stable, heavy platform inspires confidence and the all-out performance GT model underpinning offers a smooth ride on all surfaces. The suspension dampers, traction control, and steering for more feel and control on different terrain. Braking is very good with short stellar ability and shorter distances with the performance brake discs front and rear. The steering response is at all times sharp and well calibrated. The CS/GT proved to be a satisfying, planted, and easy to drive vehicle

with light trial capability.

The California Special; version of the GT is great addition to the well-proven Ford Mustang Mach-E line up. It is more expensive, but looks distinctive and well worth the extra cost if you need to stand out from the crowd. The Ford Mustang Mach-E is one of my favourite Electric SUV's. Highly recommended it as a top buy. 2026 Mustang Mach-E California Special - Price as tested - \$83,865.



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