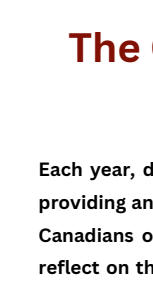




Dear friends of the Canadian Hispanic Congress,



We are thrilled to share with you our October bulletin! As we embrace the spirit of the season, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful and Happy Thanksgiving. We also proudly celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month in Canada, honouring the rich contributions, culture, and achievements of the Canada's Hispanic Latin American community. Thank you for sharing your time with us and for your unwavering support. Happy October!

Warmly,
Monique Forster
President, Canadian Hispanic Congress

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The CHC salutes the Hispanic Latin-American Community in Canada

Each year, during the month of October, Canada recognizes Hispanic Latin American Heritage Month, providing an important opportunity to acknowledge the histories, cultures, and diverse contributions of Canadians of Latin American and Hispanic heritage. The observance offers a meaningful occasion to reflect on the longstanding presence of Hispanic and Latin American communities in Canada and their significant contributions to the country's social, economic, political, and cultural development.

Latin American Heritage Month was formally established through the Heritage Month Act, which received parliamentary approval in June 2018 and designated October as a national month of observance and celebration for Canadians. This federal recognition reflects the importance of fostering greater awareness and understanding of the experiences, histories, and achievements of Latin American communities across Canada.

The month serves not only as a celebration of cultural heritage but also as an opportunity for education and dialogue. Latin American and Hispanic communities encompass a wide range of national, cultural, linguistic, and historical identities. Their contributions can be seen across all sectors, including education, business, the arts, public service, science, community development, and civic life.

Recognizing these contributions strengthens Canada's broader commitment to multiculturalism, inclusion, and historical awareness. It also provides an opportunity to examine the diverse experiences that have shaped—and continue to shape—Canadian society.

Celebrating Latin American Heritage Month in Canada, the Canadian Hispanic Congress pays tribute to the Spanish-speaking community in Canada and invites Canadians to discover the richness and complexity of Latin American histories and cultures, to recognize the achievements of Latin American communities, and to deepen our collective understanding of the diverse heritage that our community contributes to Canada's national identity.



Canada Seeks Full Membership in U.K.-Led Military Coalition

Canada has formally applied to become a permanent member of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), a U.K.-led military coalition made up of 10 allied countries and focused primarily on NATO's northern flank. The force was established in 2014 as a rapid-response military group. Although the Canadian military has previously participated in multinational exercises with the JEF, Canada has not been a permanent member. Prime Minister Mark Carney's office said the United Kingdom supports Canada's bid to join the coalition, according to reports from CTV News.



The announcement came during Carney's first face-to-face meeting with British Prime Minister Andy Burnham in Liverpool. During their official talks, the two leaders discussed defense co-operation, trade and the development of artificial intelligence. They also addressed plans for a new permanent arrangement to modernize the British Army Training Unit Suffield in Alberta. CFB Suffield's 2,700-square-kilometre training area is used by the British military for exercises and for testing drones and other equipment. The United Kingdom plans to spend approximately \$18.7 million on the facility through 2031.

Canada and the United Kingdom are also holding active discussions about bringing together their separate defense-financing initiatives. Carney has promoted the creation of a Defense, Security and Resilience Bank, which would provide allies with access to low-cost borrowing for defense projects. The United Kingdom is separately developing the Multilateral Defence Mechanism, designed to finance joint purchases of military equipment. Earlier this year, Canada and the U.K. issued a joint statement saying they want the two initiatives to develop in a coherent and mutually supportive way and to explore opportunities for closer co-operation and complementarity.

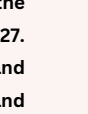


Nearly 1 in 4 Canadian Households Live in Unaffordable Housing

Housing affordability worsened for a growing share of Canadian households, according to new data from Statistics Canada. In 2024, 23.2% of Canadian households were living in housing considered unaffordable, up from 22% in 2022. Statistics Canada defines unaffordable housing as a situation in which a household spends 30% or more of its income on shelter costs. Renters faced greater affordability challenges than homeowners, with 33.7% living in unaffordable housing compared with 17.4% of homeowners. In 2024, 36.6% of Canadian households were homeowners with a mortgage, 27.8% owned their homes without a mortgage, and 31.3% rented in the private market. Affordability also worsened among homeowners with mortgages: 26.1% were living in unaffordable housing, up from 23.6% in 2022, reports Global News.

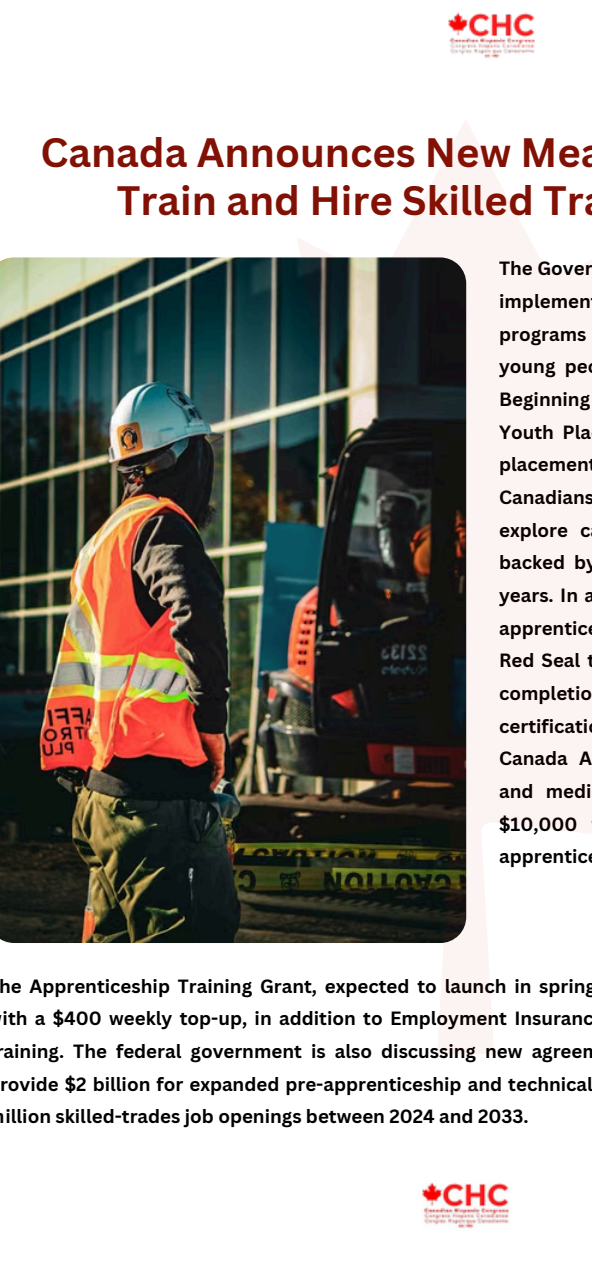


In addition, 36.2% of homeowners with a mortgage reported financial difficulty because of mortgage costs, an increase of 7.9% compared with 2022. Renters who had recently moved also faced higher costs. Those who moved within the previous two years paid an average monthly rent of \$1,740, compared with \$1,290 for tenants who had remained in the same home for more than two years. Among recent movers, 40% lived in unaffordable housing, compared with 32.2% of longer-term tenants.



Canada Needs to Nearly Double Home Construction to Restore 2019 Affordability Levels

Canada needs to roughly double its current homebuilding rate over the next decade to restore housing affordability to 2019 levels, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's fall 2026 housing supply report. The country is currently on pace to build about 231,000 homes per year through 2036, but CMHC estimates that between 417,000 and 469,000 homes would need to be built annually to narrow the housing supply gap and bring prices closer to pre-pandemic levels. CMHC says high construction costs, difficult presale financing conditions and weakness in the condominium market continue to make developers cautious about launching new projects, according to Global News.

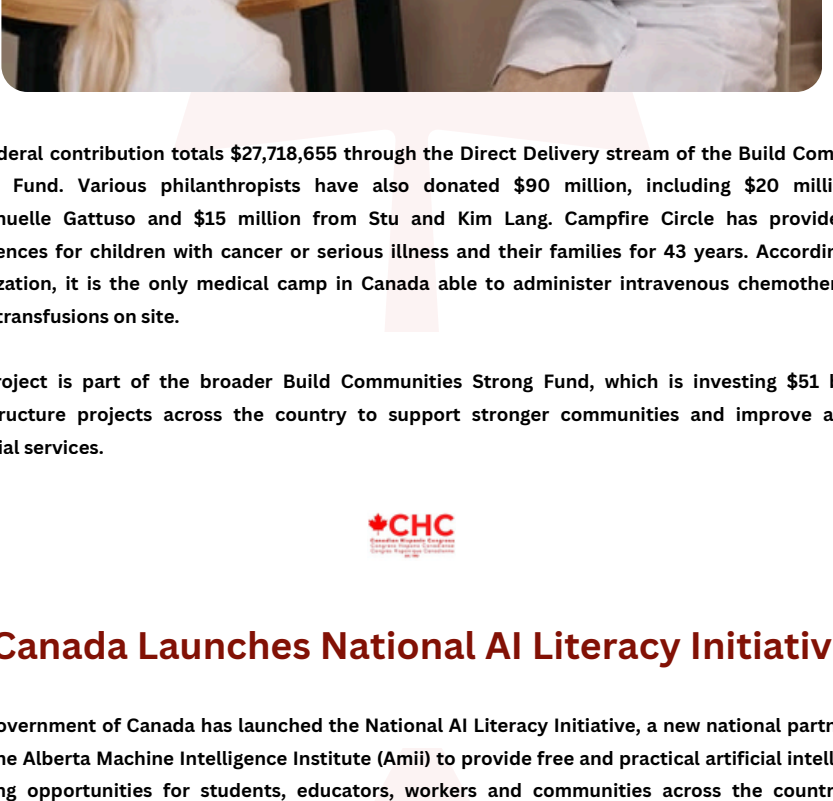


At the same time, government financing programs, lower or deferred development charges and zoning reforms are helping improve the viability of some developments, particularly purpose-built rental housing. The outlook varies significantly by market. Toronto and Calgary have both seen their projected supply gaps narrow, but for different reasons, while Vancouver's gap has remained largely unchanged. Ottawa and Montreal are expected to experience wider gaps as demand grows faster than available housing. Edmonton remains the most affordable major market in Canada, with virtually no measurable housing supply gap because construction has generally kept pace with population growth.



Canada's New Counter-Tariffs Could Raise Prices for Consumers

Canadian consumers could face higher prices as a result of new counter-tariffs of up to 50% on hundreds of U.S. goods worth about \$28 billion. Tariffs increase import costs, and experts cited by Global News say businesses may pass some of those costs on to consumers through higher prices. The impact could be especially noticeable in food and beverages, dairy products, home appliances, agricultural goods, furniture, cosmetics, clothing and textiles. The counter-tariffs also apply to many intermediate goods used by manufacturers and agricultural businesses, including tower cranes, forklifts, railway parts, pumps, compressors and electrical components. U.S. steel, aluminum and copper products are also subject to 50% counter-tariffs, up from 25%.

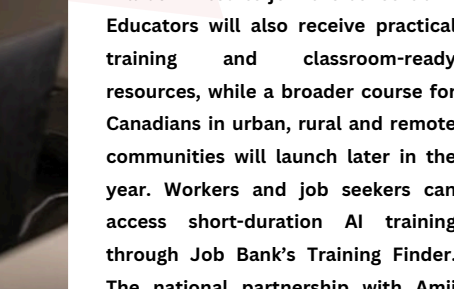


These higher costs could eventually raise the prices of Canadian-made products as domestic companies face more expensive inputs and operating expenses. A new Angus Reid Institute poll of about 1,500 Canadian adults found that 60% of respondents were willing to continue with Canada's current negotiating strategy even if household expenses such as groceries and clothing increased by 10% to 20%. Experts warned that continued rounds of tariffs could raise costs for consumers and businesses and may cause Canadians to become more cautious about spending.



Canada Extends Temporary Federal Fuel Excise Tax Relief on Gasoline, Diesel and Aviation Fuel

The Government of Canada announced an extension of the temporary suspension of the federal fuel excise tax through January 31, 2027. The measure applies to gasoline, leaded and unleaded aviation gasoline, diesel fuel and other aviation fuels.

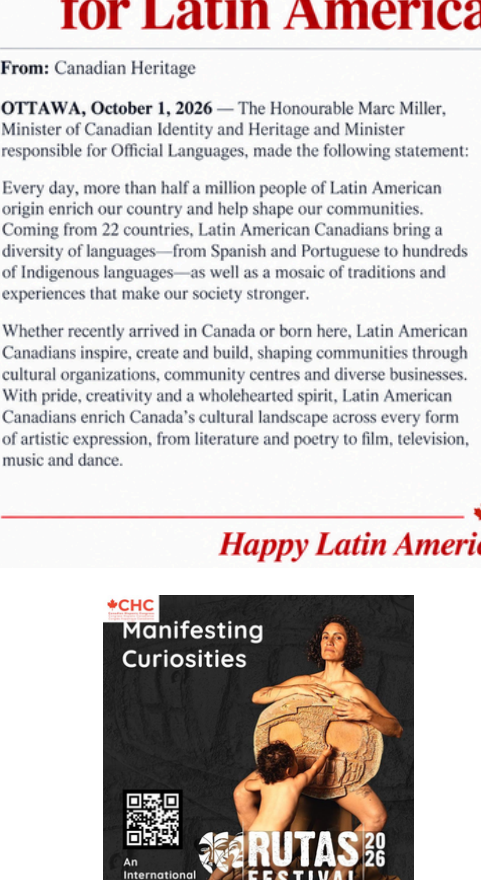


From February 1 through March 31, 2027, only 50% of the regular excise tax rate will apply before full rates return on April 1. The original suspension began on April 20, 2026, saving Canadians 10 cents per litre on gasoline and unleaded aviation gasoline, 11 cents per litre on leaded aviation gasoline, and 4 cents per litre on diesel and aviation fuel.

But the federal government estimates that extending the suspension will have an additional fiscal impact of about \$2.9 billion, bringing total estimated tax relief for Canadians in 2026-2027 to \$5.3 billion. The measure is intended to reduce everyday costs for households, truckers and businesses in sectors such as food, agriculture, housing, construction and delivery. The government also said the extension is part of a broader affordability strategy that includes tax reductions, support for groceries and essential expenses, GST relief for first-time homebuyers and other measures aimed at helping Canadians manage rising costs and economic uncertainty.



Canada Announces New Measures to Recruit, Train and Hire Skilled Trades Workers



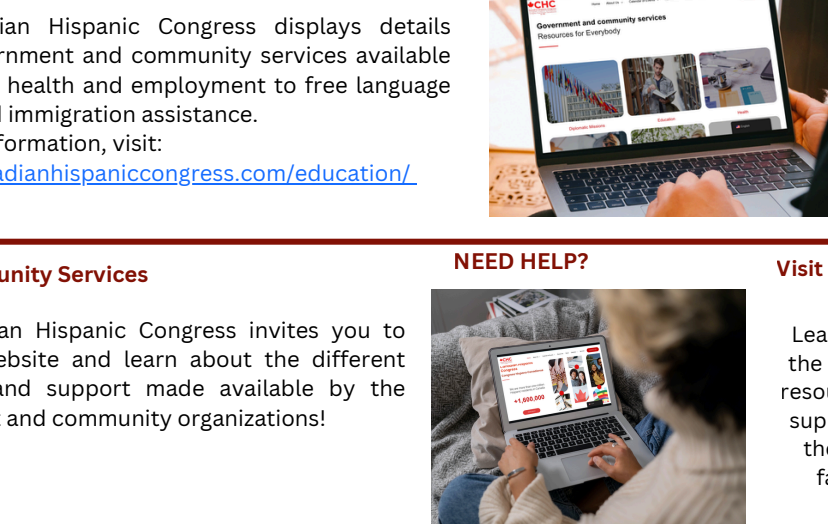
The Government of Canada announced progress in implementing Team Canada Strong, a group of programs designed to expand opportunities for young people and workers in the skilled trades. Beginning in early 2027, the Team Canada Strong Youth Placements program will provide paid job placements of up to four months so young Canadians can gain hands-on experience and explore careers in the trades. The initiative is backed by an \$880-million investment over five years. In addition, tradespeople who complete an apprenticeship and earn certification in an eligible Red Seal trade will be able to apply for a \$5,000 completion bonus, including those who received certification on or after April 1, 2025. The Build Canada Apprenticeship Service will allow small and medium-sized employers to receive up to \$10,000 when they hire an eligible first-year apprentice.

The Apprenticeship Training Grant, expected to launch in spring 2027, will provide eligible apprentices with a \$400 weekly top-up, in addition to Employment Insurance, while attending mandatory technical training. The federal government is also discussing new agreements with provinces and territories to provide \$2 billion for expanded pre-apprenticeship and technical training. Canada expects more than 1.4 million skilled-trades job openings between 2024 and 2033.



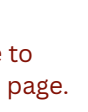
Canada Invests in Healthcare Infrastructure for Children

The Government of Canada announced more than \$27 million in federal funding to build a new medically supported overnight camp for children living with cancer or other serious illnesses. The Campfire Circle project will include an activity centre, dining hall, accessible recreational facilities, creative and cultural program spaces, and equestrian facilities. The goal is to give children a place to learn, play, make friends and enjoy the outdoors while remaining close to the medical support they require.



The federal contribution totals \$27,718,655 through the Direct Delivery stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund. Various philanthropists have also donated \$90 million, including \$20 million from Emmanuel Gattuso and \$15 million from Stu and Kim Lang. Campfire Circle has provided camp experiences for children with cancer or serious illness and their families for 43 years. According to the organization, it is the only medical camp in Canada able to administer intravenous chemotherapy and blood transfusions on site.

The project is part of the broader Build Communities Strong Fund, which is investing \$51 billion in infrastructure projects across the country to support stronger communities and improve access to essential services.



Canada Launches National AI Literacy Initiative

The Government of Canada has launched the National AI Literacy Initiative, a new national partnership with the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii) to provide free and practical artificial intelligence learning opportunities for students, educators, workers and communities across the country. The initiative is part of Canada's AI for All strategy and will be delivered through three streams: Essentials for Students, Essentials for Educators and Essentials for Canadians.

The program is designed to help Canadians understand how AI works, use it responsibly and recognize risks such as bias, misinformation and privacy loss. Through Amii-led programming, the initiative is expected to reach up to one million post-secondary students and more than 50,000 kindergarten-to-Grade-12 educators.

Participating post-secondary institutions will be able to offer a free three-hour AI literacy course, and beginning September 21, 2026, additional institutions across Canada will be invited to join the consortium. Educators will also receive practical training and classroom-ready resources, while a broader course for Canadians in urban, rural and remote communities will launch later in the year. Workers and job seekers can access short-duration AI training through Job Bank's Training Finder. The national partnership with Amii represents a \$13-million investment.

Statement by Minister Miller for Latin American Heritage Month

From: Canadian Heritage

OTTAWA, October 1, 2026 — The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Heritage and Minister responsible for Official Languages, made the following statement:

Every day, more than half a million people of Latin American origin enrich our country and help shape our communities. Coming from 22 countries, Latin American Canadians bring a diversity of languages—from Spanish and Portuguese to hundreds of Indigenous languages—as well as a mosaic of traditions and experiences that make our society stronger.

Whether recently arrived in Canada or born here, Latin American Canadians inspire, create and build, shaping communities through cultural organizations, community centres and diverse businesses. With pride, creativity and a wholehearted spirit, Latin American Canadians enrich Canada's cultural landscape across every form of artistic expression, from literature and poetry to film, television, music and dance.

Across Latin America, diverse cultural and spiritual traditions have shaped the ways communities mark life's most important moments, from welcoming new generations to honouring those who came before them. While these traditions differ from one country and community to another, the importance of passing down stories, knowledge and traditions remains a powerful part of many Latin American communities. Caring about family and community members as well as the importance of creating bonds and a sense of belonging are values that are cherished by many Latin American Canadians and shared throughout Canada.

However, we must also recognize that racism and discrimination remain a reality for too many people of Latin American origin in Canada. Through Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028, and Canada's Action Plan on Combating Hate, we are taking action to break down barriers, combat hate and build safer, more inclusive communities where everyone can feel that they belong.

During Latin American Heritage Month, I invite all Canadians to discover the richness of Latin American traditions, cultures and histories, and celebrate the values that bring us together.

Happy Latin American Heritage Month!



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

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

Edited by: Natalia Villazón and Monique Forster

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