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

COVID-19 has now killed about as many Americans as the 1918-19 flu pandemic did - approximately 675,000.

The U.S. population a century ago was just one-third of what it is today, meaning the flu cut a bigger, more lethal swath through the country. But the COVID-19 crisis is by any measure a colossal tragedy in its own right, especially given the incredible advances in scientific knowledge since then and the failure to take maximum advantage of the vaccines available this time.

"Big pockets of American society - and, worse, their leaders - have thrown this away," said medical historian Dr. Howard Markel, of the University of Michigan, of the opportunity to vaccinate everyone eligible by now.

Like the 1918-19 influenza pandemic, the coronavirus may never entirely disappear from our midst. Instead, scientists hope it becomes a mild seasonal bug as human immunity strengthens through vaccination and repeated infection. That could take time.

"We hope it will be like getting a cold, but there's no guarantee," said Emory University biologist Rustom Antia, who suggests an optimistic scenario in which this could happen over five years.

For now, the pandemic still has the United States and other parts of the world firmly in its jaws.

While a delta-fueled surge in new infections may have peaked, U.S. deaths still are running at more than 1,900 a day on average, the highest level since early March, and the country's overall death toll stood at

Canadians head to the polls today as political wildcards leave election outcome up in the air

Canadians head to the polls today for the final day of voting in this 44th general election and surveys suggest the result is far from certain with as many as six parties in contention for seats in Parliament.

More than 5.8 million Canadians have already voted in the advance polls, and Elections Canada has received nearly one million special ballots - a record-setting early turnout that suggests there's an energized electorate.

Poll workers will start the vote count tonight, but the outcome may not be known until tomorrow after the many mail-in ballots are verified at hundreds of returning offices nationwide.

This 36-day election featured policy talk on everything from housing and the COVID-19 response to Canada's place in the world, but there were also heavy doses of partisan sniping as the leaders jockeyed for front-runner status in a very close race.

Here's a look at the closing arguments from the main party leaders.

Trudeau says he's best to lead Canada through COVID-19.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau called this election on Aug. 15 saying he wanted Canadians to weigh in on who should finish the fight against COVID-19 and lead the country into a post-pandemic recovery.

"Canada is today at a crossroads - a moment where we have to make a really important choice," Trudeau said at a rally in Maple, Ont., on Sunday, the last day of campaigning. "It's not just about what we're going to do in the coming months to end this pandemic for good, but also how we're going to meet the challenges of the future."

Trudeau has asked Canadians to reward his party for steering the country through the darkest days of this health crisis. He has also presented himself as a vaccine

Canadians head to the polls today as political wildcards leave election outcome up in the air

angry after lockdowns and one million new homes to help with a pandemic-fueled housing supply crunch.

O'Toole has also promised to balance the budget in 10 years' time, a commitment made to neutralize past Liberal criticism that a Conservative-led government would result in big cuts to public spending.

According to the CBC Poll Tracker, Conservative support surged five points in the two weeks after the platform release as some voters stirred by what O'Toole was selling. But the campaign hit a snag when the Conservative leader was forced to defend his firm's profits.

The Tory platform initially promised to repeal a ban on assault-style weapons such as those used in mass shootings. The Liberals pounced on that pledge and on O'Toole's past association with the gun lobby. With his support softening in Ontario, the Tory leader shifted his position, promising to maintain the Liberal ban until an independent review by firearms experts was completed.

O'Toole also faced questions about his support for vaccine at every one of his campaign press conferences.

While personally pro-vaccine, O'Toole has called a Liberal plan to implement a vaccine mandate for federal bureaucrats, transportation workers and most passengers travelling by air and rail a divisive program that "will lead to the politicization of the pandemic."

O'Toole has also repeatedly dodged questions about just how many

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Western University student denied tenancy by landlord who said her tattoos were 'scary'

A first-year Western University student who arrived in London, Ont., from Saskatchewan had a rental agreement cancelled last minute by a landlord who said she didn't like her tattoos, in an act one lawyer said could result in a small-claims court action.

Kadiance Ball, 18, graduated from high school in the spring and was slated to learn she'd been accepted into Western's medical science program.

"I've always wanted to be a doctor and medical schools are getting more competitive now, so it's important to have a good university bachelor degree and Western is one of the top-100 schools in Canada," Ball said.

Responding to an online ad from home, Ball rented a room in a house for \$675 a month near Oxford Street West and Sarnia Road. She viewed the place online and spoke to landlord Esther Lee, who sent her a lease. Ball paid Lee a \$50 deposit, signed the lease, loaded up her car and started the two-day drive to London.

Ball arrived in the southwest Ontario city a few days before the lease was to start on Sept. 1. She planned to stay in a hotel for a few days and then to introduce herself to Lee. Ball said the initial in-person visit seemed to go well, but after arriving at the hotel, Lee phoned to give her bad news.

Landlord changed mind, student says

"She calls me and just says, 'I don't want you living here,'" said Ball. "I was like, 'Hey, a lease has been signed, my deposit has been sent over - what is the problem?' Every time I would ask her, 'Why not? Is there anything I can do?' Do we need to have a snake wrapped around a flower on her forehead, a cherub on one shoulder and a flower on the other shoulder."

Lee returned Ball's deposit, but Ball had to spend four more days at a hotel, scrambling to find accommodation in London's fierce rental market with the start of classes only days away.

"We went through countless interviews, and messaging back and forth, and terms of places, and sending over applications for the rentals and all of that, and we just weren't getting anything at all," said Ball.

After what Ball described as "four days of f*cking out," she secured an apartment, although had to convince the landlord to let her move in a month early.

CBC News has viewed a copy of the lease and also spoke to Lee by phone.

Lee told CBC News she moved to cancel the lease because she became "scared" after seeing Ball's tattoos. The day the two first met in person, it was her and Ball was wearing a tank top that showed her tattoos, which include a snake wrapped around a flower on her forehead, a cherub on one shoulder and a flower on the other shoulder.

"It covered almost 70 per cent of her arm," said Lee. "That's why I don't want to rent it to her because it's scary, so scary."

Ball was flabbergasted that the

landlord would allow a landlord to deny her tenancy on a signed agreement.

"It's speculation," she said. "A lease was signed and because I look a certain way, I was denied tenancy. None of my tattoos are offensive. They are works of art, they are somebody's works of art on my body."

Lee's binding contract, lawyer says

Ian Dantzer is a lawyer at the Community Legal Services Clinic at Western's law department, which helps students resolve landlord-tenant disputes.

He said the lease is binding as a matter of contract and would be enforceable in small claims court or at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB), depending on the layout of the suite. The lease appears to show that the tenant and landlord would share some common areas of the house, in which case Ontario's Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) would not apply.

But whether the RTA applies or not, Dantzer said Ball still has a route to seek damages either at the LTB or in small claims court.

"Once [Ball] entered into a lease, it's a binding contract and she's not entitled to possession," said Dantzer, who points out that Ball fulfilled her obligations of the lease.

He said the LTB is a tribunal, not a court, and that Ball could sue for damages if she can prove she was "injured" by the landlord's actions.

"It was feeling lost," she said. "I didn't sleep all night thinking about it."

Peretz said by the time she connected with Air Canada's support line, Sebastian was already on the plane.

She said she was told by Air Canada that when the schedule change occurred Sebastian's booking "they forgot to attach the unaccompanied minor fee to the new flight."

When the flight landed in Toronto, Peretz said Sebastian got off the plane and was his way to customs.

"He did customs on his own," she said. "They asked him lots of questions. They asked him how much money he has. He said he had them a couple of thousand dollars because he was thinking about his Xbox, clothes, iPad, and toys."

Peretz, who went to Toronto Pearson to pick up her son, said he was brought out to the arrivals area by an Air Canada agent.

Peretz said she believes the customs agent must have notified Air Canada about Sebastian being alone.

"The lady came and the first thing she said is 'I'm not supposed to be with him because you didn't pay,'" she said. "I lost it."

Ontario woman says Air Canada allowed her child to fly internationally unsupervised

TORONTO — An Ontario woman says Air Canada allowed her 11-year-old son to board an international flight without supervision and fly home from Mexico City alone.

Toronto woman Monica Peretz says her son, Sebastian, flew to Mexico City in June to visit his aunt for summer holidays.

"My son went on vacation, going and returning on his own," Peretz told CTV News Toronto on Sunday. "I paid \$200 to have a guardian with him."

According to Air Canada's website, it is mandatory for children between the ages of eight and 11, who are travelling alone, to fly with the airline's unaccompanied minor service.

An Air Canada agent will escort the child to the gate and assist with boarding. The child is usually seated in the last three rows, so they are

close to the cabin crew.

Sebastian was originally scheduled to fly home on Aug. 20, but Peretz said she used Air Canada's free change option to move his flight to September 17.

She says she was then contacted by Air Canada and told Sebastian's flight had been moved up to Sept. 14 due to a schedule change at the airline.

On Sept. 14, Peretz said Sebastian's aunt drove him to the airport in Mexico City to fly back to Toronto.

"My sister checked him in and she was told by Air Canada they don't have a guardian for him," Peretz said. "They said I didn't pay the fee, but of course I paid the fee. I have the receipt."

Peretz, who was in Toronto, said she was told by the agent in Mexico City to call the Air Canada support line.

"I was on hold forever," Peretz said. While waiting on the support line,

Peretz said the agent at the check-in counter told her sister that if Sebastian didn't board the flight he would forfeit his ticket.

They said they were also told it could be days before there was room on the next available flight.

"My sister felt she didn't have any choice but to let him go on his own," Peretz said.

Peretz said another family, who was also flying back to Toronto on the same flight, agreed to step in and help Sebastian get through security and to his gate.

"It's the middle of the night and he's at the busiest airport in Mexico," Peretz said.

"HE WAS FEELING LOST"

Peretz said her son got on the plane and was seated in the middle of the nearly 300-seat plane, not near the cabin crew.

She said he also could no longer see the family who helped him board

Pfizer-BioNTech say COVID-19 vaccine safe, protective in kids aged 5-11

Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech said on Monday their COVID-19 vaccine induced a robust immune response in five- to 11-year-olds, and they plan to ask for authorization to use the vaccine in children in that age range in Canada, the United States, Europe and elsewhere as soon as possible.

The companies said the vaccine generated an immune response in that five- to 11-year-olds in their Phase III/III clinical trial that matched what they had previously observed in 16-year-olds. The safety profile was also generally comparable to the older age group, they said.

"Since July, pediatric cases of COVID-19 have risen by about 240 per cent in the U.S. - underscoring the public health need for vaccination," Pfizer chief executive Albert Bourla said in a news release.

"These results provide a strong foundation for seeking authorization of our vaccine for children five to 11 years old, and we plan to submit them to the FDA and other regulators with urgency."

Pfizer Canada spokesperson Christina Antoniou said in an email it said.

"To date, we have been working closely with Health Canada and submitting to them new data regarding this vaccine when it becomes available," she said. "We share the urgency to provide the data that could help support the decision by regulatory authorities to make the vaccine available to school-aged children as early as possible."

Health Canada has already approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people as young as 12 years old.

In a statement to CBC News, Health Canada said that all manufacturers of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in Canada are conducting or planning studies in adolescents and younger children, including children from 6 months to 11 years of age.

It said it anticipates vaccine manufacturers will provide data regarding children in the coming months, but has so far not received any submission for the approval of any COVID-19 vaccine in children under 12 years of age.



Hospitalizations surging in some states

COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths have surged in the United States in recent months due to the highly contagious delta variant. Pediatric cases are also up, particularly as children under 12 are all unvaccinated, but there is no indication that, beyond being more transmissible, the delta virus is more dangerous to kids.

A rapid authorization could help mitigate a potential surge of cases in the fall, especially with schools already open nationwide.

FDA acting Commissioner Janet Woodcock said that once the agency receives the application, its process for determining if the vaccine is safe and effective for children in the younger age group includes verifying the manufacturing processes for the lower concentrations of the shots and any study of its safety.

"We'll look at the clinical data and make sure that children responded to the vaccine the way we would expect," Woodcock said during an appearance on former Biden administration official Andy Slavitt's podcast.

The companies' vaccine, called Comirnaty, is already authorized for use in children as young as 12 in many countries, including the United States. The vaccine was originally authorized for emergency use in people 16 or older in the United States in December 2020 and received full U.S. approval in that age group last month.

The five- to 11-year-olds were given two shots of a 10-microgram dose of the vaccine, one-third the dose size that has been given to people 12 and older. The companies expect data on how well the vaccine works in children two to five years of age and children between six months and two years of age as soon as the fourth quarter of this year.

Trial looks at neutralizing antibodies

Unlike the larger clinical trial the drugmakers previously conducted in adults, the 2,268-participant pediatric trial was not primarily designed to measure the vaccine's efficacy by comparing the number of COVID-19 cases in vaccine recipients to those who received a placebo.

Instead, the trial compares the amount of neutralizing antibodies induced by the vaccine in the children to the response of older recipients in the adult trial.

A Pfizer spokesperson said the companies may later disclose vaccine efficacy from the trial but there had not been enough cases of COVID-19 yet among the participants to make that determination.

The vaccine was around 95 per cent effective in the adult clinical trial, but Pfizer has said that immaturity wanes some months after the second dose. U.S. regulators are expected to authorize a third, booster dose of the vaccine for older and high-risk Americans early this week.

The companies said the vaccine was well-tolerated, with side-effects generally comparable to those observed in participants between 16 and 25 years of age.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been linked by regulators to rare cases of heart inflammation in adolescents and young adults, particularly young men. Pfizer said it did not see any instances of heart inflammation in the trial participants.

The information from Pfizer on Monday was reported in a media release, not a scientific publication.

A second U.S. vaccine maker, Moderna, is also studying its shots in elementary school-aged children.

U.S. senators push Biden to lift border closure with Canada

Four U.S. senators on Friday asked President Joe Biden to lift restrictions that have barred travel by Canadians across the northern U.S. border since March 2020.

Democratic Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire, Jon Tester of Montana and independent Angus King of Maine asked Biden to allow Canadians vaccinated against COVID-19 to travel to the United States before October.

The border state senators said in a letter the restrictions have led to "economic and emotional strain in our communities."

The senators added: "A plan with some indication of when your administration would find comfortable lifting border restrictions based on public health data would provide clarity to businesses and families along the northern border."

They also noted that Canadians can fly to the United States. "We struggle to understand the public health rationale for the disparate treatment in modes of travel," the senators wrote.

The White House did not immediately comment on Friday, but White House coronavirus response co-ordinator Jeff Zients said on Wednesday that given the delta variant of the coronavirus, "we will maintain the existing travel restrictions at this point."

U.S. officials and travel industry executives say the White House is set to renew the restrictions before the latest extension expires on Sept. 21.

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Canada must 'learn from' the pandemic crisis in parts of the West, Tam says

Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam says that other provinces need to learn from what's happening in parts of the West where the pandemic is surging.

(Adrian Wyll/The Canadian Press)

3296 comments

Canada's chief public health officer says other provinces need to learn from the pandemic crisis in Alberta and Saskatchewan if they want to avoid the calamity now afflicting health services in those provinces.

"Don't be complacent," Theresa Tam said at this morning's media briefing. "We have to be highly vigilant on this virus. When you see it accelerating, act fast because, I think, we have to learn from the situation in Alberta and also in Saskatchewan at the moment."

On Thursday, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney reintroduced strict and sweeping measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, including a new requirement that people provide



proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test to gain entry to some businesses and social events.

Alberta has more than 18,000 active COVID-19 cases - the most of any province right now. There were 877 people in the province's hospitals with the illness on Wednesday, 218 of them in intensive care. Ontario, with a population more than three times Alberta's, had 346 in hospital, with 188 in intensive care.

"It is now clear that we were

for example, are going to become common," she said. Averting more school lockdowns Tam said the Public Health Agency of Canada has looked at public health units across the country and found overwhelming evidence that areas with low vaccination rates are experiencing surges in infections.

She said the regions of the country struggling the most with pandemic surges are in the West - Alberta, Northern Saskatchewan and northern and interior parts of British Columbia.

"If we want to keep schools open, for example, we have to make sure we manage the virus transmission ... to protect kids who are under 12, who cannot get vaccinated at the moment," she said.

In parts of the country where increasing the vaccination rate is proving to be difficult, Tam said, authorities should impose public health restrictions - limiting the number of people that can gather together, mandating the wearing of masks indoors, hand-washing and physical distancing.

If vaccination rates cannot be increased in those parts of the country and such public health measures aren't introduced, Tam said, more restrictive measures - such as lockdowns and stay-at-home orders - may have to be implemented.

Verna Yu.

AHS has commandeered beds in operating rooms, recovery wards and other areas to create more ICU capacity and is prepared to transfer Albertans to Ontario for care if needed.

UNA president Heather Smith said opening up more beds is meaningless without trained staff to provide care to patients.

"Beds mean nothing without properly qualified staff," Smith said in a news release. "And there are simply no more experienced people to mobilize."

Combined, the four unions represent more than 100,000 health-care workers, stated the news release.

"Our paramedics are overstretched and exhausted. There are no more respiratory therapists," said HISA president Mike Parker. "Everyone is either working or sick. There are no more rabbits to pull out of the hat. That's why we need our promise to swallow his pride and ask the rest of Canada for help."

Kenney has apologized for moving too quickly with his spring decision to move from a pandemic to endemic approach to the virus, precipitating a lifting of health restrictions and prevention measures in his Open For Summer campaign.

Detective who solved murder of Ontario doctor says killer made big mistake trying to hide his crime

TORONTO — The lead detective on the horrific murder of an Ontario doctor says the killer made one big mistake when trying to cover up the crime, leaving investigators a calling card that led them straight to his door.

The homicide officer who solved the Doctor Elana Fric-Shamji murder wonders if the well-respected family doctor would still be alive today if friends and colleagues had spoken up about the domestic abuse in the Toronto suburb.

"All of her friends, all doctors, highly-educated successful people at the height of their careers as well, they knew or suspected that she was being physically abused by her husband and said nothing," Steve Ryan, now a crime analyst at CP24, said in this week's episode of CTV News Toronto's podcast The Detective.

Fric-Shamji's husband, renowned neurosurgeon Mohammad Shamji, is serving a life sentence for beating and strangling his wife, then stuffing her body in a suitcase and throwing it into a river north of the city.

"Physical abuse, domestic abuse has no limits," said Ryan. "It doesn't matter if you are poor, uneducated, or you have lots of money. Unfortunately, no one spoke out and let it be known she was being abused as badly as she was."

Shamji killed his wife in their North York bedroom in the winter of 2016, after she told her husband of 12 years that she wanted to end their marriage.

"The night that she was killed was the night that she served her husband with the divorce papers, letting him know that it was over," Ryan said.

Ryan says Fric-Shamji's mother, Anna Fric, was concerned for her daughter's safety and tried to help with the divorce process.

"Elana's mom called her from Windsor and said 'I've come down with you when you serve him those papers,' because her mom had that sort of feeling that this was not going to go right," Ryan said.

"I'll quote the mom, she said to me, what Elana said to her, was 'Mom, he's not going to kill me, you don't need to come from Windsor, I'm just serving him with papers' and look what happened."

Neither were happy in the marriage and both were having affairs -



Fric-Shamji with a fellow doctor. Ryan says after her murder, the detective had to contact the doctor and his wife, who knew nothing about the affair.

It was Fric-Shamji's mother who filed the missing person report with police. Detectives then interviewed her husband.

"He said the last time he saw her was that Wednesday night when she left with her boyfriend. He provided us with a name and we had to follow up on that, as uncomfortable as that was, you always have to look at your alternate suspects," Ryan said.

This was before Fric-Shamji's husband was charged with her murder, and at the time, was pointing the finger of blame at his wife's lover, something Ryan says Shamji's defence lawyers would quickly try to exploit at trial.

"As a homicide detective, you need to look down the road. What is going to be the defence? Is it going to be, I didn't do it, this guy did it? So we had to contact him and as you can imagine he was quite upset because his wife didn't know what was going on and he provided us with an alibi, but then we had to talk to his wife."

If Shamji's defence would be blaming his wife's lover, he would need an airtight alibi, but the doctor wanted to keep the affair from his wife.

"So we gave him a bit of time to speak with his wife and settle that with her and then we had to talk with her because we needed an alibi from him," Ryan said.

"He was upset when we contacted him but I said to him if you don't do this now, you are going to be the prime suspect come trial time. You'll be in the witness box forever. They are going to accuse you of all kinds of things, so we need to firm up your alibi right now."

After the body in the suitcase was dumped, the homicide cop says

she heard the fighting that was going on. In fact, she came out of her room, stood into the entrance of her parents' room and that was her dad on the floor on his hands and knees," Ryan said.

"She couldn't see her mom, but she could see her dad. Her dad was between the bed and the window, on one side of the bed. I believe he was assaulting her or choking her at that point from the position the daughter described at the time."

"She said 'What is going on? Where is mom?' and her father said 'Go back to your room, it's okay.' She went back to her room, and then she heard ruffling in the closet, as it turns out he was getting the suitcase. This is exactly what his daughter heard."

Shamji would then stuff his wife's badly beaten body into the suitcase and load her into his car, trying to find a place to dump the body.

"You'd be surprised by how a body can bend and twist. This suitcase, this woman was put into, was not that big, but he managed."

The former investigator says it was obvious the killer did not have a plan in place and when they searched his cell phone records, it showed him driving all over the back country trying to find a location to get rid of the body.

"Picture this" Ryan said. "He's got his dead wife in his car and he is looking to dump her. We had him all the way over at Highway 50, driving down 50 coming along Nashville Road. I guess he just picked the spot because he's heading to the Highway 27 and he is heading back home. So this spot I think he picked just out of pure panic and he just tossed her body over the bridge."

Ryan, who worked for 13 years in Toronto's Homicide Squad, recently returned to the bridge in Kleinburg, an hour north of Toronto, where Shamji threw a suitcase and his now-dead wife into the Humber River.

"One tries to dump a body, I just say this based on people I've interviewed in the past, where they can't be found, but clearly they can be found in the Humber River. Given the fact that this man was a neurosurgeon, brilliant academically, he was not so brilliant in knowing how to cover up a crime."

The body was discovered the same day Shamji disposed of it.

"So a fireman, I believe, was walking his dog down here and he came across the suitcase the morning after she'd been dropped over the bridge and he called the police because he found it suspicious. Police attended, opened the suitcase and found this badly beaten body of a woman in a suitcase. So they began their investigation to try and identify who she was."

Premier Jason Kenney implored to seek military backup as Alberta health-care system crumbles

With Alberta's health-care system "collapsing right in front of our eyes," the leaders of four unions representing thousands of health-care workers are calling on Premier Jason Kenney to ask for help from the military and Red Cross.

"There are no more nurses in our province who can be deployed. There are no more paramedics. There are no more respiratory therapists. There are no more support staff," states the Sept. 18 letter to Kenney, which implores him to make a formal request for help from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"The tank is empty. The well is dry." Alberta on Friday reported its highest new daily case number since the first week of May, with 2,020 new cases of COVID-19 and 18 new deaths. As of Thursday, there were 911 people in hospital with COVID-19, including 215 in intensive care beds. ICU capacity was at 86 per cent, but without surge beds the system would be operating at

more than 155 per cent of its normal capacity.

With Alberta's COVID-19 cases rapidly rising, Kenney must ask the federal government to "immediately deploy the military, the Red Cross and all available medical staffing resources from other provinces to assist our province's overwhelmed hospitals," states the letter.

It is signed by the presidents of four unions representing health-care workers - United Nurses of Alberta (UNA), Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE), Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HISA) and CUPE Alberta - as well by Gil McGowan, president of the Alberta Federation of Labor (AFL).

Constitutional responsibility of the letter, copied to Trudeau and Alberta NDP Leader Rachel Notley, notes that under the Constitution, the Canadian government cannot intervene without a formal request coming from the province.

"They cannot act unless you ask them to act," it states. "So please, on behalf of our beleaguered members on the front-line of this crisis, and on behalf of all Albertans, we are officially asking you to request help from the federal government."

The letter notes that military units were deployed in April to support Ontario's long-term-care facilities. Also in April, the Canadian Armed Forces sent dozens of service members to help out at COVID-19 testing centres in Nova Scotia.

In late 2020, Internal Alberta government documents noted that the provincial government was exploring asking for military support to help staff field hospitals that could accommodate more than 750 people.

Between 18 and 20 severely ill Albertans - most of them unvaccinated - are being admitted to ICU every day, said Alberta Health Services president and CEO Dr.

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