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Renewed calls to cancel Canada Day in wake of residential school gravesite discovery

OTTAWA — There are renewed calls to cancel the Canada Day holiday this year, as Canadians grapple with the recent discovery of an unmarked burial site at a former residential school in B.C.

The hashtag #CancelCanadaDay is gaining traction on social media with many arguing it should be a day to reflect on the injustices inflicted on Indigenous Peoples, including the lives lost at residential schools.

Beyond a hashtag, protests planned by Indigenous rights group Idle No More are set to take place in Vancouver and several Ontario regions on July 1.

The discovery at Kamloops residential school has reminded us that Canada remains a country that built its foundation on the erasure and genocide of Indigenous nations, including children. We refuse to sit idle while Canada's violent history is celebrated," reads the group's Facebook page.

On May 28, the remains of 215 children were found at the site of the Kamloops school formerly run by the Catholic Church. Since then, there have been calls by First Nations leaders, human rights advocates, and opposition politicians for accountability and support from all levels of government as well as cooperation by the church to find answers.

From Truth and Reconciliation Commission chair Murray Sinclair, who has said that there will likely be similar discoveries as searches continue at other former school sites.



Supporters of the push to cancel Canada Day would instead like to see a national day of mourning for those who died while attending one of the 139 schools across the country. One event page titled "MilitantCanada for our stolen & murdered children" asks people to join the Anishinabek Nation in a 5-hour-long "solidarity fast" to block the Trans-Canada highway for hours for every hundred years of occupation, colonization and resistance since our people."

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh was asked by reporters Monday whether he supports cancelling Canada Day celebrations this year.

"I believe every single day that we need to focus on reconciliation, that needs to be a priority," he said, before pointing blame at the federal government for inaction on this issue.

"The Liberal government has paid a lot

of lip service to the Anishinabek Nation in a 5-hour-long "solidarity fast" to block the Trans-Canada highway for hours for every hundred years of occupation, colonization and resistance since our people."

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"The Liberal government has paid a lot

Canada's border agency urgently developing biometric plans in response to COVID-19



OTTAWA -- Canada's border agency is urgently looking to him a global technology firm to help develop a biometric strategy in response to rapidly evolving issues including COVID-19.

The Canada Border Services Agency issued a notice of procurement today inviting 15 firms to submit proposals for immediately setting up an Office of Biometrics and Identity Management.

The agency also wants a strategy and road map for digital solutions using biometric-related technologies to address issues flowing from the pandemic and other priorities.

Biometric information -- a unique

identifier such as an iris scan or a fingerprint record -- is considered useful in managing the passage of people across borders.

The chosen contractor would help the border agency develop a plan to "manage, evolve and adapt" the use of biometrics while considering its relationship with other federal departments and international partners.

Canada's privacy commissioners recently said respect for laws and principles governing personal information must guide introduction of digital or paperless-of-vaccination certificates that could smooth the transition to post-pandemic life.

Canada: Family targeted in fatal anti-Muslim attack, police say

Policing a driver ran over a family in Ontario "because they were Muslim", killing four people, including a teenager.

Police in the Canadian province of Ontario say a driver deliberately struck a family because they were Muslim, killing four people and seriously injuring a nine-year-old boy. Canadian media outlets reported Monday.

The victim was a 58-year-old woman and 44-, 45-year-old man and a 15-year-old girl. A nine-year-old boy was seriously injured and is recovering in hospital. The authorities did not release the names of the victims.

"There is evidence that this was a planned, premeditated act motivated by hate. It is believed these victims were targeted because they were Muslim," said a police spokesman, Paul Weight, during a news conference, accepted by CityNews.

A 20-year-old suspect identified as Nathaniel Veltman has been arrested,

local police said in a statement earlier in the day. He has been charged with first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder, Global News reported.

"There is no known previous connection between the suspect and the victims," Weighthead.

The attack comes amid rising concerns about Islamophobia attacks across Canada, including the province of Alberta, where Muslim women have been targeted with verbal and physical abuse in recent months.

In September, 58-year-old Mohamed-Azlin Zafis was finally stabbed to death in a Toronto street in the city of London, about 200km (124 miles) southwest of Toronto, on Sunday evening.

Local news outlets said the victim was a Muslim man in his 50s and 44-, 45-year-old man and a 15-year-old girl. A nine-year-old boy was seriously injured and is recovering in hospital. The authorities did not release the names of the victims.

"There is evidence that this was a planned, premeditated act motivated by hate. It is believed these victims were targeted because they were Muslim," said a police spokesman, Paul Weight, during a news conference, accepted by CityNews.

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justice, and undivided allegiance."

London Mayor Ed Holder ordered flags outside city hall for the first day of Ramadan. "Let me be clear: This was an act of mass murder, perpetrated against Muslims - against Londoners - and rooted in unapologetic hatred," Holder said in a statement.

"This act of unapologetic hatred, this act of Islamophobia, [sic] must be followed by acts of compassion, acts of kindness, acts of empathy, acts of solidarity - justice - and, above all else, love."

Ontario Premier Doug Ford visited his condominium on Monday. "Islam and Islamophobia has NO place in Ontario. Justice must be served for the horrific act of hatred that took place in London, Ontario yesterday," he wrote.

Rajni Sajjan, Canada's minister of national defence, said he was "deeply moved" by the killing of four Muslim Canadians killed in London, Ontario in a despotic Islamophobic attack."

"These are tragic family瞬間 instant. This pervasive hatred is for too common in our country. We need to come together as individual citizens," Jagmeet Singh, leader of the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), also condemned what he described as "an act of Islamophobia & terror".

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Canada secures more Pfizer shots as focus shifts to second doses

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced today that the government will buy three million more vaccine doses from Pfizer, which had originally planned – as ofter to secure more of the product that has become the backbone of Canada's immunization campaign.

Trudeau said Canada's current order of 48 million Pfizer doses will be fully delivered by August. Officials initially expected Canada's full allocation to arrive sometime between July and September.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recently revised its guidelines to permit some recipients of the AstraZeneca vaccine to get a second dose of the Pfizer product. To meet increasing demand for Pfizer's product, the federal government has ordered an additional three million doses, due to arrive in September.

The new order is on track to receive \$1 million in doses of Pfizer this year – enough to fully vaccinate 25.5 million people.

Trudeau said Canada will receive more than two million Pfizer doses each week until the end of August.



Nine million doses are to arrive in July and 9.1 million are expected in August – supply that should ensure Canada meets the goal of completely vaccinating all Canadians who want it by the end of September.

The earlier and more substantial Pfizer delivery will fill a gap left by Moderna, which had planned to be a major supplier to Canada. That Massachusetts-based vaccine maker has struggled with product issues at its plants in Europe and has

repeatedly revised or postponed delivery dates.

Canada has received 5.7 million doses of the Moderna vaccine. The company's shipments have been spotty or smaller than expected since April 1. Moderna has delivered or scheduled less than half of the 12.3 million doses initially promised for the second quarter.

"We'll keep getting shipments secured until everyone can get their shots," Trudeau said. "At the pace we're going, that target is well within reach."

With 25 million doses administered so far, 65 per cent of eligible Canadians – people 12 years of age and over – have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Trudeau said Canada has the highest percentage of citizens who've received first doses among the G20 countries.

But few Canadians have gotten their second doses, just 6.5 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated.

"The more Canadians are vaccinated, the safer we all are and the closer we all get to being through this crisis,"

Effectively controls Canadian shipping

Shippers typically want low cost rates, which they can then pass along in their new contracting system, that hospitalizing power would grow, at the expense of Canada's exploration and production companies which would likely see no higher oil prices.

The toll hearing at the CER is about who effectively controls Canadian shipping.

According to Embridge's evidence, companies that ship over 75 percent of the volumes on the Mainline have said the proposed terms and tolls are "flat, balanced, and productive."

Shippers have generally not shipped on the Mainline, with the exception of those shippers that are contracting downstream pipelines.

It could lose much more than the long-term contract pipelines where shippers pay for volume anyway,

regardless of how much they would actually ship upstream.

While Embridge's application to connect Mainline to firm long-term

contracting may just prevent its business in the long term, it could mean that Mainline may give control to large energy companies in the U.S., which could then profit from the fees.

Embidge, which is proposing to expand its long-term contract pipelines, has committed to Mainline to reduce its long-term volume risk, because competing pipelines already offer shippers the ability to contract for

short-term shipments of volumes that shippers can change monthly. This has given Canadian oil producers the flexibility to contract short-term volumes without having to commit to long-term obligations to ship crude on the pipeline.

Mainline operator Enbridge Looks ToSecure Long-Term Shippers Now Embridge wants to change that. Mainline's operator sees to convert the contract terms to ones where 90 percent of the available capacity would be reserved for long-term access to its network. Canada Energy Regulator's Commission is set to decide, after the hearing ends at end-June, whether to proceed in full for all parties.

Embidge's rationale for the new tolling framework is to ensure certainty for shippers in the long term, and to also allow shippers to take advantage of lower rates for long-term contracts, said Sanjiv Koyade, an independent energy business strategy consultant, writes in Financial Post.

CER Hearing "is about who

Trudeau said. "You can be hopeful about this summer and fall. Let's start looking forward instead of what we leave behind from camping to dinner with friends."

Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, also provided an update on COVID-19 case counts today.

The numbers are off significantly from the mid-April peak, with 73 per cent fewer cases being reported daily. An average of 2,300 new infections are now being reported each day nationwide, down from 6,000 at the peak.

There are also 47 per cent fewer people in hospital with COVID-19 now than there were six weeks ago.

The number of COVID-19 admissions has dropped 33 per cent from April.

Health officials said while most vaccine recipients have been asymptomatic, the agency has received reports of adverse events following vaccination.

Most of these – the vast majority of Quebecers who received the mid-April shot – moved to the lower orange level on Monday.

That allows gyms and restaurant dining rooms to reopen and sees high school students return to in-person learning full-time instead of having online classes on alternating days.

In Quebec, however, it's the first time since the end of February that restaurant dining hours have been allowed to open, except orange zone restrictions set a limit of two adults who don't share an address portable.

Restrictions were easing in several other parts of the province as well, with some regions moving to the province's lowest alert level, the "green" level, which allows indoor gatherings of up to 50 people.

The province, which has seen cases trending sharply downward in recent weeks, on Monday reported three additional deaths and 193 new cases of COVID-19.

In Ontario, Phase 1 will allow for changes such as larger outdoor gatherings, patio dining with up to four people and non-essential retail to open again, among other things. Ontario's religious services,幼兒園和 day camps for children can also begin again, with limitations and health measures in place.

The move was supposed to go into effect June 14, but will begin at 12:01 Friday, June 11.

The province decided to accelerate the reopening based on targeted measures that have been put in place.

Ontario's health ministry, not shipper on the Mainline, with the exception of those shippers that are contracting downstream pipelines. It could well be that, if Mainline Contracting is approved, it is primarily partiers including refiners that have downstream pipeline capacity that will contract for service on the Mainline.

Now, if this would not be a "redistribution of the pie," this would be entirely consistent with the intent and past usage of the Mainline under the 100% unremunerated service structure, "the pipeline operator says.

Coronavirus: What's happening in Canada and around the world on Monday

...further loosening of restrictions

All of Quebec is now out of its highest pandemic alert level – amid a continued decline in the number of new cases, hospitalizations and deaths – while Ontario said it will move to Phase 1 of reopening five days early.

Montreal and several smaller municipalities – the vast majority of Quebecers who received the mid-April shot – moved to the lower orange level on Monday.

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Health officials in Newfoundland and Labrador reported two new cases, while Prince Edward Island had not yet reported any confirmed COVID-19 infections to Monday.

In the rest of the Prairie provinces, Manitoba reported two additional deaths on Monday and 169 new cases of COVID-19. The provincial test positivity rate stands at 11.9 per cent, and 13.7 per cent in Winnipeg. The province is expanding eligibility for second doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone who received their first dose on or before May 1 can now book a second shot. The previous cutoff was April 21.

Saskatchewan health officials reported three new deaths and 68 new cases of COVID-19 Monday. The province currently has 1,142 active cases, the lowest number of active cases since Nov. 8, 2020. The seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases, 97, is also at its lowest mark since that day.

British Columbia will report updated figures covering the weekend later Monday.

What's happening around the world

As of Monday afternoon, more than 173.3 million cases of COVID-19 had been reported worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University's coronavirus tracking tool. The reported global death toll stood at more than 3.7 million.

In Africa, Uganda on Sunday reimposed a strict lockdown that included the closure of schools and the suspension of inter-district travel to help beat back surge in cases.

In the Asia-Pacific region, key Indian cities reopened for business, reinvigorating a sound wave of coronavirus that killed hundreds of thousands.

Residents of the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou will not be able to leave unless they can show that it is absolutely necessary to do so, following an outbreak of COVID-19 that has sickened dozens of people in recent days.

The Philippines will open up its vaccination drive this week to include nearly 35 million people working outside their homes, such as public transport staff, in a bid to curb COVID-19 transmission and to open up the economy.

Residents of the northern Ontario town of Orillia are closing many schools to contain the nation's worst per capita rate of coronavirus infections.

In the Americas, U.S. President Joe Biden's meeting with leaders of the G7 in an English seaside village this week will usher in a new focus on rallying U.S. allies against shared adversaries – the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia and China.

Who Will Control Canada's Most Important Pipeline?

An under-the-radar hearing on the new shipper will determine who controls Canada's key crude oil export pipeline begins next month in what could turn out to be the most important battle for control of Canadian resources.

The more than a month-long hearing at the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) – planned to end on June 25 – is expected to end up with the regulator determining how Canadian oil firms and U.S. refiners will pay to ship crude on Enbridge's Mainline system over the next decade.

Mainline, with the capacity to ship nearly 3 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, is Canada's biggest importer of oil and is the main link from the West Coast to markets in the U.S. Midwest.

The current pipeline contracting system expires on June 30, 2021.

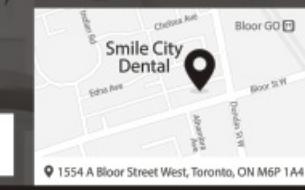
Mainline's operator, Enbridge, has been operating the pipeline for decades under the so-called "common carrier" system, in which all of the huge capacity has been available for

shippers to contract for new tolling framework to ensure certainty for shippers in the long term, and to also allow shippers to take advantage of lower rates for long-term contracts, said Sanjiv Koyade, an independent energy business strategy consultant, writes in Financial Post.

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Sushant, like his character in Kedarnath, left a void behind: Kanika Dhillon

Kanika Dhillon, the writer behind Kedarnath which starred late actor Sushant Singh Rajput and Sara Ali Khan, has said that nobody could have brought the character of Mansoor to life if they way Rajput did. "For the first time, I had come across an actor who could go so deep into his preparation to bring something on paper to life. In everything that happened last year, we forgot to celebrate the actor that Sushant was. You can pick any film of his, and a piece of him will always be with you. We stayed in touch throughout the filming of Kedarnath and the post-production. I would hang out on the sets in Mumbai, where they shot the pre-climax portions. Initially, I had also been on the sets in Kedarnath."

Dhillon also spoke about how deeply Rajput felt his character. "In his bid to feel the character closely, he had changed the entire feel of his bedroom. Utkarsh bhaiya [his twin brother] used to sit in Mansoor's bed, when they shot the pre-climax portions. Initially, I had also been on the sets in Kedarnath."



did more than his homework as an actor. I have not come across another person who goes to such lengths. The day I found out what he had done to his room, I knew no one could play Mansoor better. Sushant, like his

character in the film, left a void behind. Sushant was the most perfect embodiment of Mansoor in Kedarnath. I had hoped we would work together again, but destiny had other plans," she added.

She was the happiest for me - Parineeti Chopra reveals Priyanka Chopra's reaction to her new films

After a disappointing few years, actor Parineeti Chopra has come back stronger than ever with three back-to-back releases which have received good reviews. The actress started her career with the *Golmaal Again* and *Padman* and followed it with the Saina Nehwal biopic, *Saina*. However, it is the recently released *Sandeep Aur Piskhi Farishta* which has earned her some rave reviews. Chopra has been over the moon in the past few months and has consistently mentioned that "the old days are back again," perhaps referring to the days when she was her mother's favourite. Now, Chopra has revealed what her cousin, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, thought about her movies.

"She always gives me this advice, she said, 'When we are in film and we do not meet the audience's expectations of ours, that's one fault. Because they do expect a good performance from us. So don't be in a film (where you) don't give it your



all. Do something interesting or do something, don't be a film just for the sake of it,'" Chopra told a leading special.

"She said this to me a couple of years ago. I remember, and I made so much sense to me because it is such a privileged position to be in when the audience or the media or the critics reviewers actually expect something of you. And when you don't do it, they arrest you. 'What happened to you, we expected more

out of you.' It is such a good position to be in that the audience actually wants to see you in something special, always do something special," she added.

"It was this conversation that helped the actor look at her filmography in a different way. "Because of that conversation, now finally when I did these kinds of films and got these kinds of reviews, I was the happiest for me. She said, 'This is what I was asking about.'

"It is true that it is winning on so many levels! Using an extremely important movement like 'Me Too' frantically, to get your own agenda met with and really noticing a child and her mother's struggle really, I have no right to decide, the country decide who is right & wrong. My opinion only comes from what the girl's mother said to me last night and that is innocent, and it is very likely that if people are using various tactics to prove working mothers are unable to take care of their children, because their appreciation costliest," she added.

She always gives me this advice, she said, 'When we are in film and we do not meet the audience's expectations of ours, that's one fault. Because they do expect a good performance from us. So don't be in a film (where you) don't give it your

There is evidence against him: Vasai DCP on Pearl V Puri's arrest

The Hindi television industry was in a state of shock yesterday as actor Pearl V Puri of Naagin fame was arrested by the Mumbai Police for allegedly raping a minor. An news of his arrest hit the news, his colleagues from the industry, Aalita Haasanandani, Krystle D'Souza, Karishma Tanna, Elka Kapoor and others expressed their support for actor Kapoor, the doyen of the TV industry, but even within a social media caption that she had spoken to the minor's mother who allegedly complained of Puri's innocence.

However, in a statement, Vasai DCP Sanjay Kumar Patil said that the accusations against the actor are not false. When asked about Kapoor's role in the issue, he said, "The accusations are not false. However, he came up in the investigation. There is evidence against him. That is why police has arrested him. The truth will be decided in the trial."

In her Instagram caption, Kapoor had written, "Will I support a child molester, or a molester of any kind? But when it's your mom, who is the victim, who's she? I think it's her. How can anyone get involved? How can people who spent with each other, drag a third person into their fight? How can a human being take on another human being and do that?" After various calls with child's mother, who openly said that Pearl was not interested and it's her husband trying to create stories to keep her child and prove that a working mother is an evil creature/take advantage of her.

"It is true that it is winning on so many levels! Using an extremely important movement like 'Me Too' frantically, to get your own agenda met with and really noticing a child and her mother's struggle really, I have no right to decide, the country decide who is right & wrong. My opinion only comes from what the girl's mother said to me last night and that is innocent, and it is very likely that if people are using various tactics to prove working mothers are unable to take care of their children, because their appreciation costliest," she added.

"It was this conversation that helped the actor look at her filmography in a different way. "Because of that conversation, now finally when I did these kinds of films and got these kinds of reviews, I was the happiest for me. She said, 'This is what I was asking about.'

"It is true that it is winning on so many levels! Using an extremely important movement like 'Me Too' frantically, to get your own agenda met with and really noticing a child and her mother's struggle really, I have no right to decide, the country decide who is right & wrong. My opinion only comes from what the girl's mother said to me last night and that is innocent, and it is very likely that if people are using various tactics to prove working mothers are unable to take care of their children, because their appreciation costliest," she added.

BCB probe bio bubble breach in T20 league

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has begun investigating a potential breach in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League's bio-bubble with Shakib Al Hasan-led Mohammadans Sporting Club at the centre of the controversy.

The bio-secure bubble was allegedly breached on Friday during a practice session of Mohammadans Sporting Club.

"We are disappointed to note this incident," Kazi Imran Ahmed, the chairman of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) said in a BCB media release. "Both the CCDM and the BCB have taken this very seriously. The health and safety of our fans, players, and officials are most important to us. We have requested a significant amount of funds from the BCB to make sure the BSE (bio-security environment) protocol are in place including the best possible accommodation and logistics. This incident is being looked into and necessary actions and further precautionary measures will be taken," he added.

According to a report in *ESPNcricinfo*, an outsider entered the premises when Mohammadans



skipper Shakib was having a batting session at the indoor facilities of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"The BCB is investigating the entry of an outsider although the identity of the person remains

unknown," the report said. Ahead of the tournament that began on May 31, the BCB had announced that any breach may result in a fine, suspension or even point deductions for the club.

Sri Lanka hire Punjab Kings' physio-therapist

The chief physiotherapist of Indian Premier League (IPL) side Punjab Kings, Brett Harper has been appointed as the new physiotherapist of the Sri Lankan cricket team from the upcoming tour of England onwards.

Harper's tenure will run from May 2021 for the next two years, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said in a statement.

"Prior to joining the Sri Lankan team as a physiotherapist, Brett worked as a physiotherapist at the New Zealand Cricket Institute. He has also been the Senior Performance Rehabilitation Manager at Bangladesh Cricket," said the SLC statement.

"Representing Australia in first-class cricket, Brett has been the Chief Physiotherapist for the Prudential Kings team in the Indian Premier League and the Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League. Brett holds a Masters Degree in Exercise Science from Edith Cowan University, Australia, and a Masters Degree in Sports Physiotherapy from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

"He is already in Sri Lanka and is playing the quarantine period. He will join the Sri Lankan team as soon as that period expires and the Sri Lankan team's tour of England will be his first assignment," the statement added.

The Sri Lankan team will leave for England on June 7 to play two games against county sides Kent and Sussex, which will be followed by a three-match T20I series (from June 23) and a three-match ODI series (from June 29).

First England-New Zealand Test ends in a draw



It is the effort of the New Zealand team to distance the England and Ireland teams to a night as the home team preferred to play out time while chasing 273 runs in 75 overs for a win, and it resulted in the first Test ending in a draw on Sunday.

England were 170 for three wickets in their second innings in 70 overs on the fifth and final day when the match ended in a draw. Earlier, they were 56 for two wickets at tea, and they probably decided to hang out there and kill five.

Denzel Simpson with 60 (207 balls, 364), scored in over five hours, and Ollie Pope (20 in 66 minutes, 41 balls, 364) remained unbeaten at stumps. Captain Joe Root made 40 in 109 minutes.

For New Zealand, Neil Wagner batted two hours, Devon Conway, who scored a superb double century on his Test debut, was declared the man of the match.

Earlier, chasing the target, England were reduced to 56 for two wickets in 32 overs at the tea, and still needed

21 runs in the final session of play. At the break, Root was batting without a wicket and Simpson was on 19.

Earlier in the day New Zealand declared their second innings at 169 for six wickets, and asked England to score a run.

for victory. Tom Latham was the top scorer of New Zealand's second innings with 36 while Ross Taylor scored 33. For England, Ollie Robinson was the top wicket taker with three for 26.

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Ontario's free provincial park weekday passes, new programs address overcrowding concerns

In a bid to help space out visits to Ontario's parks to prevent overcrowding, the provincial government is providing five-day use permits at 115 parks from Monday to Thursday.

Starting on Monday, visitors will also be able to book a daily vehicle permit up to five days before visiting 17 selected provincial parks to avoid long-term daily peak visitation hours. The five-day parking permit program will be in place until September 2.

Suecia Wiebe, park education specialist at Bruce Creek Provincial Park, says with warmer days and public health restrictions still in place, overcrowding at parks is a bit worrisome.

"Provincial parks are set aside to protect the natural and cultural resources of Ontario, and with the increase in visitation, the impact on our environment is evident," she said.

Bassett Creek park, located between Oakville and Burlington, just north of the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW), is



not immune to these impacts. Wiebe says she's noticed the trails getting seemingly wider as people are trying to maintain two-meter distance from each other.

"So managing people is going to definitely be a top of mind this year," she said.

Capacity limits, respect for nature

Some parks, like Mono Cliffs Provincial Park in Georgina, have begun using Twitter and other social media channels to alert people that they've reached capacity and new visitors will be turned away.

Trudeau says Ford trying to 'deflect' criticism of Ontario's COVID-19 response by slamming Ottawa

Ontario Premier Doug Ford is trying to "deflect" criticism of his response to the COVID-19 pandemic by pointing fingers at the federal government and handling of the country's borders, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

Trudeau made the comments in response to questions about his relationship with Ford during a virtual appearance at a seminar held by Ryerson University.

Ford has repeatedly said Trudeau's government hasn't done enough to stop COVID-19 from coming into Canada via travel from abroad and that the third wave of the pandemic is largely due to "porous borders."

The prime minister said Ford is in a tough political situation amid the pandemic and that deflecting blame is an easy out.

"I know that the pressure is mounting on Premier Ford,

it is always an easy thing to try and deflect and point fingers."

Trudeau told the seminar held by the federal government and handling of the country's borders, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

"They want to see us focused on getting through it."

But the premier's office said the province's requests are "well documented" in the multiple letters that were sent to the federal government, including another letter sent Friday. Ford has previously said four letters to Ottawa have been sent all gone without a formal response.

"To date, there has been no action on any of these requests. It is the federal government's jurisdiction and responsibility to fix this national problem. We will continue to call on them to close the loopholes at our land and air borders," Ford's press secretary, Alexandra Adams, said in an emailed statement.

"No action on border concerns," Ford's office says.

"Doug, if you want to suspend international students, just tell me. Send us an official note and we'll do that. If you want us to suspend international students, we'll do that. If you want us to do anything more, we'll do that. Just tell me what you want to do," Trudeau said.

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The park specialist also says litter has become "a huge problem in provincial parks."

Wiebe says good姗anagers who would normally pick up trash may have been put off by the fallout of COVID-19.

"We want people to stay on the designated trails. We want people to give each other space and just navigate. No picking up anything, taking pictures, only footprints and debris."

Overnight camping set to resume with restrictions.

Overnight camping in Ontario parks was prohibited under the stay-at-home order, which expired on June 2. Camping is still allowed until at least June 16 following an extension of orders aimed at helping manage the spread of COVID-19.

Camping was previously set to open when the province enters step one of its reopening plan starting June 14 or earlier, as hinted by Premier Doug Ford last week.

"We're ready for [people] when the province provides us with the go-ahead," Wiebe said. "When we go through that road map to reopening, then camping will reopen ... with possibly some limitations."

said Friday in an emailed statement.

Trudeau said Ford has not followed up on the request to suspend international students, a conversation he said he had with the premier some four weeks ago.

Ontario looked for "distractions and diversions":

The federal minister responsible for intergovernmental affairs also criticized Ford's approach to demonstrators, saying Ontario has "chosen to look for distractions and diversions and point the fingers," while the Liberal government has "tried to move past and pull off these conversations."

"Some provinces in fact have pushed us to relax the border measures quickly and either provinces take out silly negative attack ads telling us we need to strengthen the border," Dominic LeBlanc said on Twitter Sunday.

LeBlanc said the federal government remained committed to working collaboratively with provinces to protect Canadians.

Ontario to begin reopening Friday as 3rd wave of COVID-19 recedes

Ontario will move into the initial phases of its reopening plan three days ahead of schedule, the province announced Monday, including loosening restrictions on retail and outdoor activities.

The province said the decision was made based on vaccination rates and "continuing improvements in key public health indicators."

In a statement, Premier Doug Ford thanked Ontarians for their "emergence sacrifices and crucial ongoing immunization campaign for making it possible."

Camping is set to open with

larger outdoor gatherings, patio dining with up to four people and non-essential retail to open at 15 per cent capacity. Outdoor religious services, group exercise and day camps for children can also begin again, with limitations and health measures in place.

As of Sunday, more than 16 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered in Ontario. About 61.2 per cent of the total population, or 72 per cent of those aged 12 and older, have now had at least one dose.

The rolling seven-day average of daily cases fell to 758, its lowest point since Oct. 21, 2020.

There are about 7,937 active

infections provincewide, down from the third-wave peak of nearly 43,000.

As of Sunday, there were 497 patients in hospital, including 100 in ICUs, 339 patients needed a ventilator or breaths.

According to data from Critical Care Services Ontario, the average number of new admissions to ICUs across the province is 12.5.

The province reported 525 new cases of COVID-19 this morning, the ninth consecutive day to decline.

Labs completed just 15,117 tests and Public Health Ontario logged a

positivity rate of 3.6 per cent, but today's case count is well below last Monday, when 916 infections were confirmed with just over 18,000 tests.

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The province reported 525 new cases of COVID-19 this morning, the ninth consecutive day to decline.

Labs completed just 15,117 tests and Public Health Ontario logged a

116,629 doses of COVID-19 vaccines yesterday, the most ever on a Sunday.

More Ontarians are also eligible to book the second dose of a vaccine through provincial priority lists.

Those aged 70 and older, as well as people who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine on or before April 18, can now book their second shot on the province's website or through its phone line.

Delta strain to become dominant:

Despite the encouraging numbers, officials are keeping a close eye on the spread of the delta variant, according to Dr. Barbara Yaffe, associate chief medical officer of health.

"I think it's fair to say that the Delta strain will become the predominant strain in Ontario, just as it happened in other jurisdictions, particularly in the U.K.," Yaffe told reporters.

"If you look at the strain, a variant of concern first identified in India, it has been spreading across the state over the last week following the discovery of the bodies of 215 children in a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C."

Several independent professors and university groups have already swapped their references to the university from Ryerson to "X University." Most recently, the university's journalism school announced it would rename two of its publications.

Toronto Police Const. Alan Li told the Canadian Press that officers were investigating the statue's collapse.

Last week, Ontario provincial legislators opted to move a painting and bust of Ryerson after a request from NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

opportunity to witness the comment it came down. We recognize that the absence of the statue does not reconcile Egerton Ryerson's legacy and so we will continue our work," read the statement, which added that it would give its final recommendations on next steps before the fall semester.

Ryerson School of Journalism to

renounce policies

and update its brand and print here

signs are splashed across the state over the last week following the discovery of the bodies of 215

children in a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C."

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Egerton Ryerson statue will not be replaced after being pulled down, university says

A statue of Egerton Ryerson at Ryerson University, which was pulled down earlier Sunday evening by demonstrators, will not be restored or replaced, the university said Saturday.

A statement from the university's president Mohamed Lachemi stated that the statue was pulled down by a truck about an hour after demonstrating began following a residential school victims ended at 6 p.m.

"The question of the statue was only one of many being considered by the Standing Strong (Mash Koh Wee Kah Peoh Win) Task Force, which was first shown to be removed Sunday evening after several images were posted on social media.

"A couple decades too late, but the Egerton Ryerson statue has been destroyed and supplanted over," wrote Al MacMillan, who posted a video on Twitter of the statue being pulled down with a rope.

"The work is now more important than ever. I ask our community to

respect their wish and to engage with them as we should engage with all others at our university - through dialogue, debate and the exchange of ideas/people.

The university also confirmed that the statue would not be restored or replaced, and that it was "believed that no one was injured in the process" of its removal.

The statue, which has long been a flash point of controversy over the educator's ethnocentric role in designing Canada's residential school system, was first shown to be removed Sunday evening after several images were posted on social media.

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