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## Canada has evacuated more than 1,100 people from Afghanistan: immigration minister

TORONTO -- Canadian evacuation flights have pulled more than 1,100 people out of Afghanistan this month, Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino said Sunday, and 40 families evacuated before the COVID-19 quarantine period in Canada.

"We have seen 12 flights out and over 1,100 people evacuated. That is remarkable work on the part of our armed forces," Mendicino told CTV's Question Period.

Afghan families began arriving in Canada on Aug. 4. Canadian rescue efforts were halted for several days, which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has blamed on the Taliban's presence at the airport in Kabul.

Since evacuation flights resumed on Thursday, Mendicino said, three planes have taken more than 400 people out of the country.

At a press conference on Sunday, Mendicino told reporters that when Canada's evacuation flights resumed on Aug. 19, a flight of 175 Afghans and 13 foreign nationals left Kabul airport, on Friday, 106 people were evacuated, and on Saturday more than 121 people were evacuated.

The first 40 Afghan families who arrived in Canada earlier this month left COVID-19-related quarantine just days ago, he said.

"One family who arrived on Canadian soil on Aug. 4 has already grown. A refugee who arrived that day has had a baby girl, who is a Canadian citizen," said Mendicino.

In the United States, meanwhile,



Maj. Gen. William Taylor told reporters on Saturday that the U.S. had evacuated 17,000 people from Afghanistan, including 2,500 U.S. citizens. To further aid their evacuation efforts, the U.S. announced on Sunday that they will use 18 commercial planes to transport people from Kabul.

On Sunday, the White House said that nearly 8,000 people had been evacuated in the last 24 hours on coalition flights, including commercial flights, and U.S. military flights.

With air bridges reopening, there is hope that Canada will be able to aid more people out of Afghanistan, but the unstable situation at Kabul airport is making it difficult.

"The situation on the ground is volatile, it's precarious. And so we're staying in constant contact with all the people we're trying to help, and we've given full

operational discretion to the armed forces to make whatever calls they need to get those people on flights, and as you seen, we've made some progress but there's more work to do," Mendicino told Question Period host Evan Solomon.

However, the minister said it is expected that the Taliban will follow through on their word to let people who want to leave, leave.

"We've made it very clear publicly and we'll continue to do so that it's our expectation that the Taliban allow every person who's trying to leave Afghanistan safe passage to do so," he said.

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan told reporters at a press conference on Sunday that the situation on the ground at Kabul airport is changing by the hour.

"The situation on the ground is extremely chaotic and difficult," he said.

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



The head of the World Health Organization has called for a two-month moratorium on administering booster shots of COVID-19 vaccines as a means of reducing global vaccine inequality and preventing the emergence of new coronavirus variants.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters Monday that he was "really disappointed" with the scope of vaccine donations worldwide. He called on countries offering third vaccine doses to forward what they would use for booster shots to other countries so they can increase their vaccination coverage.

Those whose immune system is compromised should get a booster shot, though they represent only a small percentage of the population, he added.

The United States announced last week it plans to make COVID-19 vaccine booster shots widely available starting on Sept. 20 as infections rise from the coronavirus delta variant.

Tedros said that vaccine inequity and vaccine nationalism increase the risk of more contagious variants like the delta variant emerging.

What's happening around the world

As of early Monday morning, more than 211.8 million cases of COVID-19 had been reported worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University. The reported global death toll stood at more than 4.4 million.

In the Asia-Pacific region,

at least Friday as it tries to extinguish a growing coronavirus outbreak. The news came as health authorities reported 35 new local infections of the fast-spreading delta variant, the highest number of COVID-19 cases in New Zealand since April last year.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison says lockdowns are not a sustainable way to live. He says states must open their borders once vaccination rates reach 80 per cent of the population aged 16 years and older.

In the Americas, the U.S. gave full approval to Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine on Monday, a milestone that may help lift public confidence in the shots as the country battles the most contagious coronavirus mutant yet.

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech now carries the strongest endorsement from the Food and Drug Administration, which has never before had so much evidence to judge a shot's safety.

More than 200 million Pfizer doses already have been administered in the U.S. - and hundreds of millions more worldwide - since emergency use began in December.

The Pentagon said Monday that it will require service members to receive the COVID-19 vaccine now that the Pfizer vaccine has received full approval. Pentagon

spokesperson John Kirby said guidance is being developed and a timeline will be provided in the coming days.

In a memo Aug. 9, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said he'd seek the president's approval to make the vaccine mandatory no later than mid-September, or immediately upon FDA licensure, "whichever comes first."

Kirby said the move is an effort to ensure the safety of service members. Concerns about the virus are especially acute in the military, where service members live and work closely together in barracks and on ships, increasing the risks of rapid spreading.

In the Middle East, hard-hit Iran was still struggling with an uptick in COVID-19 cases and deaths, reporting on Monday that 610 additional people had died over 24 hours, according to the country's Health Ministry.

Oman, meanwhile, will allow anyone holding a vaccine certificate to travel to the country from Sept. 1, the civil aviation authority said.

In Africa, Egypt's health minister said they detected the country's first case of the delta variant last month.

In Europe, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said "everything points to no new nationwide shutdown will be necessary" because of the high number of people vaccinated in the country. Getting the shot in Denmark is voluntary and is available to people aged 15 years and older.

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## Allegations of flagrant overspending, mishandling Afghanistan dominate campaign trail

TORONTO - Accusations of wasteful spending, misleading the public and prioritizing votes over the crisis in Afghanistan dominated the seventh full day of the federal election campaign.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh began Sunday in Toronto at an event honouring the tenth anniversary of Jack Layton's death. Layton led the NDP for eight years and the party soared to historic heights under his guidance, winning 103 seats in the 2011 election.

Singh paid tribute to Layton and his legacy and then took aim at Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau's response to the situation in Afghanistan. Choosing his words carefully, Singh said he wondered if the timing of Trudeau's election call has inhibited Canada's ability to help its allies in a country through which chaos since it fell to the Taliban this



Singh said he would have sped up evacuations and made the paperwork process simpler for Canadian allies wanting out of Afghanistan. "The process that Justin Trudeau had put in place required people filling out an online form," he said. "It was complicated, it was bureaucratic. When we've got an imminent humanitarian crisis, that is not the way to respond."

As of Sunday morning, three flights had left the country since the Taliban takeover, carrying fleeing Afghans who once worked with Canadian forces in the war-torn country. Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said during a news conference that Canada will work to evacuate people from Afghanistan "for as long as it is safe to do so."

Meanwhile, the Conservatives took a swipe at Liberal spending with a news release highlighting the purchase of a \$40,228 car for Bernadette Jordan, minister of fisheries, oceans and the coast guard.

The Conservative press release also pointed to about \$218,000 spent on a house for the minister of finance. Feb. 1, 2019, Jordan was sworn in as minister in November that year.

The Liberals said the Conservatives were misleading the public. Jordan didn't have a car when she became fisheries minister, so one was bought for her, said Liberal spokesperson Brook Simpson.

"As the Conservatives are aware, all cabinet ministers and the leader of the official Opposition, regardless of the party in power, have access to a vehicle to carry out the work of their offices," Simpson wrote.

## Toronto police investigating break-and-enter, vandalism at Scarborough mosque

Toronto police are investigating after a Scarborough mosque was broken into and vandalized over the weekend.

The vandalism at the Baitul Jannah Islamic Centre at Kingston Road and Brimley Road was discovered when the mosque opened at around 5:30 a.m. Sunday for morning prayers. Multiple prayer rooms were vandalized, several copies of the Quran thrown to the floor, two donation boxes were smashed and the office was smashed.

"It's very sad and we are sorry to have this in our community and in our mosque," said Aiqar Rahman, president of Baitul Jannah Islamic Centre.

Rahman believes the suspect(s) broke into the mosque sometime overnight through a window or door that were found open when he arrived this morning.

In addition to the vandalism, several surveillance cameras were



Rahman. "We had 15 and they left one of them - they took money and broke doors, we've had to change the locks several times," said Rahman. The Muslim community is feeling helpless and calling for justice after repeated acts of vandalism.

Mosque officials say the incidents have placed the community in a state of fear and many are not willing to donate to the mosque.

Officials say they have provided police surveillance images from previous incidents, but are still waiting for justice as the mosque continues to be targeted.

"Nothing happened after we called police and we don't know if they arrested or laid charge against someone," said Shahab Siddique who is a member of the board of directors who recalls eight incidents. "This is a religion of peace and there are some people who hate us, this is shocking and we're really devastated."

Officials say the mosque has been targeted several times since 2018, with similar acts of vandalism and theft occurring.

In one instance, more than a dozen donation boxes containing thousands of dollars were stolen, according to

Worshippers arriving at the mosque Sunday for prayer were devastated and shocked after learning of this latest incident.

"For somebody to have so much hate against a place like this if it's one group or different groups having the same sentiment it's really heartbreaking," said Rahman.

Scarborough Southwest MPP Doly Begum has prayed at the mosque in the past and called this latest incident "disgusting."

"I'm really sad to see what's happening. I pray here and I've seen this happen before," said Begum who is calling for justice and more action from the government to address Islamophobia.

"First addressing Islamophobia, calling Islamophobia for what it is. Making sure we're making sure places of worship are safe, making sure we are protecting our worshippers, making sure we have a directorate for anti-racism in our province."

Special constables with Toronto Police arrived at the mosque on Sunday afternoon to investigate. At this point, there is no information on potential suspects and no indication if it's connected to previous acts of vandalism.

"We are here, we are Canadian and we want a peaceful life in this community," said Rahman.

## Why giving COVID-19 booster shots to everyone in Canada is hard to justify

Emerging research from around the world has sparked new fears about the declining protection COVID-19 vaccines provide over time against infection from the highly contagious delta variant, prompting some countries to move aggressively toward booster shots.

But the research these decisions are based on isn't definitive, and CBC News spoke to several Canadian and international experts who raised concerns with the controversial move to roll out third doses widely before more data is available and while much of the world remains unvaccinated.

"We're planning to hand out extra life-jackets to people who already have life-jackets, while we're leaving other people to drown without a single life-jacket," Dr. Mike Ryan, the World Health Organization's top emergency expert, said during a news conference Wednesday.

The WHO has recently called for a moratorium on boosters until at least the end of September. But despite the concerns raised by health officials and other experts, countries are forging ahead with plans for additional doses.

Rapid shifts to boosters worldwide Israel extended booster shots to everyone over 40 on Friday, while France, Germany and the U.K. have announced third doses only for vulnerable populations at heightened risk of declining COVID-19 immunity.

The U.S. went a massive step further this week by announcing third doses for all Americans beginning next month, to bolster immunity against the much more contagious delta variant amid early signs the effectiveness of the vaccines could be dropping.

Several Canadian provinces have also made the decision to break away from the pack and pre-empt upcoming guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on when booster shots may be needed and for whom.

Ontario will offer third doses to vulnerable populations, such as those in long-term care, First Nations older care lodges and "higher risk" retirement homes, as well as for transplant recipients, certain cancer patients and other immunocompromised individuals.

Israel's Prime Minister Naftali



Saskatchewan and Quebec previously announced plans to offer additional doses of mRNA vaccines - not because of waning immunity or the threat of delta, but for people who want to travel to countries that may not recognize mixed-vaccination status.

The tides have shifted rapidly on this issue over the past week and many Canadians may now be left wondering whether they'll need an additional shot - and when they'll get it.

Vaccine effectiveness data 'all over the place' What prompted the sudden shift in favour of widespread booster shots? The answer is largely based on conflicting emerging data from highly vaccinated countries around the world that signal a potential drop in immune protection in the population over time amid surges in cases driven by the delta variant.

But the data is anything but clear. "The vaccine effectiveness that we're getting are all over the place," said Deepa Bhattacharya, an immunologist at the University of Arizona.

"It's really hard to know what to make of all this, in part because all of these things are being estimated outside of the context of a clinical trial where you have a lot of control... Now it's messy."

In a country where delta is the dominant strain, Israel's Ministry of Health released data late last month that implied two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was just 39 per cent effective against COVID-19 infection, a drop from 95 per cent seen in clinical trials and 64 per cent in real-world data earlier this year.

Because of the different vaccines, rollout strategies and populations in each country, Hanage said it's

reasonable to suspect the Israel data is skewed - especially because one would expect to see the dramatic results replicated elsewhere.

"If you are relying on the grounds for a huge decision like boosters, that's not as strong a foundation as you'd like."

Conflicting research raises more questions Israel's vaccine effectiveness estimates are also significantly lower than research released in May from the U.K., which found they were 88 per cent effective against symptomatic disease from delta.

A similar study from Scotland published in The Lancet medical journal in June also found the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was still 79 per cent effective.

And Canadian researchers released data last month that found two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were 87 per cent effective against delta, similar to that of the alpha variant, at 89 per cent, and the beta variant, at 84 per cent.

Adding to the confusion, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published three new studies this week that were used by federal officials as justification for mRNA boosters for all Americans in the weeks ahead.

One study analyzed thousands of nursing homes across the U.S. between March and August - covering a time frame both before delta emerged and when it became a dominant strain - and found vaccine effectiveness at preventing infections dropped from 75 to 35 per cent.

Another study focused on New York state between early May and late July, as delta rose to more than three-quarters of new cases, finding a decline in vaccine effectiveness from 91 per cent to 79 per cent.

A third CDC-published study looked at severity of disease across the U.S., a key figure missing from other research, and found mRNA vaccines were overall 90 per cent effective at preventing hospitalizations - and only slightly lower in the immunocompromised.

What approach should Canada take with boosters? Given the conflicting, contradictory and outright conflicting nature of the emerging data on vaccine effectiveness in the past few weeks, the question remains: What Canada should do when it comes to boosters in the midst of a fourth, delta-driven wave?

Canadian researchers at the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto recently published a correspondence in the New England Journal of Medicine that showed evidence of "significantly higher immunogenicity" in transplant patients after a third dose.

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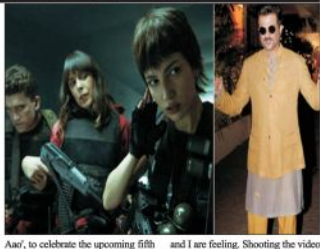
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# Money Heist 5: Bollywood stars unite for a song to welcome new season

The immensely popular show 'Money Heist' is all set to enter season 5. The excitement is palpable and has already rubbed off on Bollywood stars. Netflix India has brought together stars like Anil Kapoor, Radhika Apte, and Shruti Hassan for a song that welcomes the new season. It's called the Money Heist Anthem.

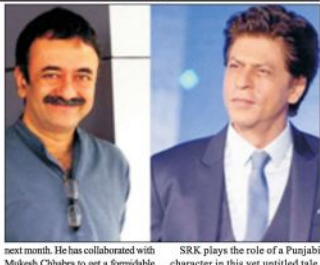


For all those who have seen the world of 'Money Heist' and are aware of the characters, their looks and traits, the video is all film. The actors have recreated the people from the show and added their own touches and quirks to it. Apte already wants Arturo dead this season and Hassan character Nairobi.

Money Heist fans are waiting with bated breath to see what the Professor and his demented group will pull off in their final adventure. Unsurprisingly, the crime drama, in its four-season run so far, has found admirers in Anil Kapoor, Radhika Apte and Rana Duggubati, among others. So, when musician Nucleya composed the anthem, 'Jaldi Aao', to celebrate the upcoming fifth season, the stars were eager to feature in the music video.

# Rajkumar Hirani locks the script of his next with Shah Rukh Khan; casting begins!

The Shah Rukh Khan and Rajkumar Hirani combo is among the most spoken about in the industry over the last few years. The ace director has been working on the script of his next directorial for a while now. He was apparently not too satisfied with the second half and hence, decided to rework on the same till the output was up to the mark. Rajkumar Hirani has finally locked the script of his next directorial.



'Hirani and his writing partner, Karanika Dhawan have finally locked the full-fledged screenplay of their film. They are happy with the outcome and are now all geared up to start the prep work of the film," a trade source shared with Bollywood Hungama.

SRK plays the role of a Punjabi character in this yet untitled late ensemble cast on board this project. The much awaited social comedy is set against the backdrop of immigration and a major chunk of the film will be shot in Canada.

# Tiger 3 shoot begins in St Petersburg, Russia; Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif shoot a car chase sequence

9 years ago, Ek Tiger (2012), starring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif, created a frenzy in cinemas and emerged as one of the most loved films of the superstar. The sequel, Tiger Zinda Hai (2017), emerged as a bigger box office hit and made it clear this is surely a franchise that has its huge share of fans. Hence, it was not surprising that the producers of the film, Yash Raj Films (YRF), decided to have a third part of the film as well. Tiger 3 releases in 2022 and is expected to be one of the biggest films, if not the biggest film of Bollywood.

Earlier this year, Tiger 3 went on floors in Mumbai. After shooting some significant portions, Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and director Manoj Sharma have now flown to Russia. A source told us, "Tiger 3's shoot is currently taking place in the city of St Petersburg. The Russia schedule began with a grand car chase action sequence. The Indian and Russian units seemed very well prepared and also adhered to the Covid-19 safety guidelines. Also, the Russian authorities are providing complete cooperation so that the shoot takes place without any hiccups."

The source continued, "Despite pandemic restrictions, Aditya Chopra has made it clear that there should be no compromise on the grandeur and scale of the film. The car chase sequence is also being executed keeping in mind Ad's vision for the film. The film surely would be something to watch out for, especially for the big screen."

# Fawad century, Shaheen's strikes give Pakistan hope of levelling Test series against WI

Fawad Alam's fifth Test century and Shaheen Shah Afridi's new ball potency pushed Pakistan into the ascendancy on a much-needed third day of the rain-affected second Test against the West Indies at Sabina Park on Sunday.

The morning following another 90-minute delay resulted in just eight deliveries being bowled before the complaints of Jason Holder, supported by his fellow bowlers and captain Kraigg Brathwaite, were eventually heeded by the match officials who engaged in lengthy deliberations before suspending play.

Having returned to the crease at the fall of Fawad's wicket, and then seeing Mohammad Rizwan and Nauman Ali depart in quick succession, the 35-year-old left-hander stayed focused and reached the cherished landmark with a pull for two off Kyle Mayers.

# Bounced and trounced!

Former skipper Michael Vaughan has slammed England head coach Chris Silverwood for a century-long stop job Root from his bouncer barrage tactic against India in the second Test, which backfired, leading to the "worst 20 minutes" before the lunch session.

"Henry has been written and said about how England lost the plot in attempting to bounce out Jasprit Bumrah, and Joe Root was undeniably let down by some of his senior players, who should have intervened sooner, but I also wanted to see something from the coach," Vaughan wrote in a Facebook post.

"This was the big moment in the second Test and England blew it, and Silverwood has to accept his share of responsibility for that." England now trail the five-match series 0-1 and Vaughan said the onus is on Silverwood to change the momentum.

# Sarfraz urges PM Imran against appointing Ramiz as PCB chief

LAHORE: Sarfraz Nawaz has written to Prime Minister Imran Khan to nominate either Zahoor Abbas or Majid Khan as next chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), while urging his former new-ball partner against the possible appointment of Ramiz Raja, given his past record.

"Responsibility-carrying in the media that with your approval, it has been decided to replace Ehsan Mani with Ramiz Raja as the chairman PCB. In this regard, there is no doubt that as Patron in Chief of the PCB, you have a right to appoint anyone as the Chairman PCB," the London-based Sarfraz wrote in a letter, a copy of which was also sent to Dawn.

"However, PCB is a national asset and national institution of our beloved motherland, working under the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination and audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan; and while deciding about any person, the Patron of the national institution must also be aware about what (sort of) mind set Ramiz Raja has and that he has previously uttered highly derogatory remarks against Pakistan in recent past, while speaking in favor of India."

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## Mixed dose woes: Some Canadians lost out on jobs abroad due to their mixed vaccines

Having a mixed COVID-19 vaccine - two shots but with different vaccines - may do more than impede your travel plans. It could hurt your chances of working abroad.

Several countries don't recognize people with mixed doses as being fully vaccinated.

That's the general position in the United States where the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently doesn't condone mixing COVID-19 vaccines.

Canadians can fly to the U.S. without showing proof of vaccination. However, many cruise lines departing the country have vaccination requirements - which are based on CDC guidelines.

As a result, some Canadian cruise ship workers say they lost out on jobs because they weren't considered fully vaccinated due to their mixed vaccines.

"It was really heartbreaking," said dancer Rosie Harbans of Toronto who performs in cruise ship shows. "This

is how I make my money. This is how I live my life. This is my livelihood."

Last year, Harbans' cruise ship contract was cut short after the pandemic forced the cruise industry to shut down in March 2020.

So she was furloughed to land a job starting next month with a cruise line. But she said her joy - and her job offer - disappeared after the cruise company learned she had mixed COVID-19 doses: one Pfizer and one Moderna.

"I was very, very upset, because I thought that getting a mixed vaccine was the right thing to do," said Harbans.

Typical of their future employment, CBC News has agreed to not name the cruise line involved in Harbans' case or in the case of a second cruise ship entertainer interviewed for this story.

Both said they don't blame the cruise lines, and that they are speaking out to encourage the

government to push for the acceptance of mixed vaccines internationally.

"Find a solution," said Harbans. "Try and do it as quickly as possible for all of the people that took [the government's] advice in getting a mixed vaccine."

Since mid-July, the federal government has repeatedly said it's working with other countries to resolve their differing vaccine policies. But Ottawa has yet to announce any progress on that front.

No international consensus on mixed vaccines.

Millions of Canadians have received mixed COVID-19 vaccines. That's because in June, Canada updated its guidelines to recommend mixing COVID-19 vaccine doses based on emerging research that found this was both safe and effective.

But there's currently no international consensus on mixing COVID-19 vaccines.

For example, according to their

government websites, both Ireland and the United Kingdom don't recognize any combination of mixed COVID-19 vaccines.

Germany and Trinidad and Tobago only recognize a mix of AstraZeneca and Pfizer or Moderna. The World Health Organization (WHO) takes the same position - with a cautionary note.

"There is currently limited data on the immunogenicity or efficacy of a mix and match [COVID-19 vaccine] regimen," the WHO said in a statement.

The U.S. CDC takes the position that COVID-19 vaccines "are not interchangeable." However, there are exceptions to the rule. The CDC says mixed doses of the two mRNA vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, are acceptable in "exceptional situations," such as when the vaccine used for the first dose was no longer available.

As a result, some cruise lines such as Celebrity, Norwegian Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean, don't recognize people with any type of mixed vaccine as being fully vaccinated. Other cruise companies, such as Princess Cruises, Holland America Line and Carnival, don't recognize a mix of AstraZeneca and an mRNA vaccine.

services sector throughout the province as part of our fight against COVID-19."

"Our government is committed to rebuilding and repairing long-term care in Ontario," said Rod Phillips, Minister of Long-Term Care. "Further extending the wage increase will help us continue to attract and retain personal support workers who provide residents with the care they need and deserve every day."

To protect vulnerable patients and staff in settings where the risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 and the Delta variant is higher, on August 17th the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a directive mandating hospitals and home and community care service providers to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, staff, contractors, students and volunteers, including personal support workers.

This is similar to the vaccination policy requirements currently in place for long-term care homes. Vaccination policies will also be implemented in other higher-risk settings where personal support workers and direct support workers provide care, including licensed retirement homes, congregate group homes and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities, children's treatment centres and other services for children with special needs, and licensed children's residential settings.

## Here's what the main federal parties are promising seniors

When Albert Smith, 68, goes to the grocery store for vegetables, it's straight to the frozen food aisle.

"We cannot have fresh produce, it's too expensive," he said.

The Saskatchewan man said his rent and bills are paid every month with help from the Old Age Security, but he's still left with a few weeks.

"You stay at home and you just do nothing because you don't have the money to do anything. So it's not a decent life."

Across the country in Shelburne, N.S., Jacqueline Goldsmith is watching reports of tropical storm Henri, which could swallow the province's coast.

With little money left at the end of the month, she's worried what will happen if another storm batters her home - she already slipped into her RRIF in 2019 when Hurricane Dorian hit her home.

"I pay everything and there's nothing left over," she said. "I'm doing my best, but it's difficult. It's becoming more and more difficult."

At 73, she says she feels abandoned by the Liberals' proposed boost to Old Age Security that is only for those 75 and older.

"In 2021, my property tax went up, my house insurance went up, my TV, my electricity, my food, all of that went up. And because I'm 73 and not 75, I'm not getting any help," she said.

"I found that a real slap in the face."

Both Goldsmith and Smith are waiting to hear more from what the federal parties are promising seniors.

Out of the gate, most of the parties have made promises to help seniors, largely focused on fixing the vulnerabilities exposed in long-term care homes by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bill VanGorder, chief operating officer of the seniors advocacy group CARP, said it's an important issue, but the top concern he hears from members is financial security.

"I pay everything and there's nothing left over - Senior Jacqueline Goldsmith.

"This is the first election where I've seen that all of the major parties seem to be saying that issues that are of concern to older Canadians are very



high on their list," he said.

But "all the parties have to understand better what the real seniors issue are."

What the parties are promising seniors for

Liberals

"The Liberals haven't released their full election platform yet, but leader Justin Trudeau did announce Thursday that a re-elected Liberal government would spend \$9 billion to address Canada's long-term care sector."

"That includes a promise to work with provinces and territories to raise wages for personal support workers, including a guaranteed minimum wage of at least \$25 an hour."

"The party also plans to double the Home Accessibility Tax Credit - meant to help make homes more accessible for seniors and people with disabilities - to provide up to an additional \$1,500.

"Budget 2021 included a one-time \$500 Old Age Security payment that landed in the bank accounts of pensioners 75 and over this week."

"They've also committed to increase the OAS pension by 10 per cent for those 75 and over, starting next year."

Conservatives

"The party is promising to double the Canada Workers Benefit up to a maximum of \$2,800 for individuals or \$5,000 for families and to pay it as a quarterly direct deposit rather than a tax refund at year-end. The party said this will give seniors who choose to continue working past retirement more income."

"A Conservative government said it

GIS programs retroactive.

"The party said its universal pharmacare promise would also improve the lives of seniors.

Green Party

"The Green Party has not released its 2021 election platform yet, but a spokesperson said they would develop national seniors strategy "to create an organized and concerted focus on seniors' well-being across all domains throughout the aging experience with consistent standards across the nation."

"They would also seek to include long-term care homes in the Canada Health Act and establish national standards.

Bloc Quebecois

"This spring, the Bloc Quebecois introduced a motion calling on the government to include a \$110-a-month boost to Old Age Security benefits in its April 22 budget."

"It also says the federal government should bring in automatic registration for the Guaranteed Income Supplement and tax credits for those who wish to continue working in Quebec."

There's also for

VanGorder said he would have liked to see the OAS increase extended to all recipients, not just those 75 and older.

Alex Laxin, director of research at the CD Howe Institute, questioned the benefit of expanding a universal program like OAS rather than creating targeted programs for seniors living on the poverty line.

"There's a windfall for people getting OAS who don't really need it, and it adds to the cost," he said.

"Those who are paying for this will be future taxpayers, because no political party has promised to balance the budget for a very long time. So all of these increases would be paid by debt."

VanGorder said protection for pension plans and home care is also top-of-mind for many senior voters.

"More and more, frankly, our members are becoming less interested and believing less in what they're hearing the leaders say in their platforms, because their perception is that they're not following through with action," he said.

"Older Canadians are really going to hold their feet to the fire when it comes to following through on any promises they make."

## Ontario Further Extending Temporary Wage Increase for Personal Support Workers

Government Continuing to Support Health Care Workers as Part of COVID-19 Response

TORONTO ? The Ontario government is investing an additional \$169 million to extend the temporary wage increase for personal support workers and direct support workers for the third time since its initial investment last year. This increase will continue until October 31, 2021 and will help stabilize staffing levels and support our frontline health care workers to ensure the province is prepared to respond to any scenario as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve.

"Since the outset of the pandemic, personal support workers and direct support workers have been critical in supporting some of our most vulnerable patients," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "As we head into the fall, ensuring Ontario's personal support workers are supported will ensure

patients continue to receive the high-quality care they need."

The government is extending the wage enhancement for over 138,000 workers who deliver publicly funded personal support services or direct support services in hospitals, long-term care, home and community care and social services until October 31, 2021. This includes:

- \$31 per hour for approximately 38,000 eligible workers in home and community care;
- \$3 per hour for approximately 50,000 eligible workers in long-term care;
- \$2 per hour for approximately 10,000 eligible workers in public hospitals; and
- \$3 per hour for approximately 60,000 eligible workers in children, community and social services providing personal direct support services for the activities of daily living.

This latest temporary wage increase builds on the government's previous

wage enhancement extension on June 11, 2021, which was set to expire on August 23, 2021. Since October 2020, Ontario has invested \$841 million and, with this additional \$169 million, will have invested over \$1 billion for personal support workers and direct support workers. The province will continue to review the wage increase to inform its next steps to ensure this important investment will bring the greatest stability and support for Ontario's personal support workers and direct support workers.

"This wage enhancement extension recognizes the vital work and significant sacrifices that personal support workers and direct support workers continue to make to keep Ontarians, including our most vulnerable, safe and healthy," said Premier Saskatchewan, President of the Treasury Board. "We will continue to make historic investments to improve home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals and the social



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