

Photo: Andre Furtado



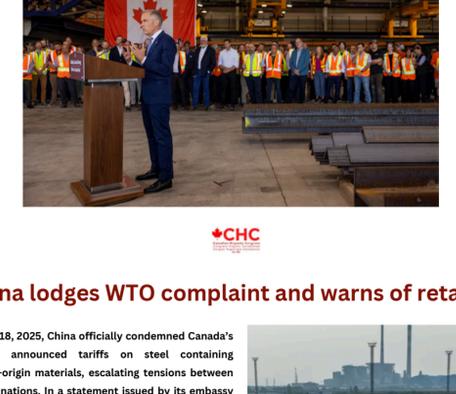
Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress,  
We're delighted to share with you our August newsletter.  
Warmly,  
Monique Forster  
President  
Canadian Hispanic Congress

**In this issue:**

- Canada implements steel import tariffs to bolster domestic industry
- Canada's immigration policies curb population growth
- After the Hockey Canada verdict, advocates fear survivors will fall silent
- Canada's premiers convene in Muskoka to strategize on U.S. tariffs and trade
- Can Canada get to orbit? Companies NordSpace and ProtoSpace hope to launch C Canada's first space mission
- Canada condemns Hong Kong for issuing warrants to arrest some Canadians
- 86 museums and galleries join Canada Strong Pass program
- China lodges WTO complaint and warns of retaliation
- Trump threatens additional tariffs on Canadian imports amid failed deal talks



**Canada implements steel import tariffs to bolster domestic industry**



According to Reuters, On July 16, 2025, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney unveiled a series of significant trade measures aimed at safeguarding the country's steel industry from increasing foreign competition.

Among the most notable changes is a 50% tariff on steel imports that exceed 2024 levels from countries with free trade agreements—excluding the United States. In addition, Canada will impose a 25% tariff on all steel melted or poured in China, regardless of the country from which it is ultimately exported.

These actions reflect growing concerns within the Canadian government about the negative impact of low-cost imported steel on domestic producers. The tariffs are intended to reduce market saturation, ensure fair competition, and support the long-term viability of Canada's steel sector.

In tandem with the tariff measures, the government has also launched a C\$1 billion Strategic Innovation Fund to promote research, innovation, and modernization within the industry.

To further reinforce domestic demand, Canada is tightening tariff quotas and instituting a "Buy Canadian" policy for federal procurement, giving preference to locally produced steel in public projects.

Together, these initiatives are designed not only to protect Canadian jobs and manufacturing capabilities but also to foster a more resilient, innovative, and competitive steel industry in the face of global market pressures.



**China lodges WTO complaint and warns of retaliation**

On July 18, 2025, China officially condemned Canada's recently announced tariffs on steel containing Chinese-origin materials, escalating tensions between the two nations. In a statement issued by its embassy in Ottawa, China claimed the Canadian measures violated World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and posed a serious threat to the principles of fair global trade, says a report by the Economic Times.

The embassy described the tariffs as unjustified and lacking legal foundation, arguing they would severely undermine normal economic and trade relations between the two countries. China pointed out the deep economic ties between the nations, highlighting that bilateral trade reached approximately C\$120 billion in 2024.

The embassy warned that if Canada does not reconsider its position, Beijing may be forced to take retaliatory action, potentially targeting Canadian agricultural exports, including canola—an industry that has already experienced trade disruptions with China in recent years.

The statement also referenced Canada's earlier imposition of a 100% surtax on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), along with Beijing's ongoing anti-dumping investigation into Canadian canola as evidence of an increasingly strained relationship.

In response, Canada's Minister of Trade, Maninder Sidhu, expressed a willingness to reopen diplomatic channels, stating that Ottawa is committed to de-escalating tensions and seeking a constructive resolution.

Nonetheless, the dispute signals a growing divide in Canada-China trade relations and raises concerns about future repercussions for Canadian exporters.



**86 museums and galleries join Canada Strong Pass program**

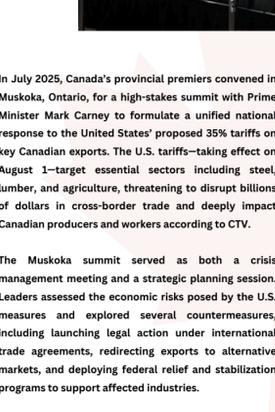
On July 17, 2025, the Canadian federal government announced a significant expansion of its "Canada Strong Pass" initiative, now encompassing 86 museums and galleries across provinces and territories. Originally focused on national institutions, the program now includes a wide range of cultural sites—from large urban galleries to small regional museums—offering enhanced access to Canadians during the summer season, according to Global News.

The Strong Pass provides free admission to children aged 17 and under, and a 50% discount for youth aged 18 to 24, making it easier for families and young adults to explore Canada's rich cultural landscape. The initiative runs through September 2, 2025, and is part of a broader federal effort to promote tourism, support local economies, and stimulate cultural engagement following pandemic-related setbacks.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, highlighted the program's value by emphasizing the importance of museums as places where stories are told, art is preserved, and cultural heritage is celebrated. He encouraged Canadians to rediscover the country's diversity and history through accessible, educational experiences.



**Can Canada get to orbit? Companies NordSpace and ProtoSpace hope to launch Canada's First space mission (exclusive)**



Canada is on the brink of making spaceflight history with its first domestically developed rocket expected to launch from Canadian soil in mid-August 2025. The mission, spearheaded by aerospace startup NordSpace, will see the suborbital flight of Taiga, a liquid-fueled rocket designed and built entirely within Canada. While Taiga is not yet capable of reaching orbit, its successful launch would mark a critical milestone for Canada's emerging space industry: a fully homegrown rocket lifting off from national territory reports Space.com.

Crucial to the mission's momentum is ProtoSpace, a division of Proton, which is supplying rapid-turnaround, space-grade components. Their ability to manufacture and deliver essential rocket parts within just 2-3 days significantly accelerates the engineering and testing process, making Canada's aerospace ambitions more agile and competitive.

NordSpace's vision extends far beyond this test. The company plans a full suborbital "space shot" in 2026, followed by the launch of Tundra, an orbital-class vehicle capable of delivering up to 500 kg to low-Earth orbit by 2027.

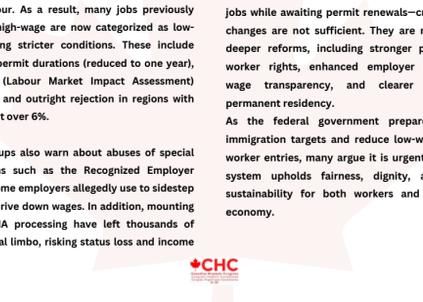
Looking ahead, they aim to introduce Titan—a reusable, Falcon 9-class rocket—by the early 2030s, enabling frequent and cost-effective launches. Meanwhile, Canada's regulatory environment is evolving alongside these advancements.

NordSpace is applying for a commercial orbital-class launch license, pushing Transport Canada and other regulatory bodies to update procedures for spaceflight. The company is also planning the Atlantic Spaceport Complex (ASX) in Newfoundland, a multi-pad facility designed to accommodate both Canadian and international payload launches.

This initiative represents a bold leap forward for Canada's independent presence in space and could place the country on the global map of commercial spaceflight.



**Canada's premiers convene in Muskoka to strategize on U.S. tariffs and trade**



In July 2025, Canada's provincial premiers convened in Muskoka, Ontario, for a high-stakes summit with Prime Minister Mark Carney to formulate a unified national response to the United States' proposed 35% tariffs on key Canadian exports. The U.S. tariffs—taking effect on August 1—target essential sectors including steel, lumber, and agriculture, threatening to disrupt billions of dollars in cross-border trade and deeply impact Canadian producers and workers according to CTV.

The Muskoka summit served as both a crisis management meeting and a strategic planning session. Leaders assessed the economic risks posed by the U.S. measures and explored several countermeasures, including launching legal action over international trade agreements, redirecting exports to alternative markets, and deploying federal relief and stabilization programs to support affected industries.

Premiers from major economic provinces such as Alberta, Quebec, and Ontario highlighted the urgency of presenting a united front during what is being seen as a pivotal moment in Canada-U.S. trade relations. Alongside the tariff discussions, the summit also emphasized long-term goals, including national infrastructure investments and economic resilience initiatives meant to strengthen Canada's internal markets and reduce vulnerability to external shocks.

With the August 1 deadline, this summit was held to shape the direction of Canada's trade policy, deepen federal-provincial coordination, and influence the national dialogue on sovereignty, economic protection, and the future of bilateral relations with the U.S.



**Trump Threatened Additional Tariffs on Canadian Imports Amid Failed Deal Talks**



In late July 2025, former U.S. President Donald Trump reignited trade tensions with Canada by announcing his intent to impose a 35% tariff on a broad range of Canadian exports, effective August 1. This decision follows the collapse of bilateral trade negotiations between the two countries. Trump blamed Canada for failing to address key U.S. concerns, particularly surrounding dairy protectionism and insufficient action onentanyl trafficking, informs Reuters.

The proposed tariffs would apply to products not already covered under the USMCA and would come in addition to current duties already placed on steel, aluminum, and auto-related goods. Trump stated that unless Canada agrees to U.S. demands, a deal is unlikely, and the tariffs will proceed. He even hinted that higher tariffs, potentially exceeding 50%, could follow if Canada retaliates or continues to resist.

Carney and Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc emphasized Canada's commitment to defending national economic interests, while also signaling openness to continued dialogue. Legal challenges are mounting within the U.S. as well, with critics questioning whether Trump has the authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose such sweeping tariffs without Congressional oversight.

Meanwhile, Canadian industries—particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, and forestry—brace for potential disruptions should the new tariffs take effect. This development marks a critical juncture in Canada-U.S. relations, with high political and economic stakes on both sides of the border.



**Calls Grow for Reform of Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Regulations**

"Some migrants lose access to medical care and legal employment while waiting for labor market impact assessments," reports Reuters.

During 2025, pressure has been mounting on the Canadian government to reform its Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). Labor unions, migrant rights groups, and policy experts argue that the program currently allows for exploitation, suppresses wages, and offers little long-term protection or integration for migrant workers.

One of the key issues under scrutiny is the recent adjustment to provincial wage thresholds, which affects how jobs are classified within the program. Starting in late June, Ontario's high-wage threshold rose to CAD 36.00/hour and British Columbia's to CAD 36.60/hour. As a result, many jobs previously classified as high-wage are now categorized as low-wage, triggering stricter conditions. These include shorter work permit durations (reduced to one year), tighter LMIA (Labour Market Impact Assessment) requirements, and outright rejection in regions with unemployment over 6%.

Advocacy groups also warn about abuses of special pilot programs such as the Recognized Employer Pilot, which some employers allegedly use to sidestep scrutiny and drive down wages. In addition, mounting delays in LMIA processing have left thousands of workers in legal limbo, risking status loss and income instability.

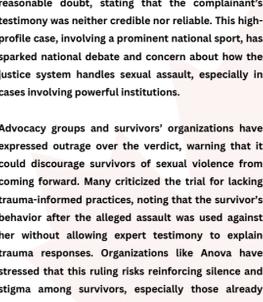


Although some as allowing in-country workers to switch jobs while awaiting permit renewals—critics say these changes are not sufficient. They are now calling for deeper reforms, including stronger protections for worker rights, enhanced employer accountability, wage transparency, and clearer pathways to permanent residency.

As the federal government prepares to tighten immigration targets and reduce low-wage temporary worker entries, many argue it is urgent to ensure the system upholds fairness, dignity, and long-term sustainability for both workers and the Canadian economy.

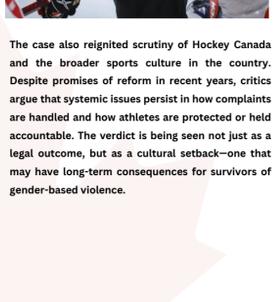


**Canada Condemns Hong Kong Over International Arrest Warrants for Some Canadians**



On July 26, 2025, the Canadian government strongly condemned the Hong Kong authorities after they issued international arrest warrants for 19 pro-democracy activists living abroad, including individuals who are either Canadian citizens or have strong ties to Canada. The move was carried out under Hong Kong's controversial national security law, which criminalizes dissent even outside of its territory. "This attempt by Hong Kong authorities to conduct transnational repression abroad... will not be tolerated," says Global News.

Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree released a joint statement denouncing the move as an unacceptable act of transnational repression. They asserted that Canada will not tolerate foreign governments attempting to intimidate people on Canadian soil for their political beliefs.



Officials also warned that these measures could endanger members of the Chinese-Canadian community, especially those who have spoken out in support of democracy in Hong Kong. Canadians named in the warrants were urged to report any safety concerns. The government reaffirmed its commitment to upholding freedom of expression, democratic values, and human rights around the world.

**Canada's Immigration Policy Tightening Leads to Stalled Population Growth**



In early 2025, Canada witnessed a dramatic slowdown in its population growth due to the federal government's recent decision to scale back immigration targets, reports Reuters.

According to Statistics Canada, the country added just over 20,107 people in the first quarter of the year—a nearly flat growth rate and the slowest quarterly increase recorded since the 1940s, excluding pandemic-related data.

This significant shift comes on the heels of policy changes announced in October 2024, when the government outlined a three-year immigration plan. Under the revised targets, Canada plans to welcome 395,000 permanent residents in 2025, 380,000 in 2026, and 365,000 in 2027—sharply down from the 485,000 immigrants admitted in 2024.

This policy recalibration aims to address domestic concerns such as housing shortages, overstretched infrastructure, and pressures on public services.

The decline also stems from reduced intakes of temporary residents, including foreign workers and international students. The government is working toward lowering the temporary resident share of the population from nearly 7% to 5% over the next few years, citing sustainability concerns.

While some analysts praise the decision for relieving pressure on rental markets—where slowing demand is moderating prices—others warn of long-term economic risks. Labor shortages in critical sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and construction could worsen, and Canada's GDP growth may decelerate as a result of reduced immigration inflows.

The new direction in immigration policy reflects the government's attempt to strike a balance between population growth, economic needs, and the urgent realities of infrastructure capacity and affordability.



**After the Hockey Canada Verdict, Advocates Fear Survivors Will Fall Silent**

According to The Washington Post, five former members of Canada's 2018 Junior hockey team were found not guilty of sexual assault by Ontario Superior Court Justice Maria Carrocco, who cited concerns over the credibility of the complainant.

In late July 2025, an Ontario judge acquitted five former members of Canada's 2018 World Junior hockey team who had been charged with sexual assault. The judge, Maria Carrocco, ruled that the prosecution had not proven guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, stating that the complainant's testimony was neither credible nor reliable. This high-profile case, involving a prominent national sport, has sparked national debate and concern about how the justice system handles sexual assault, especially in cases involving powerful institutions.

Advocacy groups and survivors' organizations have expressed outrage over the verdict, warning that it could discourage survivors of sexual violence from coming forward. Many criticized the trial for lacking trauma-informed practices, noting that the survivor's behavior after the alleged assault was used against her without allowing expert testimony to explain trauma responses. Organizations like Anova have stressed that this ruling risks reinforcing silence and stigma among survivors, especially those already hesitant to trust legal institutions.



The case also reignited scrutiny of Hockey Canada and the broader sports culture in the country. Despite promises of reform in recent years, critics argue that systemic issues persist in how complaints are handled and how athletes are protected or held accountable. The verdict is being seen not just as a legal outcome, but as a cultural setback—one that may have long-term consequences for survivors of gender-based violence.



**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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