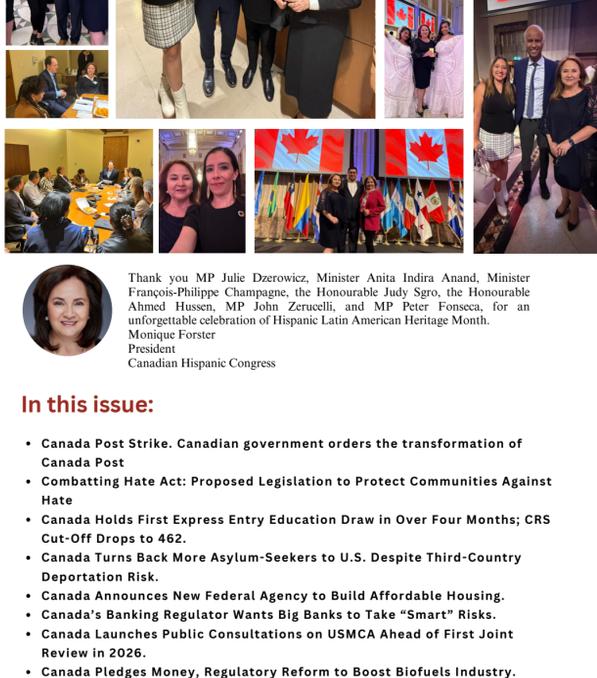




CHC CANADIAN HISPANIC CONGRESS VOL. 10 | OCTOBER 2025



Thank you MP Julie Dzerowicz, Minister Anita Indra Anand, Minister François-Philippe Champagne, the Honourable Judy Sgro, the Honourable Ahmed Hussien, MP John Zerucelli, and MP Peter Fonseca, for an unforgettable celebration of Hispanic Latin American Heritage Month.

Monique Forster
President
Canadian Hispanic Congress

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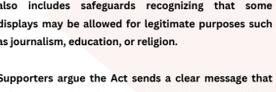
Canada Post Strike. Canadian government orders the transformation of Canada Post.

On September 25, 2025, the Government of Canada officially instructed Canada Post to begin a sweeping transformation of the postal corporation, citing mounting financial losses and structural inefficiencies. In the announcement, Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement declared that Canada Post is "effectively insolvent," with more than \$5 billion in cumulative losses since 2018, including a record quarterly loss of \$407 million in 2025.

Shortly after the directive, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) launched a nationwide strike, halting all mail and parcel services. Canada Post confirmed that operations would shut down during the strike, service guarantees were suspended, and no new items would be accepted until the disruption ends.

The government's reform package includes phasing out door-to-door delivery, converting up to 4 million addresses to community mailboxes, closing rural post offices, and relaxing delivery standards for non-urgent mail. These changes are projected to save around \$400 million annually.

Union leaders criticized the plan as abrupt and lacking consultation, warning of job losses, degradation of service quality, and negative effects on rural and Indigenous communities. Business groups have urged both parties to return to the negotiating table to minimize disruptions. The dispute marks a major escalation in labor tensions and a critical turning point for Canada's national postal system.



Combatting Hate Act: Proposed Legislation to Protect Communities Against Hate.

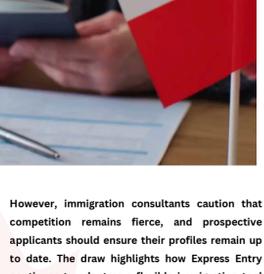
On September 19, 2025, the Government of Canada introduced the Combatting Hate Act (Bill C-9), a bold legislative proposal aimed at strengthening legal protections against hate-motivated actions and symbols. This bill responds to rising incidents of antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, and transphobia, and seeks to ensure that places of worship, schools, community centres and other spaces are shielded from intimidation, obstruction, and hateful displays.



Key provisions include:

- Making it a crime to wilfully intimidate or obstruct people from accessing places of worship, schools, or community centres associated with identifiable groups.
- Introducing a new hate crime offence to explicitly recognize when misconduct is motivated by hatred, strengthening legal accountability.
- Criminalizing the display of terrorism or hate symbols (such as the Nazi swastika or symbols of listed terrorist entities) in public places when used to promote hatred.

The bill would amend the Criminal Code, closing legal gaps in existing hate-speech and harassment laws. It also includes safeguards recognizing that some displays may be allowed for legitimate purposes such as journalism, education, or religion.



Supporters argue the Act sends a clear message that hatred will not be tolerated in public spaces. Critics caution that care must be taken to preserve free expression and ensure enforcement does not overreach. The bill is now under review in Parliament.

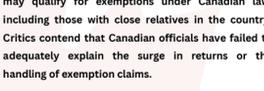


Canada holds first Express Entry education draw in over four months; CRS cut-off drops to 462.

On September 19, 2025, Canada conducted its first Express Entry draw in the education category after more than four months of pause. In this round, 2,500 Invitations to Apply (ITAs) were issued, and the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) cut-off score dropped significantly to 462. This is down from the previous level of 479 set during the last education-focused draw on May 1, 2025, according to The Economic Times.

However, immigration consultants caution that competition remains fierce, and prospective applicants should ensure their profiles remain up to date. The draw highlights how Express Entry continues to adapt as a flexible immigration tool to meet both labour and demographic priorities.

This drop in the CRS cut-off is welcome news for thousands of applicants in the education stream who had been waiting for an opportunity to qualify. Experts suggest that the change signals Ottawa's efforts to adjust immigration policy in response to evolving labour market needs. It may also reflect the government's attempt to balance temporary visa restrictions with a stronger focus on permanent residency streams.



Education-based applicants often bring strong qualifications and are seen as valuable contributors to Canada's long-term economic growth. Lowering the threshold improves access for skilled workers in the education sector and demonstrates the government's continued commitment to bringing in talent.



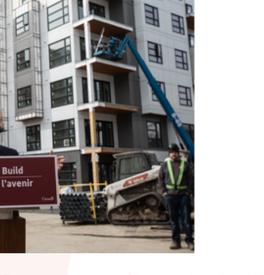
Canada turns back more asylum-seekers to US despite third-country deportation risk.



Canada has increased the number of asylum-seekers it has returned to the United States under the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA), sparking criticism from human rights advocates. Between January and August 2025, Canada turned back 3,282 individuals, a notable rise from 2,481 during the same period in 2024. The month of July 2025 alone saw the highest figure in over a decade, reports Reuters.

Lawyers and rights groups warn that many returnees may qualify for exemptions under Canadian law, including those with close relatives in the country. Critics contend that Canadian officials have failed to adequately explain the surge in returns or the handling of exemption claims.

Advocates argue that the STCA places vulnerable individuals at risk, especially as the U.S. government moves forward with expedited deportation policies that could send asylum-seekers back to unsafe third countries. One highlighted case involved Rachel Negassi, an Eritrean woman with family in Canada, who was initially denied entry despite DNA evidence proving family ties. After being detained in Texas for two months, she was finally allowed into Canada following appeals.



Canada announces new federal agency to build affordable housing.



Prime Minister Mark Carney has unveiled the creation of Tackling Canada Homes, a new federal agency tasked with buckling the housing affordability crisis across the country. Launched on September 14, 2025, the initiative begins with a C\$13 billion investment, marking one of Ottawa's largest commitments to housing in decades.

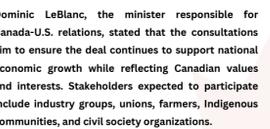
The announcement comes as housing affordability continues to dominate Canadian politics. In major cities like Toronto and Vancouver, record-high rents and soaring home prices have put homeownership out of reach for many. Critics argue that previous government programs fell short, but this new initiative represents a more comprehensive approach.

The agency will focus on constructing affordable housing for low-income families while also partnering with private developers to increase middle-class housing supply. Plans include the use of federal land for construction projects, faster approval processes, and reduced upfront costs to developers in order to accelerate building.

Carney stated that the goal is not only to provide homes but also to create long-term stability in the housing market and reduce homelessness. The move has been welcomed by social advocacy groups, though analysts stress that success will depend on execution and provincial collaboration.



Canada's banking regulator wants big banks to take 'smart' risks.



Canada's top financial watchdog, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI), is urging the country's major banks to take what it calls "smart risks" in order to boost lending and stimulate the economy. Speaking on September 22, 2025, OSFI head Peter Routledge said Canada's banks currently hold around C\$70 billion in excess capital, which could be deployed more effectively.

The call comes amid growing concerns about Canada's economic slowdown, where weaker growth and tight credit markets are putting pressure on businesses and households. Analysts suggest that Canada's economy needs stimulus beyond monetary policy adjustments.

The regulator suggested that some capital and liquidity requirements might be adjusted to encourage more lending in areas like small business, green energy, and infrastructure. However, Routledge emphasized that any regulatory changes would need to be balanced carefully against the need to maintain financial stability.

Critics warn that loosening capital rules could make banks more vulnerable if the economy deteriorates further. Still, OSFI maintains that Canada's banking system is resilient and well-positioned to manage both growth and risk. This debate signals an evolving regulatory environment as Canada seeks to support economic activity while safeguarding financial stability.



Canada launches public consultations on USMCA ahead of first joint review in 2026.

The Canadian government has opened public consultations on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) ahead of the first official joint review in 2026. From September 20 to November 3, 2025, Canadians are invited to provide feedback on how the trade agreement impacts businesses, workers, and communities, reports Reuters.



Dominic LeBlanc, the minister responsible for Canada-U.S. relations, stated that the consultations aim to ensure the deal continues to support national economic growth while reflecting Canadian values and interests. Stakeholders expected to participate include industry groups, unions, farmers, Indigenous communities, and civil society organizations.

This process demonstrates Canada's intention to build consensus before entering negotiations with the U.S. and Mexico. Analysts note that by gathering broad input, Ottawa can present a stronger, more united position in the upcoming review.

Key areas of focus are likely to include supply chain resilience, environmental standards, labour mobility, and mechanisms for resolving disputes. Ottawa is particularly concerned with ensuring Canadian industries remain competitive amid shifting U.S. trade policies and global economic uncertainties.

The consultation also highlights the government's broader strategy of making trade policy more inclusive and transparent, while preparing the economy for the challenges of a rapidly evolving North American market.



Canada pledges money, regulatory reform to boost biofuels industry.



The initiative positions Canada to capitalize on rising global demand for low-carbon energy solutions. Analysts believe the reforms will make Canadian producers more competitive internationally, particularly in the U.S. and European markets.

The Canadian government has committed C\$370 million to support the development of its biofuels sector, while also promising regulatory reforms to make production more competitive. Announced on September 5, 2025, the package is part of Ottawa's climate strategy to diversify clean energy sources and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.



The funding will help farmers, agribusinesses, and producers scale up operations and adopt new technologies. The government also plans to modernize approval processes and simplify regulations to ensure the biofuels industry can expand more rapidly.



COMMUNITY



El Congreso Hispano Canadiense te felicita por la celebración del Mes de la Herencia Latino-Hispanoamericana.

The Canadian Hispanic Congress congratulates you on the celebration of Hispanic Latin American Heritage Month.



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://www.chicanadiancongress.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 Website

Learn about the different resources and supports for the entire family.

To sign up for our newsletter please email us at: membership@canadianhispaniccongress.com

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