

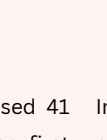


Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress,
 We are delighted to share our June 2024 newsletter.
 We are very grateful for your support.
 Warmly,
 Monique Forster
 President
 Canadian Hispanic Congress

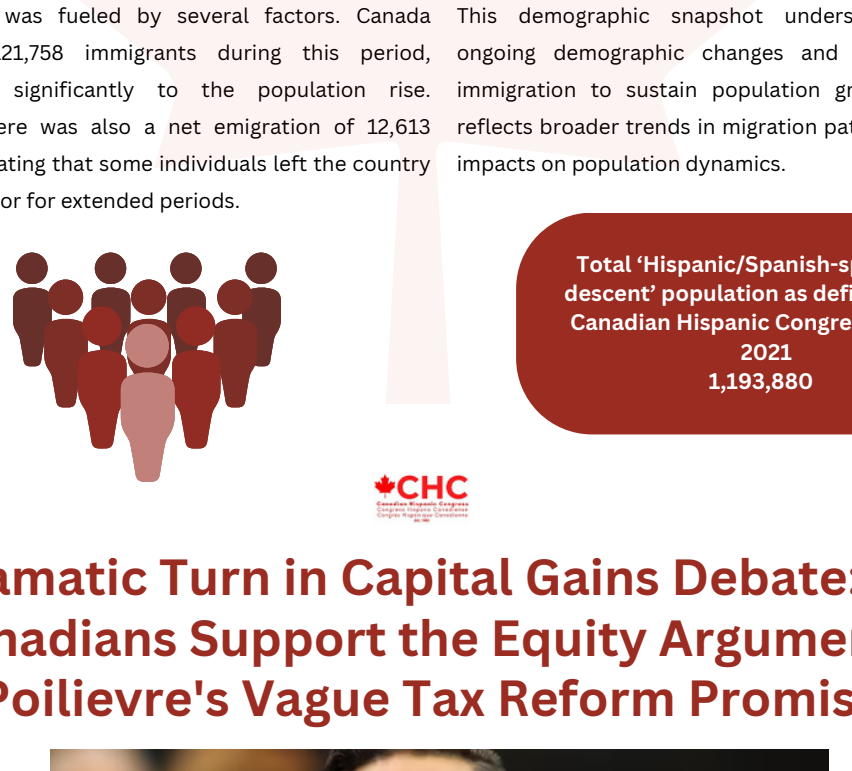


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Canada's population tops 41 million

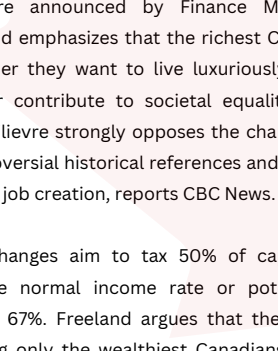


As of April 1, the population of Canada surpassed 41 million people, marking a growth of 0.6% in the first quarter of the year, according to Statistics Canada. The population reached 41,012,563, with an increase of 242,673 individuals since the beginning of 2024 reports CTV News.

The growth was fueled by several factors. Canada welcomed 121,758 immigrants during this period, contributing significantly to the population rise. However, there was also a net emigration of 12,613 people, indicating that some individuals left the country permanently or for extended periods.

In addition to permanent residents, Canada saw an addition of 131,810 non-permanent residents, such as temporary workers and students, further boosting the population figures. Statistics Canada highlighted that much of the growth in non-permanent residents occurred before announcements about upcoming caps on permits for this group in 2024.

This demographic snapshot underscores Canada's ongoing demographic changes and its reliance on immigration to sustain population growth. The data reflects broader trends in migration patterns and policy impacts on population dynamics.



Total 'Hispanic/Spanish-speaking or descent' population as defined by the Canadian Hispanic Congress (CHC) in 2021
 1,193,880



Dramatic Turn in Capital Gains Debate: Will Canadians Support the Equity Argument or Poilievre's Vague Tax Reform Promise?



The Canadian Liberal government's proposed changes to capital gains taxes were announced by Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland. Freeland emphasizes that the richest Canadians should reflect on whether they want to live luxuriously in a degraded public sphere or contribute to societal equality. Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre strongly opposes the changes, releasing a video with controversial historical references and arguing that the tax hike will harm job creation, reports CBC News.

Poilievre challenges Freeland to ensure that no middle-class workers, such as welders or farmers, are affected. The Conservatives echo concerns from the Canadian Medical Association and the Grain Growers of Canada, suggesting the changes could hinder doctor recruitment and increase taxes on farm transfers.

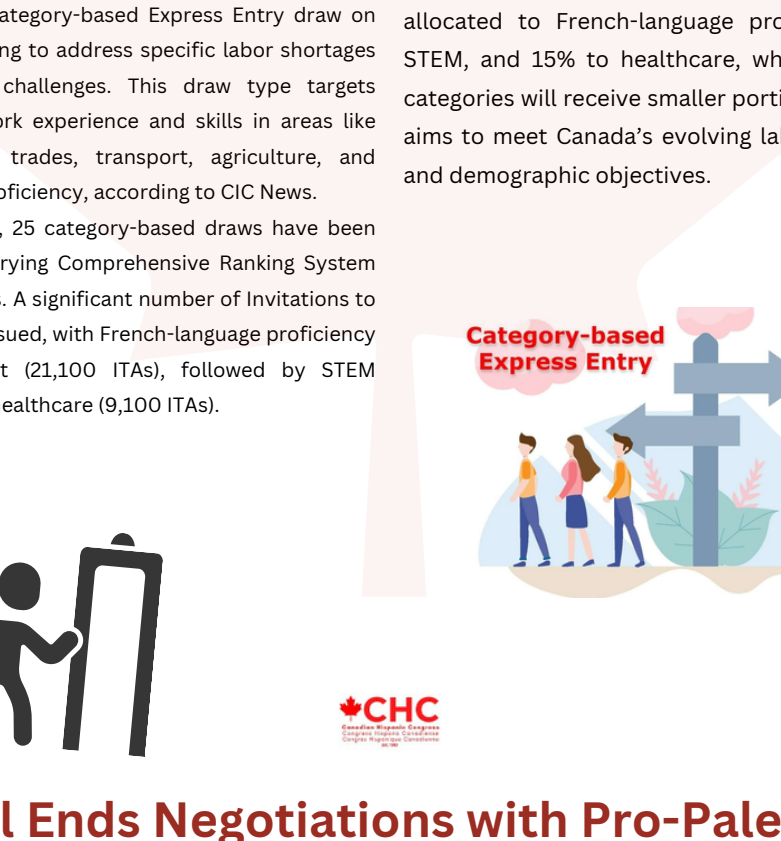
Critics argue that raising the inclusion rate could drag the economy, with the tech sector fearing reduced investment. The proposed changes are expected to raise \$19.4 billion over five years, funding housing, pharmacare, and dental care.

The proposed changes aim to tax 50% of capital gains over \$250,000 at the normal income rate or potentially set the inclusion rate at 67%. Freeland argues that the changes target fairness, affecting only the wealthiest Canadians, with 0.13% of Canadians, averaging \$1.4 million annually, paying more. However, this figure may overstate the long-term impact, with 4.3% of tax filers potentially affected over their lifetimes.

Poilievre promises tax reform if elected, proposing a task force to develop lower, simpler, and fairer taxes, but this plan lacks clarity on offsetting potential revenue losses. The upcoming election may feature a complex tax debate, with the Liberals focusing on funding social programs through higher capital gains taxes and the Conservatives advocating for tax cuts and reforms.



Canada to Designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Terrorist Group After Years of Pressure; Announcement Expected This Week



The Canadian government is poised to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization under Canada's Criminal Code, following years of advocacy from groups such as the Association of Flight P5752 Victims and the Iranian Canadian community. This designation, expected as early as this week, will allow law enforcement to charge individuals who support the IRGC and enable banks to freeze their assets, reporting CBC News.

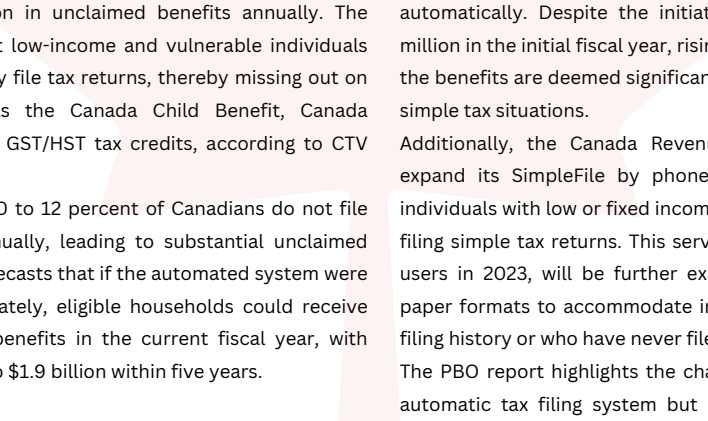
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had previously expressed concerns that listing the IRGC as a terrorist entity could unfairly impact Iranians in Canada who were compelled to serve in the IRGC. The government had already designated the Quds Force, a branch of the IRGC, as a terrorist organization and taken action through immigration laws to address Iran's conduct. However, these measures were seen as insufficient by victims' families and advocates.

The IRGC, a branch of the Iranian armed forces answering directly to Iran's supreme leader, was responsible for downing Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 in January 2020, killing 176 people, including 55 Canadian citizens and 30 permanent residents. The victims' families have campaigned for the IRGC's terrorist designation since the tragedy.

Recent calls for the IRGC's designation were intensified after Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel, highlighting the IRGC's connections with other militant groups. Trudeau has now committed to finding responsible ways to proceed with the terrorist designation of the IRGC.



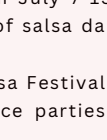
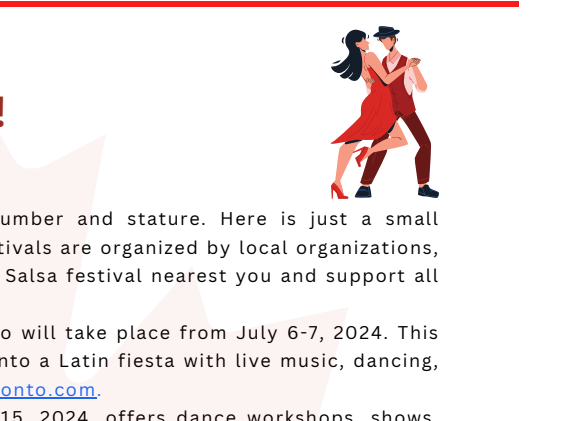
Category-Based Express Entry Draws: A Year in Review



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) launched its first category-based Express Entry draw on June 28, 2023, aiming to address specific labor shortages and demographic challenges. This draw type targets candidates with work experience and skills in areas like healthcare, STEM, trades, transport, agriculture, and French-language proficiency, according to CIC News.

For 2024, IRCC plans to distribute ITAs with 30% allocated to French-language proficiency, 25% to STEM, and 15% to healthcare, while the remaining categories will receive smaller portions. This strategy aims to meet Canada's evolving labor market needs and demographic objectives.

Over the past year, 25 category-based draws have been conducted, with varying Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) cut-off scores. A significant number of Invitations to Apply (ITAs) were issued, with French-language proficiency receiving the most (21,100 ITAs), followed by STEM (10,900 ITAs), and healthcare (9,100 ITAs).



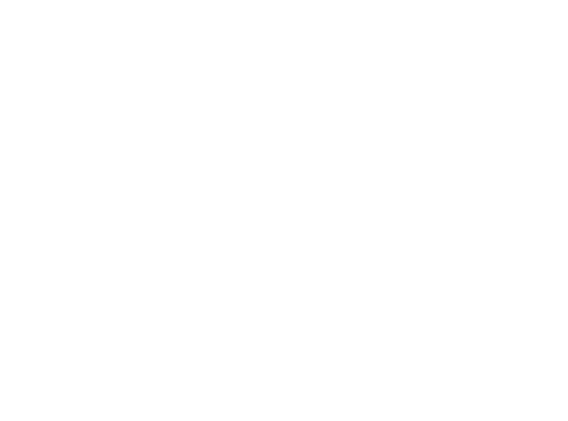
McGill Ends Negotiations with Pro-Palestinian Protesters, Plans Disciplinary Actions; Academic Amnesty Withdrawn



In recent developments at McGill University's downtown Montreal campus, the administration has declared an end to negotiations with pro-Palestinian activists who have maintained an encampment since late April. McGill cited the activists' refusal to compromise on their demands and accused them of obstructing fair discussions. The university expressed disappointment over the impasse despite offering proposals such as exploring divestment from weapons manufacturers and expanding investment disclosures, according to the Canadian Press.

Despite McGill's intentions to pursue legal measures and involve law enforcement, Montreal police have yet to intervene, classifying the encampment as a civil matter. The standoff underscores broader tensions and calls for justice concerning Palestine, resonating within McGill's academic community and beyond. The situation remains fluid pending legal proceedings and further administrative actions.

In response, encampment organizers rejected McGill's latest offer, insisting on concrete actions including divestment from Israeli military-related investments and severing ties with Israeli institutions. They criticized McGill's approach as stalling and emphasized their determination to continue protesting. McGill has now withdrawn the amnesty offer and plans disciplinary actions, potentially including expulsion, against participants. The university described the encampment as an unauthorized occupation leading to disruptive incidents and substantial costs.



New Tax Filing System Could Unlock Over \$1 Billion in Unclaimed Benefits for Canadians: PBO

The Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) report highlights the potential benefits of implementing an automatic tax filing system for Canada, estimating that eligible households could access over \$1 billion in unclaimed benefits annually. The system aims to assist low-income and vulnerable individuals who may not regularly file tax returns, thereby missing out on entitlements such as the Canada Child Benefit, Canada Workers Benefit, and GST/HST tax credits, according to CTV News.

The proposed system, first introduced in the 2023 federal budget, aims to streamline the filing process by leveraging existing tax information to complete returns for non-filers automatically. Despite the initiative's potential cost of \$57 million in the initial fiscal year, rising to \$65 million by 2028-29, the benefits are deemed significant, particularly for those with simple tax situations.

Currently, between 10 to 12 percent of Canadians do not file their tax returns annually, leading to substantial unclaimed benefits. The PBO forecasts that if the automated system were implemented immediately, eligible households could receive over \$1.6 billion in benefits in the current fiscal year, with expectations to rise to \$1.9 billion within five years.

Additionally, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) plans to expand its SimpleFile by phone service, aimed at eligible individuals with low or fixed incomes, or those with a history of filing simple tax returns. This service, which saw over 50,000 users in 2023, will be further expanded through digital and paper formats to accommodate individuals with gaps in their filing history or who have never filed before.

The PBO report highlights the challenges of implementing an automatic tax filing system but emphasizes its potential to lower barriers and improve access to critical financial benefits for vulnerable Canadians.

Salsa Festivals in Canada!

Across Canada, Salsa festivals are growing in number and stature. Here is just a small sampling of them. These and many other Salsa festivals are organized by local organizations, so we suggest you check local sources to find the Salsa festival nearest you and support all these cultural initiatives.

The TD Salsa on St. Clair Street Festival in Toronto will take place from July 6-7, 2024. This legendary festival transforms downtown Toronto into a Latin fiesta with live music, dancing, cuisine, and more. For more details, visit salsaintoronto.com.

The Montreal Salsa Festival, running from July 7-15, 2024, offers dance workshops, shows, parties, and special events for all levels of salsa dancers. More information can be found at montrealsalsaconvention.com.

From July 13-16, 2024, the Vancouver Salsa Festival will celebrate the passion for salsa with concerts, classes, competitions, and dance parties. Visit latindancecalendar.com for more details.

Finally, the Calgary Salsa Congress, taking place from July 20-22, 2024, brings together salsaeros from across the country to enjoy intensive workshops, world-class shows, and unforgettable parties. Additional information is available at danceevent.ca/cisc/home.

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.

Edited by: Valentina Barragán and Monique Forster

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Scan this QR code to access to our web page.

SEP | 7 | 2024 PEARSON CONVENTION CENTRE 2638 STEELES AVE EAST, BRAMPTON, ONTARIO **Cocktails: 6:00p.m. Dinner: 7:00p.m.**

EARLY BIRD UNTIL AUGUST 1st, 2024 \$120 PER PERSON - \$1,000 PER TABLE OF 10 **TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH EVENTBRITE** \$140 PER PERSON - \$1,300 PER TABLE OF 10

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ELDY AT (416) 627-4694