

Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress,
We're happy to share with you our July newsletter.
Thank you for staying connected and supporting our work.
Happy Canada Day!
Warmly,
Monique Forster
President
Canadian Hispanic Congress

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PM's Canada Day Message: A Call for Unity Amid Uncertainty



On Canada Day, Prime Minister Mark Carney delivered a two-minute video address from Rideau Cottage, calling for national unity and resilience. He reflected on the founding of Canada 158 years ago, describing Confederation as a "big idea" that proved provinces are stronger together, reports CTV News.

Carney addressed challenges like global trade wars, democratic backsliding, and a shifting world order, stating that Canada must resist attacks on its values. He noted ongoing efforts to break interprovincial trade barriers, promoting a unified domestic economy where Canadians can "buy Canadian everywhere, and work anywhere."

Carney acknowledged that Canada's story began long before 1867, highlighting the thousands of years of Indigenous history on the land. He emphasized that the next chapter of the country will be written in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

The Prime Minister also spoke about defence priorities, reaffirming Canada's commitment to NATO and pledging to invest 5% of GDP in defence by 2035—well above NATO's 2% benchmark. He framed this as part of Canada's global leadership and a signal of its strength and values.

The Prime Minister evoked key moments of Canadian heroism and solidarity, including Vimy Ridge, Normandy, and Gander during 9/11. These moments, he said, marked points where "Canada stepped up"—a pattern he believes must continue now as the world faces geopolitical and economic instability.

Concluding his address, Carney said Canada is "the greatest nation on Earth" and called on Canadians to keep building the country together. "We will build one Canadian economy, powered by Canadian energy and crafted by Canadian workers," he said. "Together, we'll keep making it even better. Happy Canada Day."



U.S. Drops 'Revenge Tax' From Trump's Budget Bill Following G7 Deal



The Globe and Mail reports that the U.S. government officially withdrew the controversial "revenge tax" clause from President Donald Trump's sweeping budget bill following a G7 agreement on global tax coordination, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced.

The original Section 899 had sparked concern among Canadian investors, with analysts warning it could have cost up to \$81 billion in added taxes over seven years. It also threatened to impose withholding taxes on Canadian pension fund investments in the U.S.

The measure, known as Section 899, would have imposed retaliatory taxes on countries with what the U.S. deemed unfair taxation, including Canada's new Digital Services Tax (DST). It also targeted the global minimum tax initiative endorsed by the OECD.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce applauded the U.S. decision, urging Canada to consider scrapping its DST in response. Still, experts remain uncertain about the full scope of the G7 deal. Tax law professor Allison Christians noted that the agreement appears to address only the global minimum tax, not the digital tax issue.

Republican senators quickly agreed to remove the clause, after Bessent said the G7 had reached a joint understanding to move forward with international tax reform, focusing particularly on the global minimum corporate tax. While Bessent did not reference Canada's DST directly, Canadian Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne welcomed the move, citing shared goals for economic stability. However, Canada refused to pause DST collections, with the first payments due by June 30.

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The full details of the G7 agreement are expected to emerge in the ongoing trade and tax negotiations this summer between Canada and the U.S.



Canadian steel industry says federal response to U.S. tariffs is too weak



As reported by Global News, the Canadian Steel Producers Association (CSPA) says the federal government's new measures don't go far enough to address the crisis caused by rising U.S. tariffs on Canadian steel.

In contrast, the Aluminum Association of Canada welcomed the measures, calling them a balanced mix of defense and diplomacy. But steel producers say time is running out and more urgency is needed.

The government introduced a tariff rate quota that limits steel imports from non-free trade countries to 100% of 2024 levels. However, the CSPA warns that this level is too high and will not stop dumping that harms Canadian producers.

The government also announced two new task forces, one for steel and one for aluminum, to monitor the situation. The steel industry hopes these groups will help shape upcoming U.S.-Canada negotiations, but stresses the need for faster and stronger action.

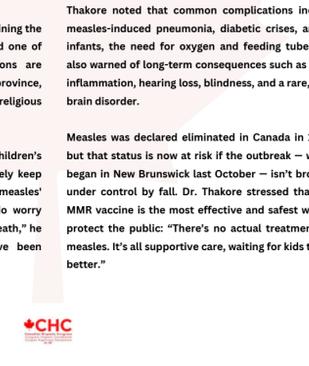
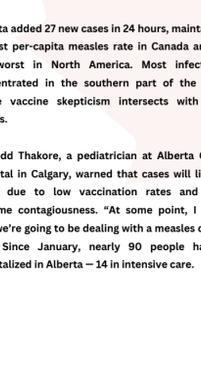
Since the U.S. increased steel tariffs to 50%, Canadian exports have dropped sharply. The industry reports 1,000 jobs already lost, and warns of thousands more at risk if no stronger action is taken.



While the industry appreciates longer-term plans to prioritize Canadian steel in public projects, they insist those won't matter without immediate border protections to prevent market saturation.



Doctors Manitoba Warns of Unstable Rural ER Operations Over the Summer



CTV News reported that, Doctors Manitoba issued a public warning in late June about unstable emergency room operations across rural areas of the province this summer, pointing to staffing shortages and unpredictable closures.

Desilets added that solutions lie in ongoing recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses, and health professionals — and emphasized the need to reduce barriers for those willing to work in rural emergency care.

The organization, which represents more than 4,000 physicians, said 24 ERs are expected to reduce hours or close intermittently, while 28 ERs will be fully shut down.

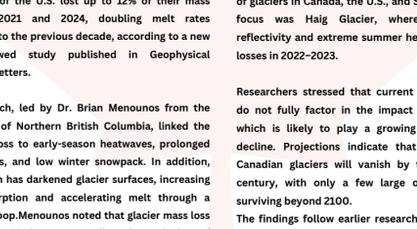


"This isn't a new problem. It's been building for many years, but the prolonged uncertainty and short staffing is taking a toll," said Dr. Michelle Desilets, president of Doctors Manitoba.

She noted that emergency room hours may change daily, and that summer months typically bring greater instability, including longer waits and suspended services.



Measles Cases in Alberta Climb to 1,105 as Ontario Shows Signs of Slowing Spread



The Globe and Mail informed that, Alberta's measles cases surged to 1,105 this week, while Ontario began to see signs of decreasing transmission, according to provincial updates released Thursday.

Ontario has seen around 150 hospitalizations, 11 in ICU. As of Thursday, two people remain hospitalized in Alberta, one in critical condition.

Alberta added 27 new cases in 24 hours, maintaining the highest per-capita measles rate in Canada and one of the worst in North America. Most infections are concentrated in the southern part of the province, where vaccine skepticism intersects with religious beliefs.

Thakore noted that common complications include measles-induced pneumonia, diabetic crises, and in infants, the need for oxygen and feeding tubes. He also warned of long-term consequences such as brain inflammation, hearing loss, blindness, and a rare, fatal brain disorder.

Dr. Sidd Thakore, a pediatrician at Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, warned that cases will likely keep rising due to low vaccination rates and measles' extreme contagiousness. "At some point, I do worry that we're going to be dealing with a measles death," he said. Since January, nearly 90 people have been hospitalized in Alberta — 34 in intensive care.

Measles was declared eliminated in Canada in 1998, but that status is now at risk if the outbreak — which began in New Brunswick last October — isn't brought under control by fall. Dr. Thakore stressed that the MMR vaccine is the most effective and safest way to protect the public: "There's no actual treatment for measles. It's all supportive care, waiting for kids to get better."



Firefighting sisters from Pinaymootang First Nation on Manitoba's wildfire front lines



CBC News reported that, Delilah (22) and Heather Anderson (21), sisters from Pinaymootang First Nation in Manitoba's Interlake region, are back from battling the Nopiming Provincial Park wildfire, one of the largest in the province at over 224,000 hectares.

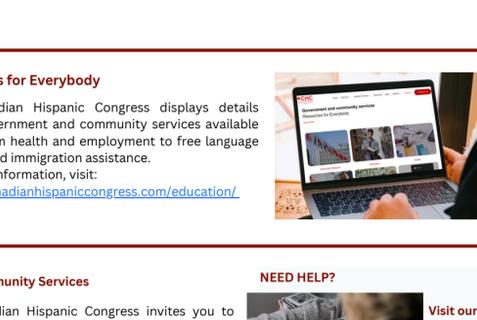
"It's all burned. It just looks pretty sad," said Heather. Delilah added: "It was hard to see how much was gone." They were the only women on their crew, but they're determined to inspire more young Indigenous women to join firefighting. "I want the girls in our community to see what they're capable of," said Delilah.

It was only their second wildfire deployment since completing firefighter training last year. Their crew was assigned to extinguish hotspots, carefully monitoring low-lying areas where fire could travel through roots underground.

Though she misses her three kids while on duty, Delilah values the strong bonds built in the field. "You're making a second family out there," she said.



Western Canada's Glaciers Now Melting Twice as Fast as a Decade Ago



As reported by CBC News, Glaciers in Western Canada and parts of the U.S. lost up to 12% of their mass between 2021 and 2024, doubling melting rates compared to the previous decade, according to a new peer-reviewed study published in Geophysical Research Letters.

The study involved aerial and ground-based surveys of glaciers in Canada, the U.S., and Switzerland. One focus was Haig Glacier, where reduced ice reflectivity and extreme summer heat led to record losses in 2022-2023.

The research, led by Dr. Brian Menounos from the University of Northern British Columbia, linked the rapid ice loss to early-season heatwaves, prolonged dry periods, and low winter snowpack. In addition, wildfire ash has darkened glacier surfaces, increasing heat absorption and accelerating melt through a feedback loop. Menounos noted that glacier mass loss now reaches 22 gigatons annually — the equivalent of 22 billion pickup trucks full of water. "We're draining the freshwater bank account for future generations," he said.

Researchers stressed that current climate models do not fully factor in the impact of wildfire ash, which is likely to play a growing role in glacier decline. Projections indicate that most Western Canadian glaciers will vanish by the end of the century, with only a few large ones potentially surviving beyond 2100.

The findings follow earlier research showing global glaciers outside Greenland and Antarctica have been losing mass at increasing rates, contributing significantly to sea level rise.



COMMUNITY

LIUNA LOCAL 182
MISSISSAUGA LATIN FESTIVAL
COLOMBIA Independence Day
July 18th, 19th & 20th 2025
Mississauga Celebration Square
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, ON L5B-3C7
Parade Sunday, July 20 at 12:00 noon
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FREE ADMISSION
VAUGHAN LATIN FESTIVAL
JULY 12, 2025
MACKENZIE GLEN PARK
320 Cranston Park Ave
11am - 10:30 pm
Organized by Fuerza Latina

TOP FESTIVALS OF TORONTO 2024
July 18-19-20
FREE ADMISSION
Includes: Caribbean Day, Latin Day, Mexican Day, Puerto Rican Day, Cuban Day, Dominican Day, Haitian Day, Jamaican Day, Trinidadian Day, Guyanese Day, Surinamese Day, Venezuelan Day, and more!

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/>

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