



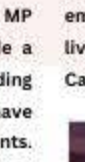
Canadian Hispanic Congress
 Congreso Hispanico Canadiense
 Congresso Hispanique Canadiense
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Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress,
 We are happy to share our October 2024 newsletter.
 We appreciate your support.
 Warmly,
 Monique Forster
 President
 Canadian Hispanic Congress

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40th Anniversary Gala. Thank You for Joining us!



The Gala to celebrate the 40th. Anniversary of the Canadian Hispanic Congress was a great success. The September 7, 2024 Gala was meant as a celebration by the CHC, of the important impact and contributions of the Latino-Hispanic Canadian community.

The Canadian Hispanic Congress has been recognized as one of the most important Spanish-speaking organizations and it is one of the oldest in Canada. This 40th celebration for CHC was attended by members of the Canadian Parliament as well as members of municipal and provincial governments and prominent members of the Spanish-speaking community in Canada.

Representing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Federal MP and former Minister of Immigration Judy Sgro, made a presentation to the CHC, congratulating and applauding the work of the various groups that over the years have been the CHC and have contributed to its achievements. This elegant event brought together not only several members of the Board and current staff of the Canadian Hispanic Congress, but also attracted several members of previous CHC Boards of Directors.



In addition to an exquisite five-course dinner, an open bar, performances by well-known artists, and folkloric groups, dancing with a well-known DJ, our guests attended an Augmented Reality presentation by our community partners FIVARS, as well as having the opportunity to participate in the silent auction.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening for the Canadian Hispanic Congress, was providing the opportunity for our guests to converse and share ideas and experiences with friends, family and members of other organizations serving our community. After all, celebrating our accomplishments as a community and connecting and empowering the Hispanic Latin American community living in Canada continue to be the goals of all of us at the Canadian Hispanic Congress.

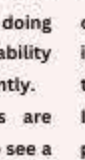
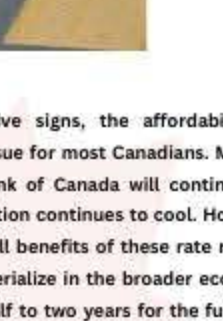
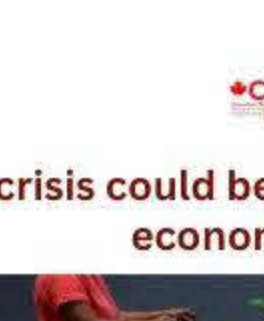
The 7th Annual Latin American & Hispanic Day on the Hill



October has become synonymous with the celebration of all things Hispanic and Latin American. The month of October, around the world, represents the month of recognition and appreciation for the many important contributions that Hispanics and Latin Americans make to the world. On October 20, 2018, the House of Commons passed Bill S-218, officially making the month of October, Latin American Heritage Month in Canada.

This is a culmination of a celebration that began in the City of Toronto in 2014 with the proclamation of the celebration of October as Hispanic Heritage Month in the city, and this celebration reached the Ontario Legislative Assembly in 2016. Historians maintain that the 1st Hispanic Latin American Day on the Hill (Capitol Hill) drew some 80 Hispanics and Latin Americans from across Canada. The pandemic years notwithstanding, on the 7th celebration of Hispanic Latin American Day on the Hill upwards of 600 Spanish speakers made the pilgrimage to the Hill, to join other Spanish speakers, politicians from all parties, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, on his first time attending this important celebration.

Hosting Hispanic Latin American Canadians for this celebration were Member of Parliament Julie Dzerowicz, Minister Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Minister Pablo Rodriguez, Member of Parliament and Former Immigration Minister Judy Sgro and Senator Rosa Galvez along with other Ministers and Members of Parliament. Prime Minister Trudeau told the assembled crowd that "...with their so many contributions, Latin Americans and Hispanic communities are making what is already the best country on earth even better" adding that of the many questions world leaders could ask a Canadian prime minister, they enquire about how it is that in Canada, people remain prosperous, welcoming and warm. He answers that immigrants need not lose their identity to become proud Canadians. Immigrants feel encouraged to contribute their identities and add to the rich diversity embraced by Canadian society. On October 2, 2024, the 7th Hispanic Latin American Day On The Hill was an inspired celebration of the contributions and achievements of Hispanic and Latin American Canadians.



Affordability crisis could be reaching its peak in Canada, economist says



According to CTV News, Canada's affordability crisis may be reaching its peak as the inflation rate finally hit the Bank of Canada's 2% target in August 2024. This milestone signals some relief for the economy, though critical costs like housing and food remain significant challenges for Canadians. David Macdonald, a senior economist at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, emphasized that while these essential costs continue to rise, they are doing so at a slower pace. This means that while the affordability crisis remains severe, it is unlikely to worsen significantly. Macdonald explained that although rent prices are currently at an all-time high, Canadians may begin to see a decrease in rental costs by the end of 2024, driven in part by falling mortgage interest rates. However, for many Canadians, the current housing situation remains difficult. Along with this, other areas of the economy are already experiencing deflation. Categories such as furniture, appliances, clothing, and footwear are seeing price declines, providing some relief to consumers.

Despite these positive signs, the affordability crisis remains a pressing issue for most Canadians. Macdonald predicts that the Bank of Canada will continue to cut interest rates as inflation continues to cool. However, he cautioned that the full benefits of these rate reductions will take time to materialize in the broader economy. "It takes a year-and-a-half to two years for the full benefits of lower interest rates to be seen," Macdonald noted, indicating that Canadians may not feel the impact of these measures until 2026. In the meantime, affordability challenges are likely to persist, particularly in housing and food, even as some other sectors show signs of easing prices. Macdonald's analysis provides a cautiously optimistic outlook, suggesting that while the force of the crisis may be over, Canadians will continue to face financial pressure as the economy gradually adjusts.



New Blow for Trudeau in Canada After Losing Long-Held Seat



As reported by BBC News, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party has lost a key parliamentary seat in a special election in Montreal, further increasing pressure on him to step down. This is the second loss in three months for Trudeau's minority government. Liberal candidate Laura Palestini finished second behind Bloc Quebecois candidate Louis-Philippe Sauvé in the LaSalle-Émard-Verdun district.

After nine years as prime minister, Trudeau's approval rating has fallen from 63% to 28%, according to polls. This indicates that the Liberals may lose the next election to the Conservatives, the official opposition in Canada's parliament.

Calls for Trudeau's resignation have come from within his party, but he remains committed to leading the Liberals into the next election, set for October 2025. The by-election followed the resignation of former Liberal minister David Lametti, who had held the seat since 2015. In June, the Liberals also lost a Toronto seat they had held for 30 years. Meanwhile, the NDP has hinted at pulling out of its agreement with the Liberals, potentially triggering early elections. Despite these challenges, the NDP narrowly retained a seat in a by-election in Winnipeg.



Marc Miller announces new actions to protect the immigration system



According to Immigration News Canada, Immigration Minister Marc Miller has announced new measures to strengthen the security and efficiency of Canada's immigration system. These actions aim to combat fraud and improve the management of immigration applications, focusing on ensuring fairness and transparency in processing. Miller emphasized that the new initiatives will also aim to reduce processing times and enhance the protection of applicants' data.

The measures include increased investment in technology to detect fraud and enhanced training for immigration officers. Additionally, new policies will ensure that all applications are reviewed fairly and within the expected timelines.

This announcement follows recent reports indicating that some immigration files had been assigned to inactive officer IDs, raising concerns about the system's effectiveness. The government has taken immediate steps to correct this issue and ensure it doesn't happen again.

With these actions, the Canadian government reaffirms its commitment to maintaining a secure, fair, and efficient immigration system for all applicants.



IRCC stopped assigning immigration applications to inactive officers' IDs after CBC report



According to CBC News, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has stopped assigning immigration applications to inactive officers' IDs after a 2022 CBC investigation revealed that thousands of applications had been assigned to former employees or placeholder codes. The investigation uncovered that these practices left numerous files in limbo, raising concerns about inefficiencies in the immigration system.

After initially denying the issue, IRCC launched a thorough review, which led to the reassignment of these files to active officers. Emails obtained by CBC revealed that IRCC officials had doubts about the effectiveness of their file management system. As a result, several offices across Canada reallocated applications and deactivated dormant user IDs to ensure that no files were overlooked.

Following the review, IRCC announced that it has transitioned to using "generic IDs" to organize applications, ensuring that files no longer "fall through the cracks." This change was implemented between April and May 2023, creating 125 new generic IDs.

While the move aims to enhance transparency and prevent further complications, immigration lawyer Jamie Liew emphasized the importance of IRCC being more proactive and transparent in its operations to protect applicants, whose futures depend on the efficiency of the system.



Why it's 'very hard' to find work in Canada



According to CTV News, finding a job in Canada has become increasingly difficult. Between April and June 2024, there were 2.4 unemployed people for every vacant job, with unemployment rising to 6.6% from 4.8% in 2022, while job vacancies dropped to 580,000 from nearly one million. The decline in vacancies is mainly seen in sectors requiring only high school education or less, with positions in trades, transportation, and equipment operations experiencing the greatest losses—30% fewer vacancies compared to 2023. Roles such as truck drivers, construction helpers, and material handlers were hit the hardest.

Economist Jim Stanford, from the Centre for Future Work, criticizes the current job market, labeling it "unacceptably weak." He attributes the issue to pandemic-related disruptions and the government's overreaction to the economic shock. After pandemic restrictions were lifted, many workers sought higher wages, but employers were struggling to meet their expectations, leading to an increased reliance on the Temporary Foreign Workers Program. Stanford suggests the government should reduce interest rates and further limit the use of foreign workers to create a more sustainable job market for Canadians.



CHC COMMUNITY

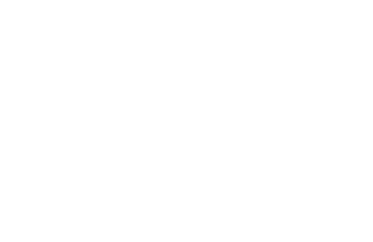
National Hispanic American Heritage Month

THE CANADIAN HISPANIC CONGRESS INVITES YOU TO BE A PART OF ITS

14th Conference Pro-Empowerment of Women

We invite you to join our virtual conference via Zoom and Facebook Live on November 10, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Zoom Meeting Link
<https://us02b.zoom.us/j/8264730627>
<https://www.facebook.com/CHC1983/>



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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