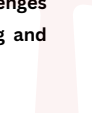


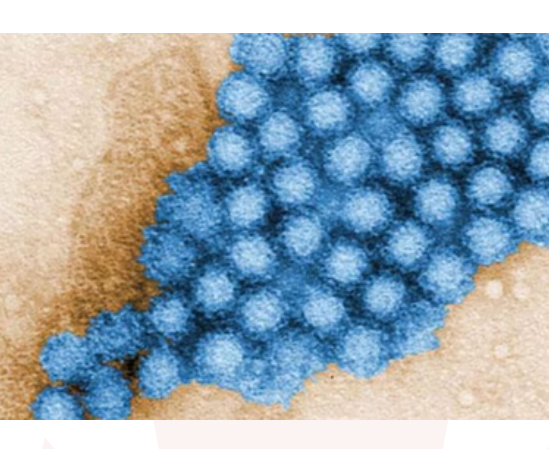
Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress,
We are delighted to share our February 2025 newsletter.
We are very grateful for your support.
Warmly,
Monique Forster
President
Canadian Hispanic Congress

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Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced his resignation

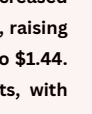


According to CNN's report, on January 6, 2025, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation as Canada's leader, effective once a new Liberal Party leader is elected. This decision coincides with the adjournment of Parliament until March 24 to ensure a smooth transition. Trudeau expressed his disappointment at having failed to reform Canada's electoral system during his term in office.

During his eleven years as Liberal leader and nine as prime minister, Trudeau's tenure has faced challenges such as declining poll numbers, party infighting and the resignation of key allies.

His departure comes on the eve of a general election in which his party is expected to face a surging Conservative Party led by Pierre Poilievre. Poilievre's program includes reducing public spending and anti-inflation measures.

Trudeau's term has seen initial successes on progressive issues such as combating climate change and indigenous rights but will end amid economic concerns and public dissatisfaction. Possible Liberal successors include Mark Carney, Mélanie Joly and Chrystia Freeland. Meanwhile, former U.S. President Donald Trump controversially suggested that Canada merge with the United States to address trade and security issues. Canada is preparing to respond with retaliatory tariffs if Trump starts a trade war.



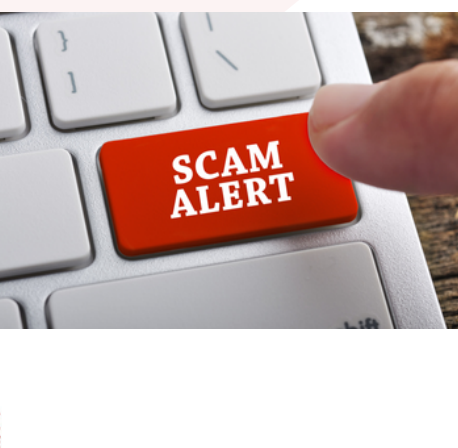
Norovirus cases are on the rise



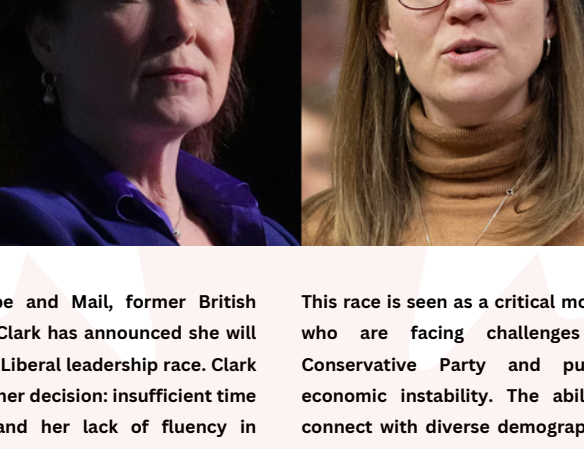
As reported by CBC News, an outbreak of norovirus at the University of Guelph has affected upwards of 190 people, part of a wider surge in cases across Canada, the U.S., and the U.K. Norovirus, known as the "winter vomiting bug," causes nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pain and spreads through contaminated food, surfaces, or person-to-person contact. The virus thrives in colder months and can persist on surfaces for long periods, making communal spaces vulnerable to outbreaks.

Health experts attribute the increase to seasonal patterns, resumption of social activities post-COVID-19, and improved testing. Canadian provinces including Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia have reported higher-than-average cases. While most infections resolve without medical care, hydration and a bland diet are essential for recovery. Vaccine development is underway, with trials from Moderna and Vaxart showing promise.

The outbreak has prompted the University of Guelph to implement enhanced cleaning measures to curb the spread. Public health officials stress the importance of hand hygiene and caution in shared spaces to mitigate risks. Norovirus highlights the ongoing need for prevention and awareness to manage its impact effectively.



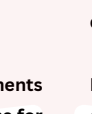
Canada Post has raised its stamp prices



Global News reported that, Canada Post has increased stamp prices by 25% to address financial losses, raising the cost of single domestic stamps from \$1.15 to \$1.44. Bulk stamps now cost \$1.24, up from 99 cents, with similar increases for U.S. and international mail. The hike, proposed during a postal strike last year, aligns prices with rising operational costs, as fewer letters are delivered to more addresses.

Canada Post reported a \$315 million pre-tax loss in Q-3 2024, its seventh consecutive year of deficits. Parcel revenues also fell by 5.8%, with six million fewer parcels shipped compared to 2023. Inflation and declining mail volumes continue to strain the Crown corporation, despite rising demand for online shopping.

The stamp price adjustment aims to stabilize finances, but critics warn it may further discourage mail use. Businesses and individuals now face higher mailing costs, while Canada Post struggles to balance modernization and service affordability.



Online ads illegally sell jobs to temporary foreign workers

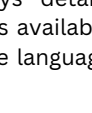


A CBC News investigation has revealed a black market for fraudulent Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIAs), critical documents for foreign workers to secure legal employment and permanent residency (PR) in Canada. Sellers on platforms like Kijiji and Facebook charge up to \$25,000 for fake LMIAs. Some even provide forged pay stubs and tax records for applications.

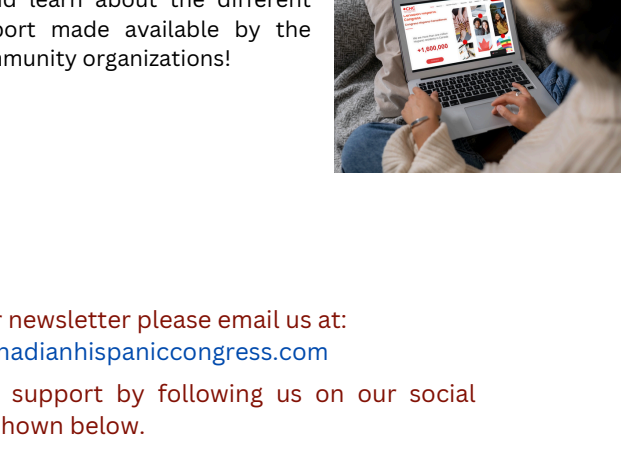
These scams thrive despite government efforts to reduce abuse. The number of online ads offering fake LMIAs tripled between July and September 2024.

Experts warn that the system, intended to address labor shortages, is being misused, tying workers to specific employers and leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

The federal government has recently reduced PR spots, increasing competition among migrants and driving demand for fraudulent services. Sellers face fines up to \$100,000 and jail time but continue operating with little oversight.



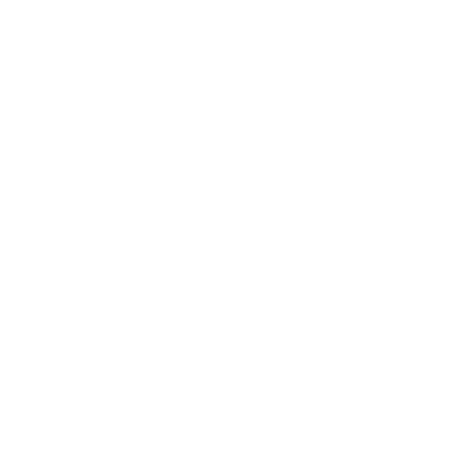
Christy Clark announces she won't run in Liberal leadership race



As reported by The Globe and Mail, former British Columbia Premier Christy Clark has announced she will not be entering the federal Liberal leadership race. Clark cited two main reasons for her decision: insufficient time to campaign effectively and her lack of fluency in French, a critical skill for leading a national party in Canada. Her withdrawal leaves the field more open as the Liberals search for a successor to Justin Trudeau, who has announced he would step down following years of leadership.

The leadership race has generated significant speculation, with names like former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland have formally entered the leadership race. Meanwhile, Karina Gould, the 37-year-old Government House Leader, continues to be mentioned as a possible candidate. Gould's progressive platform and appeal to younger voters could position her as a strong contender.

This race is seen as a critical moment for the Liberals, who are facing challenges from a resurging Conservative Party and public concerns over economic instability. The ability of candidates to connect with diverse demographics, address regional issues, and articulate a clear vision for Canada's future will determine the party's success in maintaining its relevance.



Canadian passport ranks among best in world in 2025



As reported by CIC News, the Canadian passport now ranks seventh globally in 2025, offering visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 188 destinations worldwide. This ranking ties Canada with Malta and Poland, and it marks an improvement over the United States, whose passport currently ranks ninth. This shift underscores Canada's strong position in global mobility.

Recent updates to Canada's visa-free agreements include Egypt and Brazil, expanding travel options for Canadian passport holders. However, new visa requirements imposed by Gabon and Togo have slightly offset these gains. Despite these changes, the Canadian passport remains a symbol of global access and security, consistently performing well on international indices.

For Canadians, this ranking not only signifies convenience in travel but also highlights the country's reputation on the world stage. Maintaining or improving this position will require Canada to continue fostering strong diplomatic relationships and negotiating agreements that benefit its citizens' global mobility.



Mill Creek School: A Leader in Bilingual Education



Located in Edmonton, Alberta, Mill Creek School has been a pioneer in bilingual education since its founding in 1995. As the first International Spanish Academy in Alberta, recognized by the Government of Spain, the school combines academic excellence with cultural diversity.

Part of the Edmonton Public School system, Mill Creek offers a dual-language program in English and Spanish, focusing on subjects like math, science, history, and literature. This approach not only enhances students' language skills but also fosters global awareness and intercultural understanding. The school is supported by Alberta's government and receives additional resources from Spain, ensuring high-quality education and specialized materials for Spanish programs.

Beyond academics, Mill Creek organizes extracurricular activities celebrating Hispanic culture, including flamenco workshops, folkloric dance, and art exhibitions. These initiatives enrich students' education and strengthen community ties. Currently serving around 500 students with a dedicated staff of 30 teachers, the school has seen steady growth, reflecting the rising demand for bilingual education. Future plans include student exchange programs with Spanish-speaking countries and a Spanish certification program endorsed by the Cervantes Institute.

Mill Creek remains an example of innovation and inclusivity, preparing students for a globalized world while celebrating cultural diversity.

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.

Edited by: Emilio Rojas and Monique Forster

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