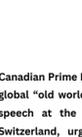




CANADIAN HISPANIC CONGRESS VOL. 02 | FEBRUARY 2026



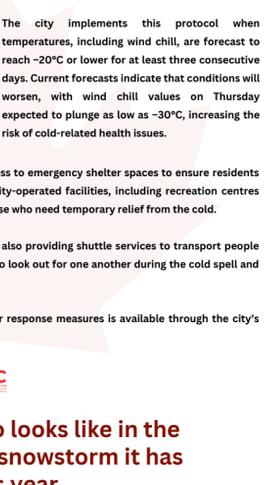
Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress, We are happy to bring you our February Bulletin. Warmly,
Monique Forster
President
Canadian Hispanic Congress

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Carney says "old world order is not coming back"

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney warned that the global "old world order is not coming back" during a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, urging middle powers to unite amid growing geopolitical tensions, according to the BBC. Carney argued that major powers are increasingly using economic tools such as tariffs, trade integration and supply chains as instruments of coercion, leaving smaller but influential nations vulnerable if they fail to collaborate.



Speaking to an international audience, Carney said that countries like Canada must work closely with other middle powers to protect their interests, cautioning that "if we're not at the table, we're on the menu," the BBC reported. While he did not name U.S. President Donald Trump directly, his remarks appeared to reference recent U.S. threats of tariffs against allies and controversial statements regarding Greenland.

Carney reaffirmed Canada's strong support for Greenland, Denmark and the NATO alliance, emphasizing the country's unwavering commitment to Article Five, which treats an attack on one NATO member as an attack on all. The comments drew applause from attendees.

The prime minister described the current moment as a global "rupture, not a transition," noting that traditional geographic and political alliances no longer guarantee economic security. According to the BBC, Carney positioned Canada as a stable and reliable partner, highlighting recent trade and defense agreements as part of a broader strategy to adapt to shifting global power dynamics.



Edmonton activates its extreme weather response, adds more shelter spaces



Edmonton has activated its extreme weather response as dangerously cold temperatures are expected to grip the city over the coming days, according to Global News. The response officially began at 9 a.m. today and is scheduled to remain in effect until 9 a.m. on January 28, depending on weather conditions.

The city implements this protocol when temperatures, including wind chill, are forecast to reach -20°C or lower for at least three consecutive days. Current forecasts indicate that conditions will worsen, with wind chill values on Thursday expected to plunge as low as -30°C, increasing the risk of cold-related health issues.

As part of the activation, Edmonton is expanding access to emergency shelter spaces to ensure residents have safe places to stay warm. In addition, several city-operated facilities, including recreation centres and libraries, will be open as warming locations for those who need temporary relief from the cold.

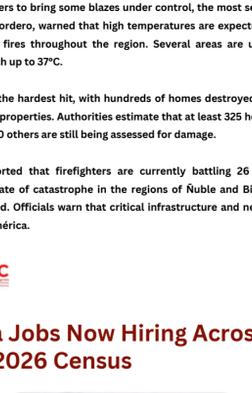
To further support vulnerable populations, the city is also providing shuttle services to transport people to emergency shelters. Officials encourage residents to look out for one another during the cold spell and to seek assistance if needed.

More information about Edmonton's extreme weather response measures is available through the city's official website, as reported by Global News.



This is what Toronto looks like in the wake of the biggest snowstorm it has seen this year

Canadians are experiencing the biggest snowstorm of the year as a powerful winter system blankets large parts of the country, bringing heavy snowfall, dangerous travel conditions, and extreme cold. In Toronto, residents woke up Thursday morning to streets, cars, and sidewalks buried under snow following the city's first major winter storm of 2026.



Environment Canada issued an orange-level snowfall warning for the Greater Toronto Area, forecasting up to 35 centimetres of snow before the storm begins to ease. The warning highlights reduced visibility, hazardous road conditions, and potential disruptions to transit and daily activities.

Authorities are urging residents to avoid unnecessary travel, prepare emergency kits, and check on vulnerable individuals as conditions worsen. Municipal crews have been deployed to clear major roads and maintain essential services, while airports and transit systems warn of possible delays.

Meteorologists say the system is part of a larger North American winter storm affecting multiple provinces, with strong winds and Arctic air intensifying snowfall and wind chill. Similar warnings have been issued in other regions of Canada, where heavy snow and freezing temperatures are expected to persist over several days.

As Canadians brace for more winter weather in the coming weeks, this storm stands out as the most significant snowfall event of the season so far, underscoring the challenges of winter across the country, according to Environment Canada and CTV News.



Deadly forest fires in Chile leave several dead



Wildfires sweeping through central and southern Chile have left at least 19 people dead, according to authorities, as extreme heat and strong winds continue to fuel the flames. The Chilean government has ordered large-scale evacuations while emergency crews battle nearly two dozen active fires across the country, CNN Latinoamérica reports.

Although cooler nighttime conditions allowed firefighters to bring some blazes under control, the most severe fires remain active. Chile's Minister of Security, Luis Cordero, warned that high temperatures are expected to persist, raising concerns about the outbreak of new fires throughout the region. Several areas are under extreme heat alerts, with temperatures forecast to reach up to 37°C.

The city of Penco, near Concepción, has been among the hardest hit, with hundreds of homes destroyed and residents returning to sift through the remains of their properties. Authorities estimate that at least 325 homes have been completely destroyed, while more than 1,100 others are still being assessed for damage.

Chile's National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) reported that firefighters are currently battling 26 fires nationwide. President Gabriel Boric has declared a state of catastrophe in the regions of Nuble and Biobío, where more than 20,000 hectares have already burned. Officials warn that critical infrastructure and nearby communities remain at risk, according to CNN Latinoamérica.



32,000 Statistics Canada Jobs Now Hiring Across Canada For 2026 Census

Statistics Canada is hiring approximately 32,000 workers across all Canadian provinces ahead of the May 2026 census, offering wages of up to \$31.32 per hour, according to Immigration News Canada. The large-scale recruitment drive aims to support the collection of demographics, social, and economic data that helps guide public policy and essential services nationwide.



The available positions include both supervisory and non-supervisory roles, with most openings for enumerators and crew leaders. Enumerators are responsible for door-to-door data collection and follow-ups with households that have not completed census questionnaires, typically during evenings and weekends from May and July 2026. Crew leaders supervise and train teams of enumerators and are expected to work full-time hours from March to July 2026.

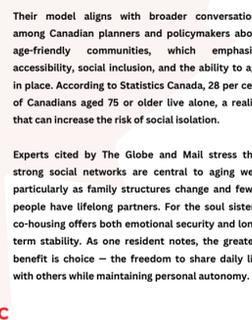
Immigration News Canada reports that enumerators will earn \$25.87 per hour, while crew leaders will be paid \$31.32 per hour, with eligibility for authorized expenses, including mileage and parking. Applicants must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or hold a valid work permit, reside in Canada, and meet their province's age of majority.

The application period runs from November 4, 2025, to July 31, 2026. Beyond competitive pay, these census jobs offer workers an opportunity to contribute directly to data that shapes government planning, funding decisions, and public services nationwide.



New Canadian citizenship law now in force: here's a tool to check your eligibility

Thousands of so-called "lost Canadians" have become eligible for citizenship following the coming into force of Bill C-3 on December 15, 2025, according to CIC News. The legislative change expands access to Canadian citizenship by descent, even as the federal government removed its former "Am I a Canadian?" online eligibility tool.



To help individuals assess their status under the new law, CanadaVisa has launched an independent online tool that allows users to evaluate whether they qualify for citizenship by descent. CIC News reports that individuals may be eligible if at least one parent—or in some cases even a grandparent—was a Canadian citizen at the time of their birth or adoption.

For children born on or after that date, eligibility will depend on whether the Canadian parent can demonstrate a substantial connection to Canada, defined as at least 1,095 days of physical presence. Eligible individuals must apply for proof of citizenship, after which they may apply for a Canadian passport, CIC News noted.

Bill C-3 amends the Citizenship Act by addressing the long-criticized first-generation limit (FGL), which had restricted citizenship by descent for children born abroad between April 17, 2009, and December 14, 2025. Under that rule, children born outside Canada to parents who were themselves citizens by descent were excluded from citizenship. With the new legislation now in force, those individuals born before December 15, 2025, automatically gain citizenship.



First CEC Express Entry Draw Of 2026 Sent 8,000 PR Invitations



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) issued 8,000 Invitations to Apply (ITAs) for permanent residency in the first Express Entry draw of 2026 under the Canadian Experience Class (CEC), according to Immigration News Canada. The draw marked one of the largest CEC invitation rounds in recent months, with the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) cut-off set at 511, a slight decrease from the previous CEC draw in December 2025.

The high-volume draw is particularly significant for temporary foreign workers and international graduates already contributing to Canada's labour market. Immigration News Canada noted that such large CEC rounds create greater movement within the Express Entry pool, but competition remains intense, especially for candidates close to the cut-off score.

To qualify under CEC, applicants must provide strong documentation proving skilled Canadian work experience, including employer reference letters, pay stubs, tax documents, and valid work permits. The publication also highlighted key strategies to improve CRS scores, such as retaking language tests, gaining additional Canadian work experience, optimizing spouse credentials, and pursuing provincial nomination pathways.

While the draw presents new opportunities for in-Canada candidates, experts stress that preparation is crucial. Immigration News Canada emphasized that having a complete, well-documented profile ready can make the difference between a successful application and refusal once an ITA is issued.



Five changes that took effect across Canada's immigration system on January 1, 2026

Several new immigration and labour-related measures came into effect across Canada on January 1, 2026, impacting international students, entrepreneurs, skilled professionals, and job seekers, according to CIC News. The changes reflect shifting federal and provincial priorities as Canada adjusts its immigration and workforce policies for the new year.

One of the most significant updates affects international graduate students. As of January 1, master's and doctoral students enrolled at public designated learning institutions no longer need a Provincial or Territorial Attestation Letter (PAL/TAL) to apply for a study permit. CIC News reported that these students are now exempt from the international student cap, making the study permit process faster, cheaper, and more accessible.

At the federal level, Canada's Start-Up Visa program stopped accepting new applications as of December 31, 2025, with limited exceptions for applicants holding valid commitment certificates issued in 2025. The government confirmed the pause is part of a transition toward a new, targeted pilot program for immigrant entrepreneurs, expected to be announced later in 2026.

Meanwhile, Ontario introduced two major labour reforms. Professionals certified in other provinces can now begin working in Ontario within 10 business days under the new "As of Right" framework, while employers are no longer allowed to require Canadian work experience in job postings. Additionally, Alberta tightened eligibility rules for its Rural Renewal Stream, introducing stricter residency and work permit requirements, CIC News noted.

Toronto came closer than ever in 2025 to zero traffic fatalities, but can it get there without speed cameras?

Toronto recorded its lowest number of traffic-related deaths in a decade in 2025, even as a major road safety measure was removed from the city, according to CBC News. City data shows that 39 people died on Toronto's roads last year, a significant decline compared to 78 deaths in 2016, when traffic fatalities reached a 10-year high.

The decrease comes after nearly a decade of the city's Vision Zero strategy, which aims to eliminate traffic deaths through measures such as street redesigns, speed reductions, speed cameras, and red-light cameras. Over the years, traffic fatalities have generally trended downward, with 2025 marking the lowest total on record. Pedestrians continued to be the most affected group, accounting for nearly half of all deaths, CBC News reported.

However, the record-low number coincides with the removal of automated speed enforcement cameras, which were taken down in late 2025 following new provincial legislation. Road safety advocates and organizations such as CAA have warned that eliminating speed cameras could lead to an increase in speeding and future fatalities.

Despite the loss of speed cameras, city officials say other safety measures remain in place, including speed humps, red-light cameras, and expanded street guard programs. While progress has been made, advocates stress that Toronto still has work to do to ensure safer streets for all road users.

Four friends, one home: A new way to age together

The Globe and Mail reports on a growing alternative to traditional senior housing through the story of four Ottawa women who have chosen to age together in a shared, purpose-built home. Known as the "soul sisters," the women — all single, retired professionals aged 74 to 81 — created a co-housing model that balances independence with companionship.

Their model aligns with broader conversations among Canadian planners and policymakers about age-friendly communities, which emphasize accessibility, social inclusion, and the ability to age in place. According to Statistics Canada, 28 per cent of Canadians aged 75 or older live alone, a reality that can increase the risk of social isolation.

The friends, who met through a church choir, began planning the project in 2017 and moved into their custom-built home in December 2022. Each owns 25 per cent of the property and has a private, self-contained living unit, while also sharing communal spaces such as a larger kitchen, dining and living areas, a guest room, craft room and garden. The arrangement allows them to live independently while benefiting from built-in social support.

Experts cited by The Globe and Mail stress that strong social networks are central to aging well, particularly as family structures change and fewer people have lifelong partners. For the soul sisters, co-housing offers both emotional security and long-term stability. As one resident notes, the greatest benefit is choice — the freedom to share daily life with others while maintaining personal autonomy.



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