



CHC
Canadian Hispanic Congress
Congreso Hispano Canadiense
Congrès Hispanique Canadiense
Est. 1983

CANADIAN HISPANIC CONGRESS

VOL. 20 | NOVEMBER 2024



Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress,
We are happy to share our November 2024 newsletter.
We really appreciate your support.

Warmly,
Monique Forster
President
Canadian Hispanic Congress

In this issue:

- The CHC meets with MP Judy Sgro, former Federal Immigration Minister
- Honouring Women's Economic Impact: Minister Marci Ien's Statement for Women's History Month
- Desire to Die or Desperation? The Growing Debate on Assisted Dying in Canada
- Canada Cuts Immigration Targets to Address Population Growth and Social Service Strains
- Bank of Canada Cuts Key Interest Rate by 50 Basis Points for the first time since the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Trudeau says Liberals are 'strong and united' amidst caucus dissent
- Community
 - The Canadian Hispanic Congress invites you to The 14th Conference Pro-Empowerment of Women



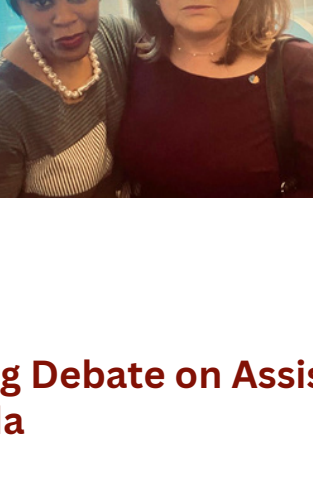
The CHC meets with MP Judy Sgro, former Federal Immigration Minister



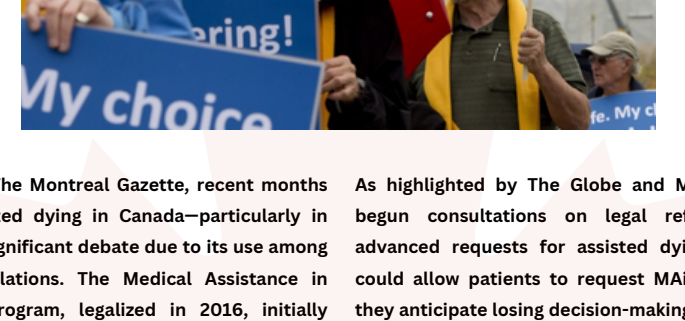
Recently, the Canadian Hispanic Congress accepted an invitation from M.P. Judy Sgro, former Canadian Minister of Immigration and longtime Member of Parliament representing the electoral district of Humber River-Black Creek, in the House of Commons of Canada, to meet and discuss some of the concerns of the Hispanic Latin American community in Canada.

A Member of the Canadian Parliament since 1999, MP Sgro served as the immigration minister in 2003 and has served as chair of many committees. She has been the Chair of the Standing Committee on International Trade and the House of Commons Liaison Committee since 2016.

Among the concerns shared with MP Sgro during the meeting, were the rules surrounding professional accreditation of foreign graduate professionals, healthcare in Canada, immigration for individuals from Latin American countries, education funding, housing affordability in Canada, funding for service organizations, and the protection of temporary workers in Canada. Ms. Sgro is currently looking into the situation of temporary workers in Canada.



Honouring Women's Economic Impact: Minister Marci Ien's Statement for Women's History Month



Minister Marci Ien marked the beginning of Women's History Month with a statement honoring the vital role women have played in Canada's economic development. This year's theme, *Women at Work: Economic Growth Past, Present, and Future*, reflects on how women have fought against systemic barriers to create meaningful progress. Over the past 40 years, women have contributed approximately one third of Canada's economic growth, and Minister Ien emphasized that continuing to support equal opportunities for women in the workplace could add \$150 billion to the country's GDP by 2026.

Despite these achievements, women continue to face challenges, such as wage inequality, gender-based violence, and limited access to high-paying jobs and leadership opportunities. The Minister stressed that women's experiences are diverse, shaped by race, ability, and identity intersections, and that advancing gender equality is key to Canada's future prosperity. That's why throughout October, Canadians were encouraged to reflect on the trailblazers who have shaped the country's economy and to support efforts toward a more inclusive future for all.

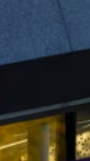


Death or Desperation? The Growing Debate on Assisted Dying in Canada

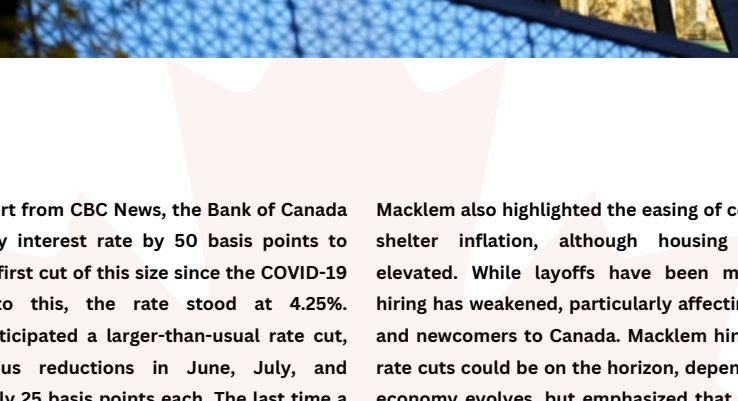


As reported by The Montreal Gazette, recent months have seen assisted dying in Canada—particularly in Ontario—spark significant debate due to its use among vulnerable populations. The Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) program, legalized in 2016, initially targeted adults with terminal illnesses in unbearable suffering. However, recent data reveal an expansion of access to non-terminal patients, with reports of individuals facing poverty or homelessness opting for this route due to a lack of adequate social support. CBC News reports that in Ontario, about 29% of assisted deaths among non-terminal patients came from economically disadvantaged communities. This has raised ethical concerns that the system may be seen as a "path of least resistance" for individuals without other support options. Cases include people without stable housing or facing severe mental health conditions without adequate care access. This issue has highlighted perceived gaps in Canada's healthcare and social services, areas that, critics argue, MAID was not designed to address.

As highlighted by The Globe and Mail, Quebec has begun consultations on legal reforms to allow advanced requests for assisted dying. This change could allow patients to request MAID in advance, if they anticipate losing decision-making capabilities due to degenerative conditions. While supporters see it as an empowering option, critics warn it might further complicate the ethical landscape of end-of-life care. A broader analysis of these upcoming legislative changes, and their potential impact on Canada's most vulnerable, could shed light on the country's evolving approach to life-ending decisions.

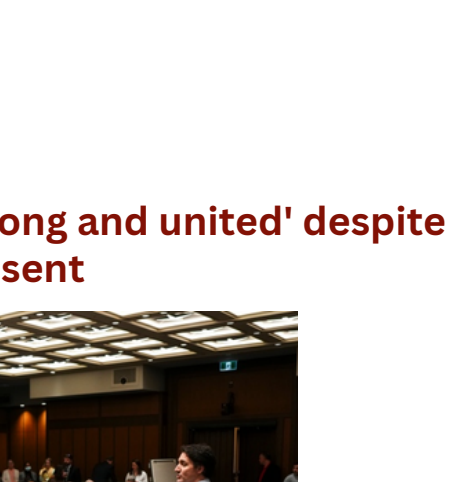


Canada Cuts Immigration Targets to Address Population Growth and Social Service Strains

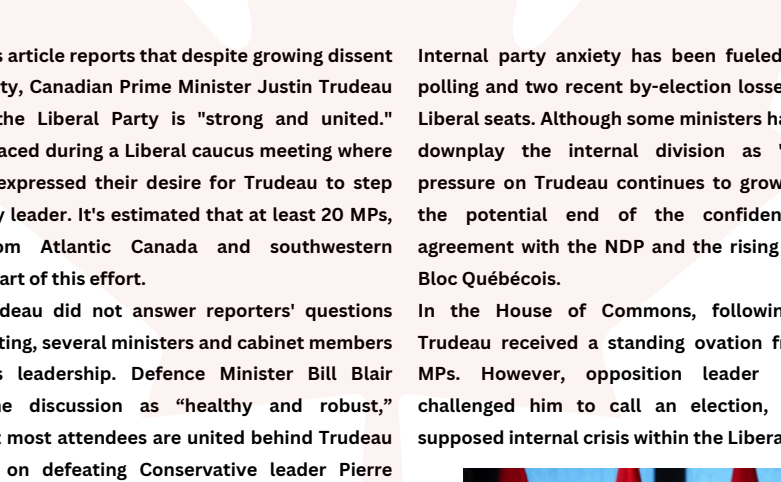


As reported by BBC News, Canada has announced a significant reduction in its immigration targets, aiming to "pause population growth" amid growing concerns over housing shortages and strains on social services. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed that the new target for permanent residents will drop from 500,000 in 2025 to 395,000, with a further reduction to 365,000 by 2027. Trudeau acknowledged that the surge in immigration following the pandemic, intended to meet labor demands, has "not achieved the right balance," leading to increased pressure on essential services like housing and healthcare.

They emphasize that immigration has historically enriched Canada's economy and social fabric and call for solutions that address policy gaps rather than simply cutting immigration. This departure from Canada's historically open immigration policies reflects a broader shift in strategy. Trudeau pointed out that Canada's immigration system has been both flexible and responsible, allowing provinces time to enhance their essential services to meet community needs. As Canada navigates these challenges, the government seeks to strike a balance between supporting its economy and ensuring that infrastructure can support its growing population.



Bank of Canada Cuts Key Interest Rate by 50 Basis Points for First Time Since COVID-19 Pandemic



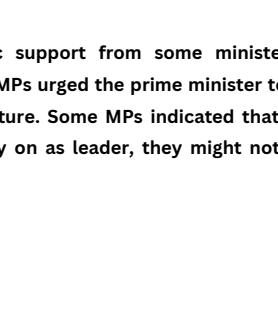
According to a report from CBC News, the Bank of Canada has lowered its key interest rate by 50 basis points to 3.75%, marking the first cut of this size since the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this, the rate stood at 4.25%. Economists had anticipated a larger-than-usual rate cut, given that previous reductions in June, July, and September were only 25 basis points each. The last time a cut of this magnitude was made was in March 2020, at the onset of the pandemic.

Macklem also highlighted the easing of core inflation and shelter inflation, although housing prices remain elevated. While layoffs have been modest, business hiring has weakened, particularly affecting young people and newcomers to Canada. Macklem hinted that further rate cuts could be on the horizon, depending on how the economy evolves, but emphasized that future decisions would be data-driven and taken one meeting at a time.



The decision comes as inflation in Canada has returned to the target range of 2%, following months of high inflation that initially triggered a series of rate hikes. With inflation now stable, the central bank has shifted its focus to supporting economic growth, which has slowed due to elevated interest rates. Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem emphasized the need to balance inflation control with economic recovery, noting that the rate cut should help boost demand and strengthen growth.

Despite the drop in inflation, many Canadians are not feeling immediate relief. Macklem acknowledged this sentiment but pointed out that lower inflation does not necessarily translate to lower prices; instead, it means that prices are rising at a slower rate. Economists are forecasting the possibility of another rate cut in December, but the central bank has not provided any specific indications of future moves.



Trudeau says Liberals are 'strong and united' despite caucus dissent



The CTV News article reports that Minister Justin Trudeau insists that the Liberal Party is "strong and united." Tensions surfaced during a Liberal caucus meeting where several MPs expressed their desire for Trudeau to step down as party leader. It's estimated that at least 20 MPs, primarily from Atlantic Canada and southwestern Ontario, are part of this effort.

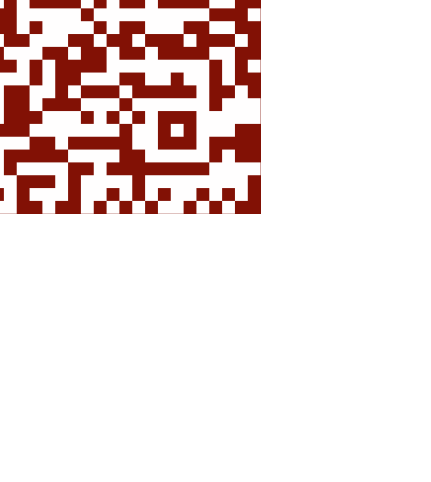
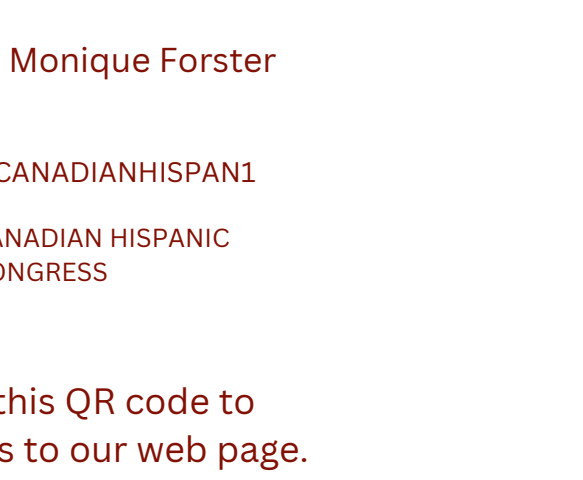
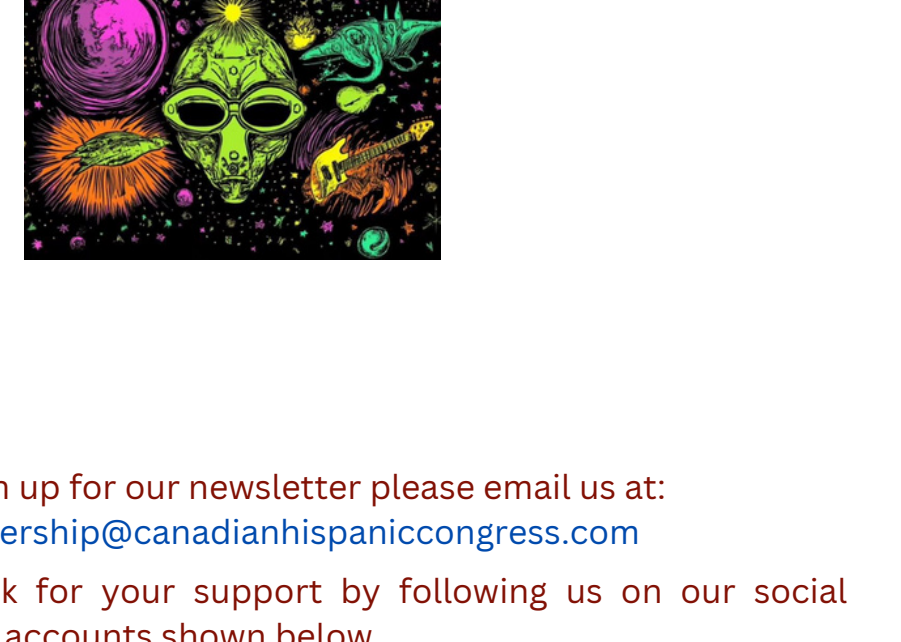
Internal party anxiety has been election losses in favorably polling and two recent by-election losses in traditionally Liberal seats. Although some ministers have attempted to downplay the internal division as "palace drama," pressure on Trudeau continues to grow, especially with the potential end of the confidence and supply agreement with the NDP and the rising influence of the Bloc Québécois.

Although Trudeau did not answer reporters' questions after the meeting, several ministers and cabinet members defended his leadership. Defence Minister Bill Blair described the discussion as "healthy and robust," affirming that most attendees are united behind Trudeau and focused on defeating Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre.

In the House of Commons, following the meeting, Trudeau received a standing ovation from most of his MPs. However, opposition leader Pierre Poilievre challenged him to call an election, pointing to the supposed internal crisis within the Liberal Party.



The Canadian Hispanic Congress invites you to The 14th Conference Pro-Empowerment of Women



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

We ask for your support by following us on our social media accounts shown below.

Edited by: Valentina Barragán and Monique Forster

@CHC1983

@CANADIANHISPAN1

@CANADIANHISPANICCONGRESS

CANADIAN HISPANIC CONGRESS



Scan this QR code to access to our web page.