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The Launch of the Canadian Hispanic Latin American Virtual Museum (CHLAVM)

The dream of many years, of creating a virtual museum to celebrate the contributions of the over 1.2-million-strong Spanish-speaking community in Canada, became a reality for Elvira Sanchez de Malicki and the Canadian Hispanic Congress, on April 20, 2024, with the launch of “Heritage Ceremonial Costumes, Keeping Identity Alive”, the premier exhibit of the Canadian Hispanic Latin American Virtual Museum (CHLAVM).



This first installment of the CHLAVM presents some cultural celebrations and costumes from Ecuador, Uruguay and Bolivia, through 360-degree angle visualisations of each country’s heritage ceremonial costumes. This virtual museum is intended to become a digital repository of the extensive community experience of over twenty-one countries representing Spanish-speaking culture in Canada.

Unique in its approach, this virtual museum represents a collection of sound files, digitally recorded images, text documents and other data of cultural interest that is now accessible through electronic media and open to the public.

Differently from a physical museum that is designed to protect its artifacts and pieces, by keeping visitors from interacting with them, the CHLAVM, through its virtual tours, allows for customized rotation of its elements to view its collection pieces and artifacts from all angles, in order to maximize interaction and deliver a personalized experience for the visitor.

Funded by the Government of Canada’s Museums Assistance Programme, the initiative is supported by several academic institutions, including the University of Guelph, Durham College and Humber College, whose Faculty of Media and Creative Arts hosted the project launch event on 20 April 2024, an event that sold out immediately after the announcement was made.

Keram Malicki-Sanchez, Director of Constant Change Media, Creative Director and Project Developer of the Canadian Hispanic Latin American Virtual Museum has captured the spirit and vision of this project, conceived to showcase the powerful, evolving, centuries-old, narrative of the Spanish-speaking community in Canada.

Visitors to the CHLAVM can choose between the English, French and Spanish languages, as well as having the ability to activate subtitles and many other accessibility features. Visit: chlavm.ca or email info@chlavm.ca for more information.



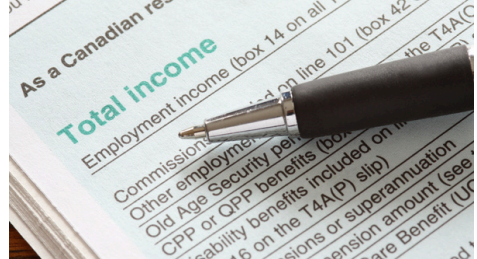
The Wealth Tax Debate: Perspectives on Canada’s New Budget Proposal

The Canadian government, under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, has unveiled a federal budget imposing higher taxes on the wealthiest citizens. The proposal aims to increase the capital gains inclusion rate, affecting only 0.1% of Canadians with capital gains above \$250,000.



Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland defended the tax hike, emphasizing the need for economic justice. The budget promises \$53 billion in new spending, focusing on younger generations. However, the Liberal government is facing criticism and dwindling poll numbers, with doubts about its ability to improve prospects. Amongst them, is a group of Canadian entrepreneurs and investors criticizing the federal government’s budget for its proposal to increase taxes on the wealthy.

Although the budget aims to raise revenue by increasing the capital gains inclusion rate, it may also be affecting a small percentage of Canadians and companies. Critics argue that this move could discourage investment and entrepreneurship, leading to a potential brain drain and further worsening Canada’s productivity issues.



However, supporters of the tax change suggest it will only impact the wealthiest individuals and is necessary for creating a fairer tax system. Despite differing opinions, the debate highlights concerns about the balance between encouraging innovation and ensuring economic stability.



Canada’s Healthcare – The Struggle to Mobilize Canada’s Dental Care Plan (CDCP) for Seniors

Canada’s Health Minister, Mark Holland, assures that “hundreds of thousands” of seniors will benefit from subsidized dental care through the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), despite challenges in dentist sign-ups.

The program aims to eventually provide dental insurance to a quarter of Canadians, starting with residents aged 70 and older. Holland acknowledges potential hurdles in the roll-out but emphasizes scaling up the existing system to meet demand. Concerns arise from slow sign-up rates among oral health-care providers due to administrative burdens, although Holland promises efforts to simplify the billing process.



Despite enthusiasm for the initiative, seniors like Julie Kelsey, a Halifax resident, expressed skepticism and frustration over uncertainties and difficulties in accessing dental care after discovering that her dentist, despite her eligibility, will not be participating.

The program has started its operations with the dentists who have currently signed up to provide that care.



Investing in the Mental Health of Canadians - Canada's Investment in Mental 500-Million Fund Launch for Support

The Canadian government, led by Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Ya'ara Saks, has announced the establishment of a \$500-million fund to enhance mental health care for young people through community health organizations.



During a recent press conference, minister Saks highlighted the increasing stress and anxiety faced by Canadians due to various factors such as geopolitical unrest and climate change, emphasizing the lack of coping tools for young individuals. While a similar fund was promised during the 2021 election campaign for post-secondary institutions, it remains unclear whether this new fund fulfills that commitment.



The decision to focus on community organizations aims to provide support to young people beyond post-secondary campuses. This initiative is part of the Liberal government's broader efforts, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emphasizing a budget focus on assisting young people in owning or renting affordable homes.



Renewing Ontario's Energy with \$1 Billion Investment in Hydro Dams



Ontario plans to invest \$1 billion in extending the life of its largest hydroelectric dams, the Sir Adam Beck I and II generating stations on the Niagara River. Together, these stations contribute nine percent of the province's electricity.

The refurbishment project is to be carried out by GE Vernova, a company contracted by Ontario Power Generation, and it aims to replace most existing generating units with new equipment, such as turbines, starting in 2025 and lasting for 15 years. This initiative will extend the life of about 1,700 megawatts of hydro supply, enough to power approximately 1.7 million homes. The announcement made by Energy Ministry Todd Smith, aligns with Ontario's broader strategy of refurbishing and expanding electricity generation facilities, including potential expansions in nuclear power and the construction of new small modular reactors.



Despite some criticism regarding increased carbon emissions from gas-fired power plants, the province anticipates a 59 percent rise in electricity demand by 2050 due to population growth and the shift away from fossil fuels in other sectors.



Canada's Space Sector Boosted in Federal Budget 2024

The Canadian government's 2024 budget announced significant support for the country's space sector, both in terms of money and vision for future projects, with a special focus on lunar exploration.

The newly stated funding includes \$8.6 million allocated to the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) for the Lunar Exploration Accelerator Program (LEAP), aimed at advancing technologies for lunar missions. In addition, the budget introduces the creation of a National Space Council to coordinate space exploration efforts across government agencies.



The announcement has been well-received by Space Canada, an organization representing numerous space sector companies, including some of Canada's largest, including Magellan Aerospace and MDA Space, as they emphasized the economic and employment benefits of investment in space technology. The budget also outlines plans for Canada's involvement in the Lunar Gateway project, including the development of Canadarm3, an international space station slated to orbit the moon functioning as a launching pad for astronauts bound for the moon and beyond.



According to Mike Greenley, CEO of MDA Space, the Lunar Gateway presents an excellent opportunity for Canada and MDA Space to not just develop the next iteration of Canadarm robotics but also establish a strong presence as a key national and industry player in the Artemis era.

NASA has announced plans to commence construction of the Lunar Gateway starting 2025.



Canada's Laws and Reforms for Proposed in 2024 Budget

The 2024 federal budget, introduced on April 16th, encompasses numerous new laws and amendments, addressing a wide range of topics from revisions to the Criminal Code to guidelines on relaxation for public servants.



Here are some of the key points the newly announced budget introduced as legislative proposals aimed at reaching different aspects of Canadian life.

1. Establishing a "Right to Disconnect": A proposed policy that aims to limit work-related communication outside of scheduled hours to maintain a healthier work-life balance.
2. Cellular Service Amendments: Amendments to the Telecommunications Act aim to also seek to facilitate easier plan switching and identify lower-cost options for consumers.
3. Regulation of Payday Loan Industry: Proposed changes aim to lower the criminal interest rate on payday loans and ban offering credit at criminal rates. The amendments also empower law enforcement to prosecute illegal lenders more effectively.
4. Open Banking: The government plans to introduce legislation for open banking, allowing consumers to access their data across various institutions.
5. Auto Theft Offenses: Harsher penalties are proposed for auto theft-related crimes, including those involving violence, organized crime, or the use of young offenders. Additionally, regulations on the sale and possession of car theft devices are to be tightened.
6. Judicial Vacancies: Funding for unused judicial positions will be reallocated, particularly targeting provinces with vacancies.
7. Housing Crisis Measures: The budget includes funding to address Canada's housing crisis, including the construction of homes on public lands such as Canada Post and National Defence properties.
8. Exploring Halal Mortgages: The government plans to explore measures to expand access to alternative financing products, such as halal mortgages, for religious communities with restrictions on interest payments.
9. Ticket Sales Practices: The budget addresses concerns over ticket prices for events like concerts and sports, pledging to work with provinces to adopt best practices and crack down on fraudulent sellers.

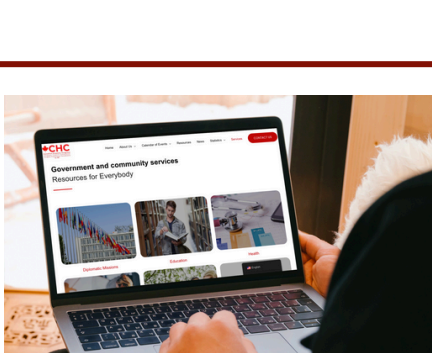
While the budget outlines various proposals, specifics on implementation and timelines are yet to be provided for many initiatives.



Resources for Everybody

The Canadian Hispanic Congress displays details about government and community services available to all. From health and employment to free language courses and immigration assistance. For more information, visit:

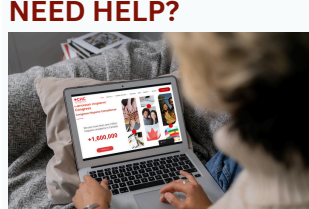
<https://canadianhispaniccongress.com/education/>



CHC Community Services

The Canadian Hispanic Congress invites you to visit our website and learn about the different resources and support made available by the government and community organizations!

NEED HELP?



Visit our Webpage
Learn about the different resources and supports for the entire family.

To sign up for our newsletter please email us at: membership@canadianhispaniccongress.com

We ask for your support by following us on our social media accounts shown below.

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