

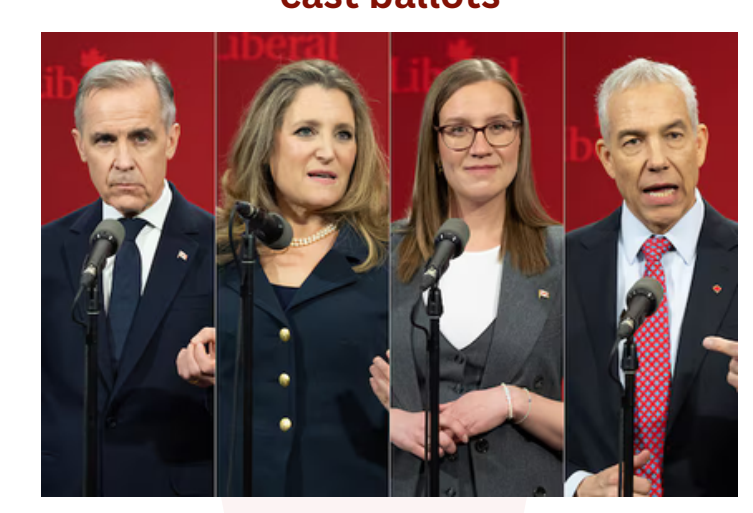
Dear friends of the Hispanic Canadian Congress,
Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the March 2025 monthly newsletter.
Your continued support means a lot to us.
Have a great month of March.
Monique Forster
President
Canadian Hispanic Congress

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Doug Ford reelected as Ontario's premier with mandate to fight Trump tariffs



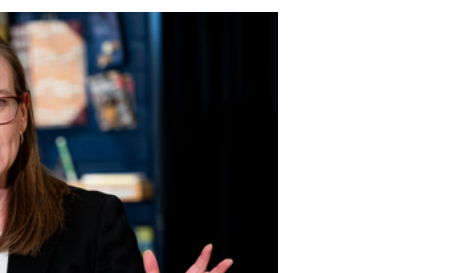
As reported by ABC News, Doug Ford has been reelected as Ontario's premier, securing a third term with a majority government. His victory strengthens his stance against tariffs announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, who plans to impose a 25% levy on Canadian imports, along with additional tariffs on energy and automobiles.

Following his win, Ford thanked voters and vowed to protect Ontario's economy and jobs. "I will fight tooth and nail against Donald Trump," he declared. During his campaign, he traveled to Washington twice to meet with U.S. leaders and push back against the proposed trade measures.

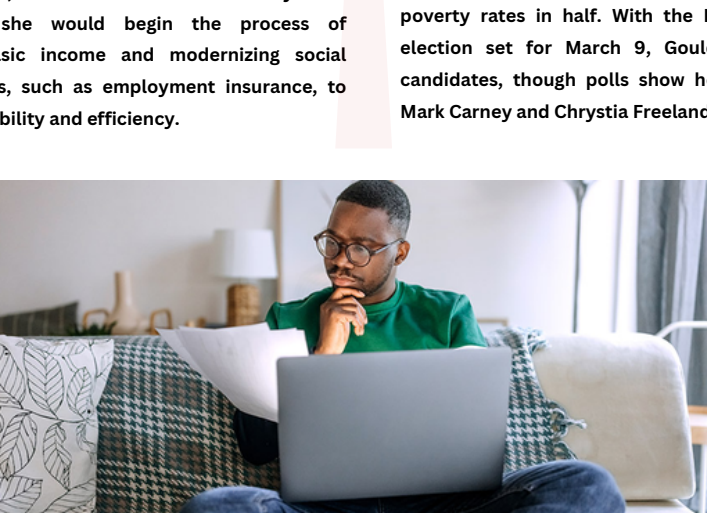
Ford called the election over a year early, arguing that Ontario needed a strong mandate to confront the trade crisis. However, opposition parties accused him of trying to avoid political fallout from an ongoing police investigation into a controversial land development plan.

Ontario, home to 16 million people and responsible for 38% of Canada's GDP, plays a crucial role in the country's manufacturing and auto sectors. Throughout the campaign, opposition leaders focused on healthcare improvements, affordability, and housing access.

Preliminary results show Ford's Progressive Conservatives winning 79 seats, followed by the NDP with 25, the Liberals with 14, the Greens with 2, and 1 independent. A majority government requires at least 63 seats.



Liberal leadership race focuses on getting voters to cast ballots



The Globe and Mail informed that, with just a week until the Liberal Party selects its new leader, candidates are focused on ensuring that the 400,000 registered voters complete their verification process and cast their ballots. The election's ranked ballot and point system add complexity to the campaigns' strategies.

Before receiving a ballot, voters must verify their identity through a Canada Post app or in person. However, some Liberals have reported issues with this process. Campaign teams have been making calls and sending emails to supporters, urging them to complete verification and vote.

The party assigns 100 points to each electoral district, with candidates earning points based on their share of votes in that district. This system incentivizes some campaigns to target lower-population districts for maximum impact. Additionally, since voters rank candidates in order of preference, securing second-choice votes can be crucial in later rounds.

Among the candidates, former House Leader Karina Gould highlights her grassroots connections, while former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney leads in fundraising and endorsements. Also in the race are former Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland and former MP Frank Baylis.

Past leadership races have varied in length—Justin Trudeau won in the first round in 2013, as did Pierre Poilievre in 2022. However, elections with multiple candidates, such as the 2017 Conservative leadership race, have extended to several rounds of counting.

The Liberals will choose their new leader on March 9, a key moment for the party as it prepares for the next federal election.



Candidate Karina Gould Promises to Open 'Path' to Basic Personal Income



The Globe and Mail reported that, Liberal MP Karina Gould announced that if she wins the party's leadership race in March, she will work toward implementing a basic personal income in Canada. Speaking at a Fredericton food bank, Gould emphasized the need for financial security programs.

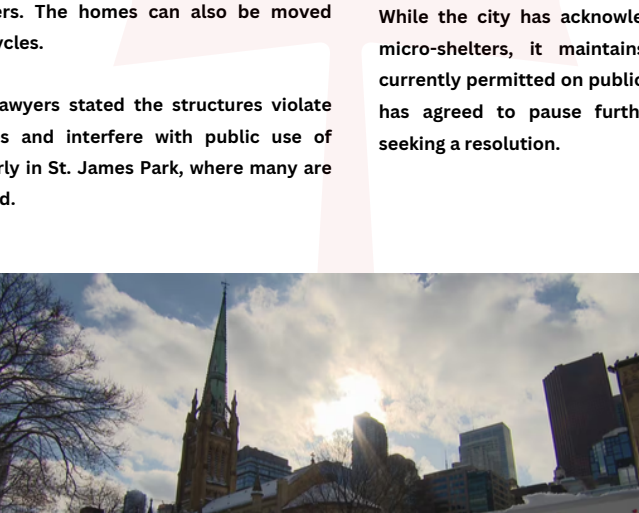
Although Liberal grassroots members have supported basic income resolutions at past conventions, the policy has never been part of a campaign platform. In a policy document, Gould stated that within one year of her election, she would begin the process of establishing basic income and modernizing social safety programs, such as employment insurance, to improve accessibility and efficiency.

Basic income can be universal or adjusted based on income to support low-income individuals. The idea gained attention during the COVID-19 pandemic when the government provided emergency financial aid. In 2021, an NDP bill proposed a national basic income framework, but Gould voted against it. A similar Senate bill was under review before Parliament was prorogued.

A 2021 report estimated that providing \$17,000 to low-income families would cost \$85 billion and cut poverty rates in half. With the Liberal leadership election set for March 9, Gould is one of five candidates, though polls show her trailing behind Mark Carney and Chrystia Freeland.



Trudeau Says Canada as 51st State is a 'Non-Starter,' Vows Tariff Response



Global News informed that, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau firmly rejected the idea of Canada becoming the 51st U.S. state, calling it a "non-starter." His comments came as former U.S. President Donald Trump threatened new tariffs on Canadian goods.

As Canadian premiers met with White House officials in Washington, D.C., Trudeau stated that while Canada seeks to avoid a trade conflict, it will respond forcefully if the U.S. moves forward with its tariff plans. Trump announced a 25% tariff on Canadian steel and aluminum, effective March 12, which would stack onto existing tariffs, potentially raising the total to 50%. Additionally, Trump threatened tariffs of 50% to 100% on Canadian vehicles.

In response, Canada released a list of counter-tariffs to protect its economy. Trudeau warned that these measures could lead to job losses in the U.S., as seen when similar tariffs were imposed in 2018. Despite rising tensions, he emphasized Canada's commitment to diplomacy and economic stability.

Regarding Trump's repeated suggestion that Canada could become a U.S. state, Trudeau dismissed the idea outright. However, he acknowledged that Canadians should take Trump's statements seriously and continue to support local businesses and national interests in response to the economic pressure.



Canada's Immigration Policy Changes on Universities



Recent changes to Canada's immigration policy are posing significant challenges for universities and colleges, particularly regarding international student enrollment. Restrictions on study permits and work eligibility have led to declining admissions, impacting both finances and campus diversity.

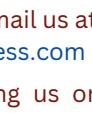
Since January 2024, Canada has capped study permits at 360,000, with a new limit of 437,000 for 2025. Additionally, work permits for spouses of international students and temporary foreign workers have been restricted. These measures aim to reduce the number of temporary residents to 5% of the total population.

International students contribute significantly to university budgets, accounting for up to 40% of institutional revenues. The decline in enrollments is placing financial strain on many post-secondary institutions, forcing them to seek alternative funding sources.

In response, universities are expanding online programs, strengthening international partnerships, and increasing domestic student recruitment. Some are also cutting administrative costs to balance budgets. Despite these efforts, reliance on international students remains a pressing issue.

Collaboration between educational institutions and the government will be essential to finding sustainable solutions. Reviewing student permit policies and improving student integration programs could help alleviate immigration control with the needs of the education sector.

Ultimately, these policy changes underscore the urgent need for strategic planning to ensure the long-term viability of Canada's higher education system.



Toronto Orders Creator of Tiny Mobile Homes for Unhoused People to Stop



As reported by CBC News, The City of Toronto has issued a cease-and-desist letter to Ryan Donais, the creator of Tiny Homes, ordering him to remove his small mobile shelters for unhoused individuals from city property.

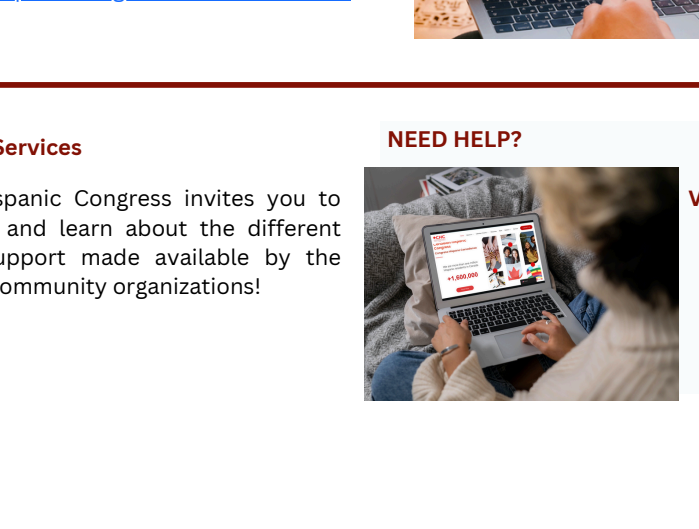
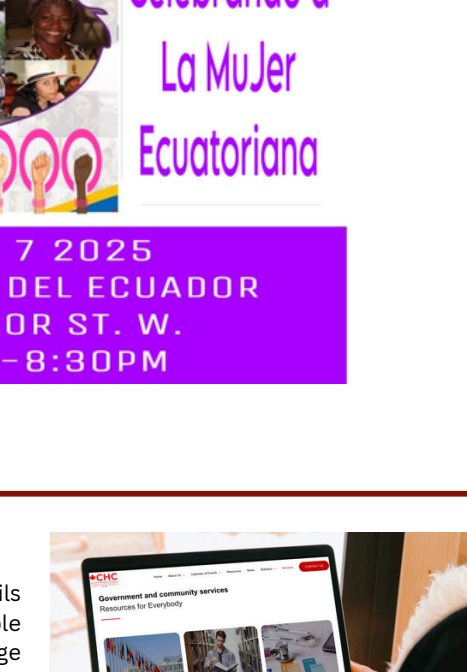
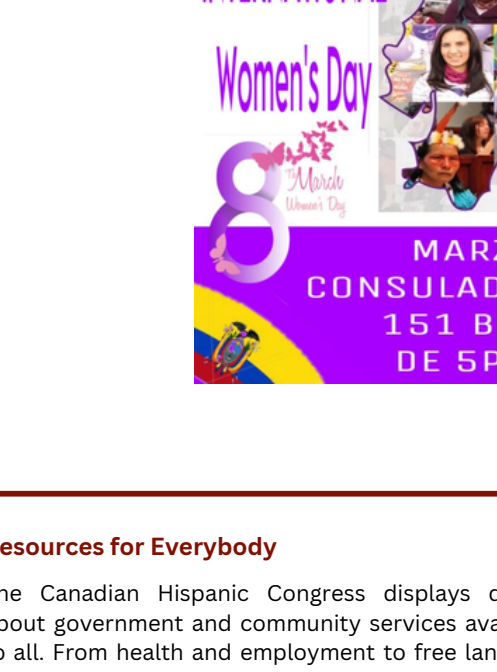
Donais, who started building these modular homes last summer and later registered his initiative as a non-profit, designed them with safety features such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms, and fire extinguishers. The homes can also be moved easily using bicycles.

However, city lawyers stated the structures violate municipal codes and interfere with public use of parks, particularly in St. James Park, where many are currently located.

Despite recognizing Donais' good intentions, officials insist the shelters cannot be allowed on city property.

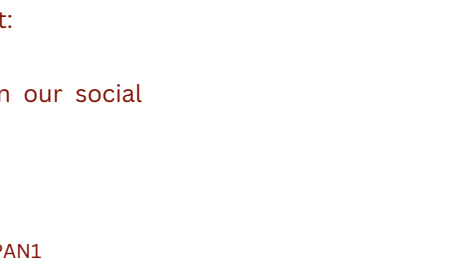
Donais, surprised by the order, said he had met with city officials just a week prior and believed discussions had been positive. He argues that the initiative exists due to the city's inaction and is calling for an approved location for the homes.

While the city has acknowledged the potential of micro-shelters, it maintains that they are not currently permitted on public land. Tiny Homes has agreed to pause further construction while seeking a resolution.



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!

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