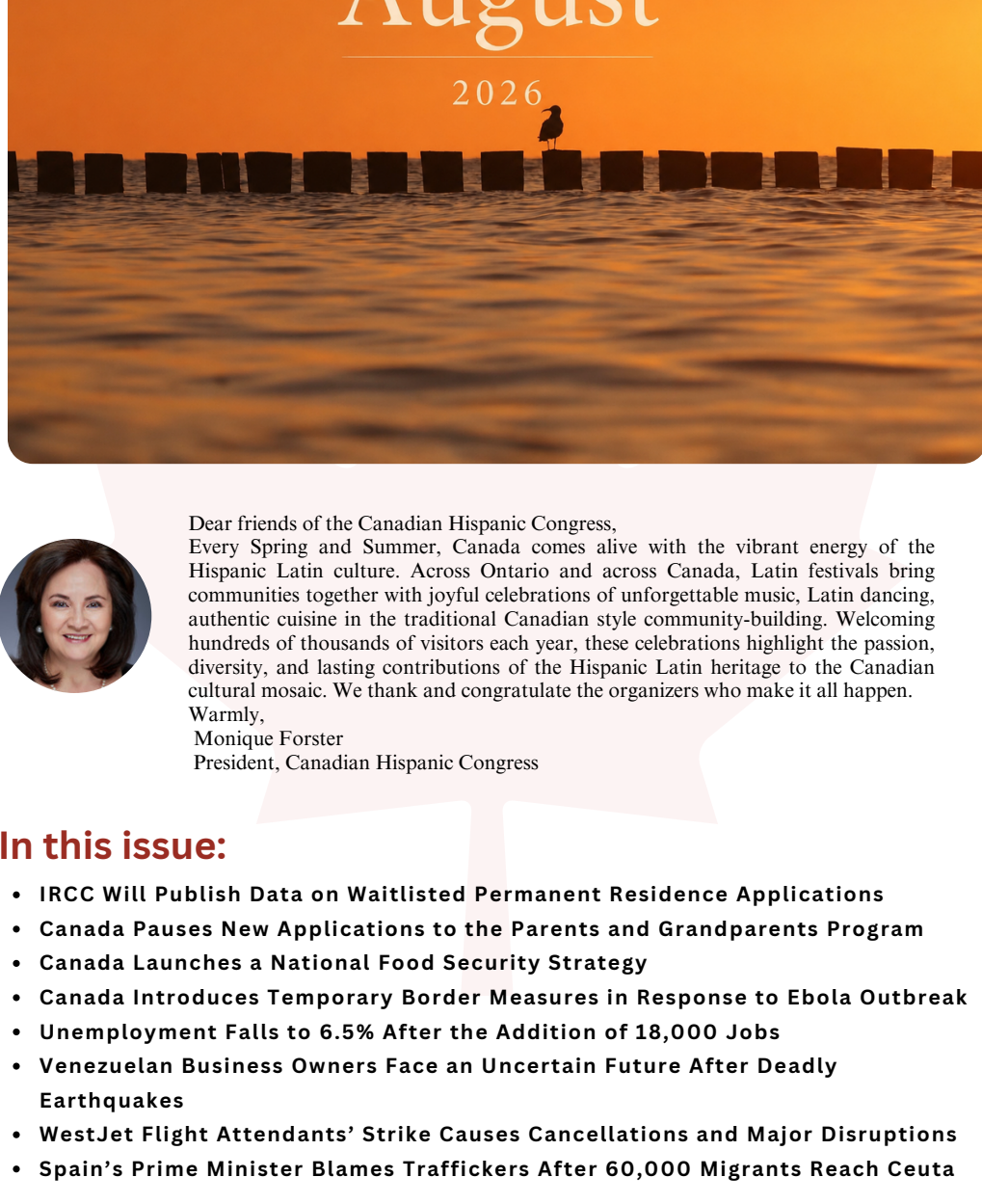


Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress,  
Every Spring and Summer, Canada comes alive with the vibrant energy of the Hispanic Latin culture. Across Ontario and across Canada, Latin festivals bring communities together with joyful celebrations of unforgettable music, Latin dancing, authentic cuisine in the traditional Canadian style community-building. Welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, these celebrations highlight the passion, diversity, and lasting contributions of the Hispanic Latin heritage to the Canadian cultural mosaic. We thank and congratulate the organizers who make it all happen.  
Warmly,  
Monique Forster  
President, Canadian Hispanic Congress

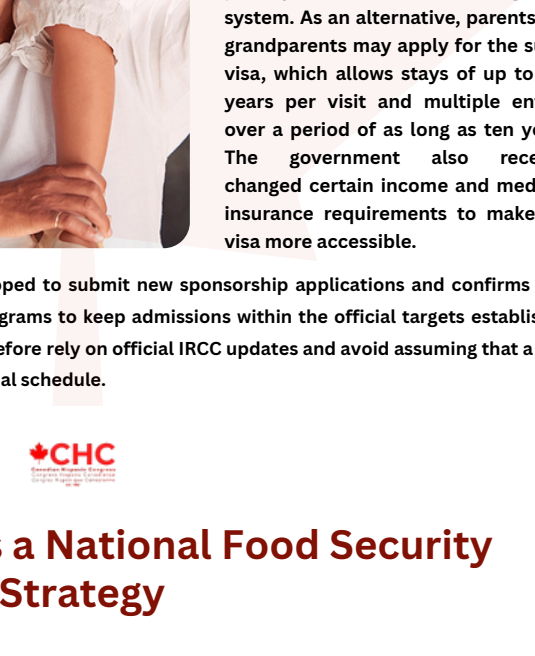
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## IRCC will publish data on waitlisted permanent residence applications

The Canadian government announced a new transparency measure showing how many permanent residence applications are in active processing and how many have been placed on a waitlist. Beginning July 21, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada will publish monthly updates on its application inventory. This is the first time the department has provided detailed information on the proportion of files that cannot be processed immediately because of annual admission limits.

The data will be presented across three main categories: economic immigration, family reunification and refugee protection. The figures will change each month depending on the number of applications in the inventory and the spaces established under the 2026-2028 Immigration Levels Plan. A waitlisted application has not necessarily been refused; rather, its processing is postponed until capacity becomes available within the admission targets.



Publication of the figures may help applicants, lawyers and community organizations understand delays and develop more realistic expectations. It also demonstrates how government targets directly affect processing times, even when an applicant meets a program's eligibility requirements. The measure comes as Canada is attempting to control immigration growth and could increase pressure on Ottawa to explain decisions involving priorities, inventories and the distribution of admission spaces among different permanent residence categories. Regular reporting will also make it easier to identify whether backlogs are improving or becoming more severe over time.



## Canada pauses new applications to the Parents and Grandparents Program

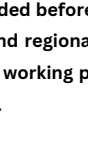
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced on July 15 that it would pause the intake of new applications under the Parents and Grandparents Program. The measure is part of the federal government's effort to manage immigration levels and reduce processing times. The department will continue reviewing applications already in the system and plans to approve up to 15,000 people for permanent residence in 2026, in line with the 2026-2028 Immigration Levels Plan.



Until further notice, the government will not accept new interest-to-sponsor forms or issue additional invitations to potential sponsors. Demand for the program greatly exceeds the number of available spaces, and Ottawa argues that the pause will improve predictability and prevent the application inventory from continuing to grow.

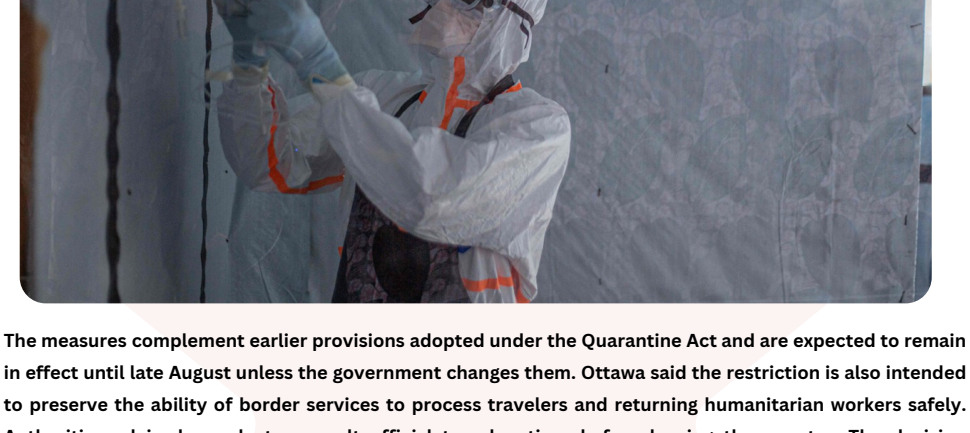
Family reunification remains a stated priority of Canada's immigration system. As an alternative, parents and grandparents may apply for the super visa, which allows stays of up to five years per visit and multiple entries over a period of as long as ten years. The government also recently changed certain income and medical-insurance requirements to make the visa more accessible.

The decision will affect families that had hoped to submit new sponsorship applications and confirms that Canada is adjusting several immigration programs to keep admissions within the official targets established for the coming years. Applicants should therefore rely on official IRCC updates and avoid assuming that a new intake period will open on a predictable annual schedule.



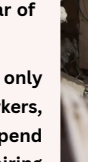
## Canada launches a National Food Security Strategy

The federal government introduced a National Food Security Strategy in July, backed by more than \$3 billion in investment over ten years. The plan is intended to strengthen Canada's food system, increase productivity, support innovation and encourage greater competition. It also includes support for independent grocery stores, which often compete with large national chains and play an important role in small, rural or culturally diverse communities.



The strategy responds to household concerns about rising food costs and Canada's ability to maintain a stable supply during trade disruptions, climate disasters and changes in international markets. The government argues that stronger competition and productivity can help lower prices, although the results will depend on how funding is distributed and how the programs are implemented.

Food security refers not only to producing enough food, but also to ensuring that people have consistent access to nutritious and affordable products. For low-income families, newcomers and remote communities, price and availability can create significant barriers. The initiative therefore combines economic and social objectives: strengthening Canadian businesses, improving supply-chain resilience and reducing pressure on consumers. Its impact will become clearer over the coming years as specific projects and support mechanisms are announced. Success will also depend on whether the strategy reaches communities facing the greatest affordability and access challenges rather than concentrating benefits only among large producers and retailers. Clear performance measures will be necessary to determine whether the investments effectively improve affordability, competition and reliable access to food.



## Unemployment falls to 6.5% after the addition of 18,000 jobs

The Canadian economy added approximately 18,000 jobs in June, while the national unemployment rate edged down to 6.5 per cent, according to Statistics Canada data released in July. The results showed that the labour market continued to create positions, with a relatively strong beginning to the summer job season for young people. Economists nevertheless warned that conditions remain uneven and that some sectors and population groups continue to face greater difficulty.



The decline in unemployment offers a positive sign after months of economic uncertainty, but it does not remove concerns about slow growth, U.S. tariffs and the cost of living. Employment gains must also be compared with growth in the labour force, because Canada needs to add enough positions to absorb new workers, immigrants and young people entering the market.

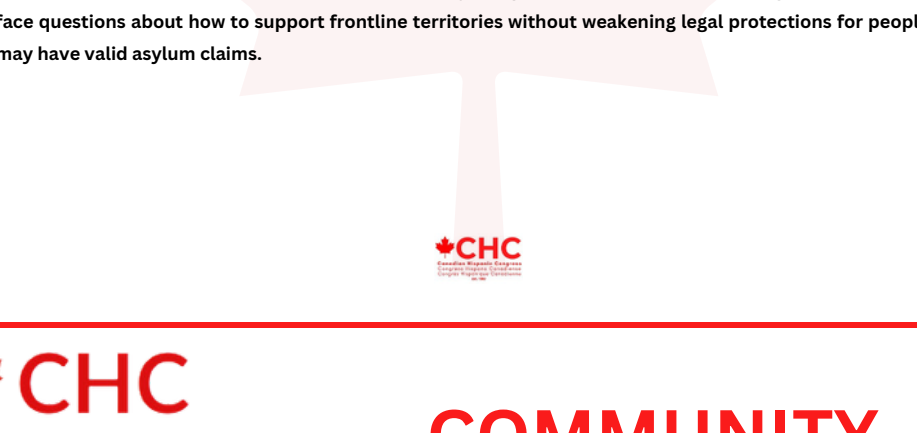
For households, employment is one of the main factors determining whether they can afford housing, food and transportation. For newcomers, access to suitable jobs also affects economic and professional integration. The figures will be considered by the Bank of Canada as it evaluates consumer demand and inflation pressures. Although the decline to 6.5 per cent represents an improvement, analysts said several months of sustained job growth would be needed before concluding that the labour market has returned to a solid trajectory. Wage growth, job quality and regional differences will also remain important indicators. Participation rates and the number of people working part time involuntarily will provide further evidence about the underlying strength of employment.



## Canada introduces temporary border measures in response to Ebola outbreak

The Public Health Agency of Canada announced new temporary border measures in response to the Ebola disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Beginning on the evening of July 20, foreign nationals who had been in that country during the previous 21 days were prohibited from entering Canada. Commercial and private air carriers were also barred from allowing those travelers to board flights bound for Canada.

The government said the decision was intended to reduce the risk of the virus being introduced and spreading in Canada, although the threat to the Canadian population remained low and no travel-related cases had been reported. Canadian citizens, permanent residents and people registered under the Indian Act may return even if they have been in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda or South Sudan. However, they must receive a health assessment upon arrival and complete a 21-day quarantine.



The measures complement earlier provisions adopted under the Quarantine Act and are expected to remain in effect until late August unless the government changes them. Ottawa said the restriction is also intended to preserve the ability of border services to process travelers and returning humanitarian workers safely. Authorities advised people to consult official travel notices before leaving the country. The decision illustrates how an international public-health emergency can rapidly change immigration, aviation and border rules, even when the domestic risk is assessed as low. Travelers affected by the rules should verify their eligibility and obligations directly through official Canadian government guidance before making travel arrangements.



## Venezuelan business owners face an uncertain future after deadly earthquakes

Eleven days after two earthquakes struck Venezuela's coast, small-business owners in La Guaira were still assessing both human and economic losses. Many had built their livelihoods around the area's beaches, restaurants, accommodation and other tourism-related services. In addition to mourning friends and neighbours, they now face uncertainty over when to can reopen and whether visitors will return to a region marked by visible damage and fear of further aftershocks.

The interruption of tourism affects not only business owners, but also informal workers, suppliers, fishers, drivers and families that depend on visitor activity. Recovery will require repairing infrastructure, restoring essential services and demonstrating that tourist areas can operate safely. For small businesses, even a few weeks without income can lead to debt, layoffs or permanent closure.

The report illustrates how a natural disaster can rapidly transform the economy of a coastal community. Emergency aid addresses immediate needs, but commercial recovery often takes much longer. Owners must decide whether to reinvest their savings, wait for government support or change the nature of their businesses. Their future will depend on the speed of reconstruction, the confidence of tourists and the ability of authorities to provide clear information and sustained assistance. The experience also highlights why disaster planning should include support for local businesses, not only the physical rebuilding of roads and buildings.



## WestJet flight attendants' strike causes cancellations and major disruptions



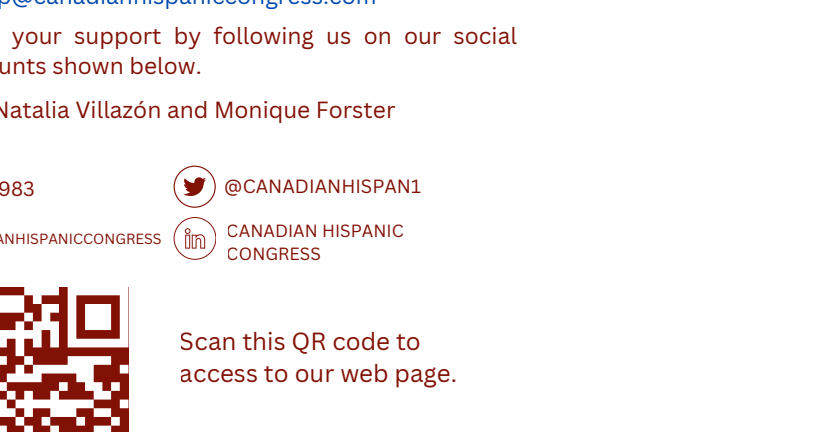
WestJet flight attendants began strike action after months of negotiations failed to produce a final agreement with the airline. Workers established picket lines while WestJet grounded several aircraft and cancelled hundreds of flights. The disruption affected travellers during the peak summer period, including passengers who were stranded or forced to reorganize accommodation, connections and ground transportation with little notice.

The union and the airline remained at the bargaining table, but operations faced severe reductions. Major issues in the dispute include compensation, the structure of pay and the work flight attendants perform before boarding, during delays and after arrival. The union argues that a significant portion of these safety-related duties is not fully compensated. The contract has acknowledged that the labour market needs improvements, while also maintaining that any agreement must protect the company's long-term sustainability.



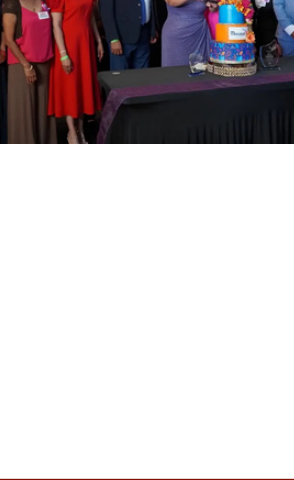
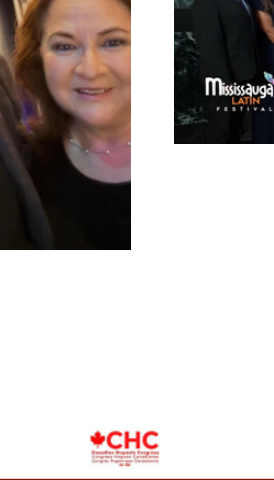
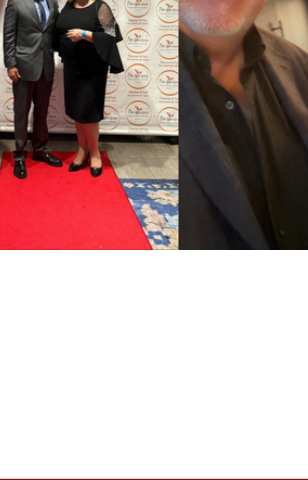
## Spain's prime minister blames traffickers after 60,000 migrants reach Ceuta

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez blamed human-smuggling networks after approximately 60,000 migrants reached Ceuta from Morocco within a very short period. The mass arrival temporarily overwhelmed the capacity of the small territory and created a humanitarian, political and border-security crisis. Many people attempted to enter by swimming or crossing through border points as authorities deployed additional resources, reports BBC News.



Sánchez said that traffickers had circulated misleading information about legal changes and convinced thousands of people that they would be allowed to remain in Spanish territory. The episode followed a court decision concerning the immediate return of migrants intercepted at sea. Spanish authorities said that tens of thousands later returned to Morocco voluntarily or through return procedures. Deaths were also reported during the crossing attempts.

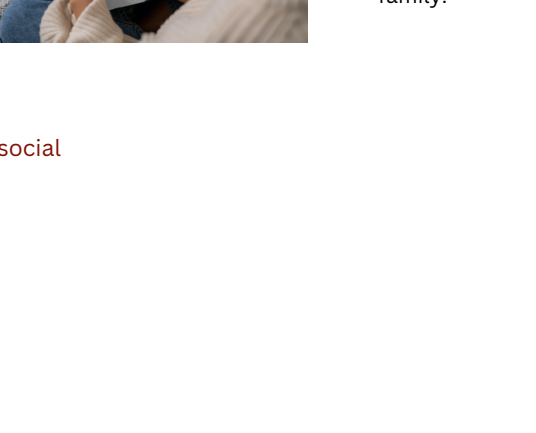
Ceuta is a Spanish territory in North Africa and forms part of the European Union's external land border. Any sudden increase in arrivals therefore has consequences for Spain, Morocco and the wider European bloc. The crisis renewed debates over asylum, border control, international cooperation and humanitarian responsibility. It also demonstrated how rumours spread by criminal networks can rapidly mobilize large numbers of vulnerable people and create extremely dangerous conditions. European governments will also face questions about how to support frontline territories without weakening legal protections for people who may have valid asylum claims.



## Celebrating Hispanic Latin Canada

### Pan American Food & Music Festival

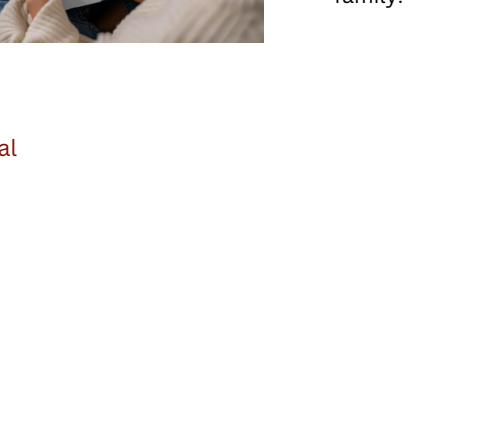
### Mississauga Latin Festival



### 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

### NEED HELP?

### Visit our Webpage

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!



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

To sign up for our newsletter please email us at:  
[membership@canadianhispaniccongress.com](mailto:membership@canadianhispaniccongress.com)

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

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