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## Internal government analysis shows depth of reliance on now-defunct recovery benefit

OTTAWA -- The majority of Canadian residents who received the federal Canada Recovery Benefit were continuous or repeat recipients of the now-ended aid program, an internal government analysis shows.

The assessment from Employment and Social Development Canada found that by early June, 1.5 million, or about 75 per cent of the 1.8 million unique recipients of the benefit, were continuous or repeat beneficiaries.

Among them were some 627,000 recipients who applied and received the benefit for months at a time, never once taking a break.

The Canadian Press obtained a copy of the briefing note to the top official at the department under the access-to-information law.

Experts who reviewed the document suggested the analysis hints at the level of need for the income-support program, which came to an end over the weekend.

As of Oct. 10, the CRB had paid out just over \$27 billion to nearly 2.2 million applicants since launching in late September 2020, but had seen a steady decline in demand from its peak of 1.22 million recipients in January.

By the end, there were about 800,000 people reliant on the payments who only had 48 hours to adjust their finances when the Liberals announced a change in the benefit package on Thursday.

"Workers need the Canada Recovery Benefit to pay rent and not lose their housing. Many workers can only find part-time work & are not getting enough shifts to make ends meet. The pandemic is not over," Donna Laid, executive director of the Toronto-based Workers Action Centre, wrote in a tweet Sunday asking the Liberals to reinstate the benefit.

The government said the CRB was no longer needed because the Canadian economy was firing better than a few months ago, including a labor market that had recovered the three million jobs lost at the onset of the pandemic last year.

Similarly, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland said, the wage subsidy was no longer required as the proposed a broadened credit for companies that hire new workers.

Jennifer Robson, an associate professor of political management from Carleton University in Ottawa, said the Liberals' announcement didn't signal anything about the need for retraining or job-search services to help unemployed workers.

"The hiring credit might, in theory, help some kinds of employers hire more staff, but there's nothing here that would suggest this will do much in the short-term to help CRB users," Robson wrote in an email.

In their analysis, federal officials noted the number of first-time applicants for the CRB decreased starting in mid-January. The document also said more than 600,000 recipients

## Why everything you want is out of stock or more expensive

Supply chains are complicated. But if you're wondering why everything you want to buy seems to be stuck in a global traffic jam these days, the answer is relatively simple, says Karan Kanona, vice president of the Shipping Federation of Canada.

"There's been a surge in demand for imported containerized goods," she says.

As we all got stuck at home in the first wave of the pandemic in 2020, we started buying more "things." Instead of spending on restaurants and gym subscriptions, we started ordering, say, baking gear and dumbbells to work out in the living room. Globally, consumer demand shifted away from services and toward manufactured products.

Exports from Asia, which manufactures many of the products consumers are buying in the pandemic, will be nearly 15 per cent higher by the end of this year than they were in 2019, the World Trade Organization predicts.

Consumer Matters: Home appliances hit hard by supply chain crisis

More than a year later, that surge in demand has yet to let up and is clogging supply chains around the world, says Kanona. From finding components through loading products into containers and onto cargo ships, trains or trucks to warehouses and distribution centres, "all those touchpoints along the chain are... congested," she says.

For consumers, the supply chain logjams don't just mean empty store shelves, "out of stock" signs or frustratingly long delivery times. They also mean price increases, as manufacturers and retailers pass the higher costs they're facing due to supply delays and shortages onto shoppers.

Here's how the COVID-19 pandemic is exposing the vulnerabilities of the world's logistics networks.

Product shortages, delays persist due to worldwide supply chain issues. How did we get here?

Supply chains should be able to handle large volume surges, says Kanona. But they also have to be able to operate efficiently in normal times.

Building logistics systems that can manage sudden spikes while otherwise remaining nimble isn't easy, she says.

But what supplier networks around the world have been facing during the pandemic isn't just a massive jump in demand for consumer goods, it's an increase that's been lasting for over a year, Kanona notes.

Despite loosening COVID-19 restrictions, the surge in e-commerce orders shows no signs of letting up, says Laurie Tenzos, special advisor to the Cross-border Institute at the University of Windsor and vice president of government relations at Farrow, a customs broker and logistics provider.

It doesn't help that while global demand for consumer goods and manufacturing inputs boomed back quickly after the onset of COVID-19 and soared past pre-pandemic levels, suppliers and shippers struggled to keep up.

As lockdowns spread from Asia to Europe and then North America in the early months of 2020, both manufacturers and transportation service providers drastically scaled back capacity, Kanona and Tenzos note.

By the summer of 2020, things were looking up, and consumers were

loosen again and economic activity around the world picks up speed, demand for fuels like gasoline, diesel and natural gas has increased fast. But in some cases, the uncertainties of the global pandemic have made producers reluctant to make significant capital investments in new drilling programs.

Natural gas prices will push heating bills higher this winter. Oct 7, 2021

When it comes to natural gas, for example, high demand is running up against unusually low inventories. This, combined with other factors, is driving prices to record levels, especially in Asia and Europe.

And postponing virtually every aspect of the supply chain is a shortage of people. Employees around the world have been struggling to find enough workers to fill available jobs, especially in lower-paying jobs that may present a higher risk of COVID-19 contagion.

The pandemic has also triggered a wave of early retirements in a number of sectors. Canada's trucking industry, for example, is facing an estimated shortage of around 20,000 drivers. To put that in context, the number of drivers handling all of the Canada-U.S. cross-border trade comes to about 160,000, says Stephen Laskowski, president of the Canadian Trucking Alliance.

"Not only did we have a shortage of drivers prior to the pandemic, we had one of the oldest demographics in our workforce," Laskowski says.

Similarly, some major international ports have been struggling to find enough labour to offload ships, and warehouse workers are also in short supply, Tenzos says.

All the shortages are creating delays that cascade and compound through the supply chain ultimately resulting in empty store shelves or extra long delivery times, she adds.

Canadians feeling the pinch as inflation rate soars to 18-year high

because much of the rest of the world was still implementing strict COVID-19 restrictions, "those containers did not come back quickly enough," according to a report by logistics company Hillebrand.

But even without the issue of containers sitting empty on the wrong side of the supply chain, it's become clear there simply aren't enough giant steel boxes for all the stuff that's supposed to circulate the globe right now, according to Tenzos.

Truck driver shortage amplifying supply-chain pressures

A shortage of everything

Containers are just one of the shortages supply chain managers are trying to work around right now.

The same supply-demand mismatch that has afflicted all kinds of manufacturing inputs and consumer products has also impacted commodities like lumber and steel.

Meanwhile, inclement weather in many parts of the world has also resulted in shortages of agricultural products like wheat.

A similar narrative holds for energy resources. As COVID-19 restrictions



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

Ontario is lifting capacity limits today at restaurants, gyms, casinos and some other locations where proof of vaccination against COVID-19 is required.

If museums and galleries, places of worship and personal care settings choose to require proof of vaccination, they can also lift capacity limits as of today.

Premier Doug Ford announced the development Friday as he unveiled plans for managing the pandemic long term.

The province aims to remove all public health measures meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 by late March, including mask mandates.

Proof-of-vaccination requirements will start to be lifted only next year as long as trends don't become concerning - starting with restaurants, bars, gyms and casinos in January.

Health officials in Ontario - where daily case numbers have been trending downward - on Monday reported 326 new cases of COVID-19



no additional deaths.

What's happening in Canada

Albertans need proof of vaccination at restaurants, movies starting today.

What's happening around the world

As of 2 p.m. ET Monday, more than 243.8 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 4.9 million.

In Europe, the European Medicines Agency said Monday that a booster

dose of Moderna's coronavirus vaccine "can be considered" in people aged 18 and above.

In a statement, the EU drug regulator said its analysis had shown that a third dose given of Moderna's vaccine - which is usually given in a two-dose schedule - at least six months after the second dose, led to an increase in antibody levels in adults whose levels were waning. The booster dose consists of half the dose normally given to adults.

Concerning the Asia-Pacific region, the International Olympic Committee

announced rules and restrictions for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, including a three-week quarantine for unvaccinated competitors, daily testing for vaccinated athletes and spectators from the host country of China only.

In Papua New Guinea, concerted international action is needed as a surge in COVID-19 cases overwhelms the Pacific country's health system, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said on Monday.

Meanwhile, South Korea said it has achieved its goal of vaccinating 70 per cent of its 52 million people, paving the way for a planned return to normal next month.

In the Middle East, in the United Arab Emirates, health officials on Monday reported one additional death and 97 new cases of COVID-19.

In the Americas, White House chief medical adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci said Americans can choose a booster shot that is different from their original inoculation - but the recommendation is to stick with the vaccine they got first if it is available.

In Africa, Tunisia imposed COVID-19 vaccine passes on Tunisians and all foreign visitors. Officials, employees and users are required to show their vaccine pass to access public and private administrations.

rapidly," he said.

In a statement, ZIM Integrated Shipping Services, which operates the 13-year-old vessel, said that on Friday it "encountered very heavy weather conditions."

"The vessel reported dozens of containers that fell overboard," said several other containers caught fire, the firm said.

"Most crew members were evacuated from the vessel, and a few stayed on board to assist with the firefighting efforts. All crew members reported safe..."

Canadian Coast Guard spokesperson Michelle Imboas said an incident command post led by the Coast Guard on behalf of the federal and B.C. governments, as well as First Nations representatives, was co-ordinating a multi-agency response to the incident.

The incident began Saturday when U.S. authorities reported roughly 40 containers adrift in the ocean off Washington state, after they fell overboard from the ship.

# Container fire on cargo ship near Victoria mostly under control, Canadian Coast Guard says

The Canadian Coast Guard says the container fire that broke out Saturday on a cargo ship off Victoria is "smouldering" and mostly under control, and an investigation will be soon be underway to assess damage.

During a media briefing Sunday, the federal incident commander with the Canadian Coast Guard said the fire aboard Zim Kingston has burned the affected containers down to their shell.

"We've just had a Coast Guard helicopter overlap and the majority of the fire is almost out. What we still see is smouldering, but we can't see any scorching or charring out of the adjacent containers," J. Brickett said.

He said response vessels spent the night cooling the boat's hull with water, but responders could not douse the flames directly because of the chemicals in the cargo.

"What they were attempting to do was let the fire burn down - while trying to keep everything around it



cool," he said.

Two of the burning containers on the ship's deck held hazardous material identified as potassium cyanide, according to the Canadian Coast Guard, which is listed as a "reactive flammable material" by the Canadian Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

Brickett says on Monday, firefighters will specifically assess the vessel for any remaining hazardous material.

"Basically corner to corner they'll

look at if there is any container fire, what's still smouldering and move from there," he said.

Storm forecast for Oregon

In preparation for the strong wind storm that's forecasted for the region Sunday, Brickett says crews stationed both on and off the ship are monitoring it to make sure it doesn't move overnight.

"In the unlikely event that she does move her anchor, we have numerous salvage tugs ... and there are precautions made on board so that low can effectively be made very

# Ontario plans to lift all COVID-19 public health measures - masks included - by March

Ontario plans to lift all remaining public health measures including proof of vaccination and mask requirements indoors by March 2022.

At a Friday news conference in Toronto with Premier Doug Ford, Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kaitlyn Moore and Minister of Health Christine Elliott, it was announced that the removal of the measures will take place "slowly and incrementally" over the next six months, guided by ongoing monitoring of key public health indicators.

These indicators include: whether any new COVID-19 variants arise, how many people are in hospital and ICU with the illness, and if the province once again sees a rapid increase in transmission of the disease.

Here's a timeline of what you can expect:

Oct. 25: The province will lift capacity limits in the majority of settings where proof of vaccination is required including restaurants, indoor sports facilities and gyms, casinos, bingo halls and indoor meeting and event spaces. Places of worship, museums and personal care settings such as barbershops and salons can also do away with capacity limits if they require proof of vaccination.

Nov. 15: The government plans to lift capacity limits in remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including night clubs, wedding receptions in spaces where dancing is involved, strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs.

Jan. 17: Assuming the holidays don't contribute to any "concerning trends," the plan is to lift capacity limits in places where proof of vaccination is not required. At the same time, proof of vaccine requirements may also be lifted for restaurants, bars and sports facilities.

Feb. 7: The province plans to lift proof of vaccine requirements in high-risk settings including night clubs, strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs.

March 28: Ontario plans to lift mask-wearing requirements in indoor public spaces, as well as remove



proof-of-vaccine requirements for all remaining settings. Capacity limits and public health measures could be re-introduced at local levels to manage COVID-19 surges.

By then, Moore said, hopefully enough Ontarians are immunized, including children aged five to 11, so the virus can't find hosts in which to reproduce.

Asked if mask requirements will also be lifted for classrooms by March, Ford didn't answer explicitly, saying all decisions will be informed by the key indicators as well as advice from the chief medical officer of health.

"Continued vigilance" required, top doctor

The province also says it intends to allow for greater capacity at organized public events such as Remembrance Day ceremonies and Santa Claus parades, with more details coming in the near future.

"We are now in a position where we can see the proposed plan for lifting the remaining public health and workplace safety measures in Ontario," said Moore, the province's chief medical officer of health, in a news release Friday.

"The months ahead will require continued vigilance, as we don't want to cause any more unnecessary disruption in people's everyday lives."

possible to avoid broad lockdowns.

Ontario is "currently trending toward the best-case scenario," Moore said, adding 87.7 per cent of eligible Ontarians have now received at least

one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 83.6 per cent have taken two doses.

Asked if ending proof-of-vaccination requirements was counterproductive to maximizing vaccine uptake, Ford replied that he didn't think so.

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario said the plan puts the province's progress at risk, particularly since some restrictions will be easing as winter approaches.

Ontario's provincial government said Friday that starting Oct. 25, businesses such as restaurants, bars and gyms - indoor venues that currently have vaccination requirements in place - can ease their COVID-19 capacity restrictions.

Restaurants in Canada, which were ordered when capacity limits were lifted on large venues ahead of small businesses such as restaurants, said it was pleased with the plan.

"We thought we should have been open two weeks ago, but we're happy that it's finally here and restaurants will work throughout the weekend to make sure they're ready to open fully by Monday," said James Rilett, the group's vice-president for Central Canada.

He said it's heartening that restaurants are set to have the requirement for proof of vaccination lifted before some other kinds of establishments.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business also said it was glad to see the playing field levelled, but that organizations called on the government to provide more supports

for businesses to implement the vaccine certificate system.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath echoed that call.

Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner said Ford's announcement is "putting the cart before the horse," announcing an end to the proof-of-vaccination system when enhanced vaccine certificates only recently became available and before millions of children become eligible for vaccines.

4th wave rising, but monitoring data key

Meanwhile, Ontario's science advisory table said Friday the fourth wave of the pandemic in Ontario is waning, but keeping some health measures in place while vaccinating children will keep it under control. Things like masking, vaccine certificates and improvements to ventilation in indoor settings will help to control the pandemic continues to wane, the group said.

The modelling goes to the end of November, and experts say there's too much uncertainty to say definitively whether it will be safe to lift the requirements for vaccine certificates starting in January, or mask mandates in March.

"There's a chance that it all works out," said Dr. Isaac Bogoch, an infectious diseases physician. "There's also a chance

things get thrown off because of rising cases and you have to change course."

It will be important to closely watch the data and react to rising cases, Bogoch said, noting that if Ontario waits and instead reacts to rising hospitalizations, it's acting too slowly.

Ontario has been at step three of what the government calls its "Roadmap to Reopen" since mid-July. Last Wednesday, CBC News reported the province's strategy for lifting pandemic restrictions would be unveiled this week.

Ford has said the new plan will provide a long-term vision, and will involve applying any new restrictions in tailored and localized ways with the aim of avoiding further shutdowns.

Currently, fitness centres in Ontario are limited to 50 per cent capacity. At restaurants and bars, capacity is also limited to ensure patrons of different groups maintain a distance of two metres.

Despite the recent holiday weekend and students recently heading back to school for in-person classes, the pandemic continues to recede in Ontario.

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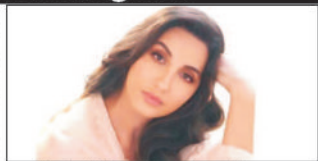
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# Nora Fatehi was gifted a luxury car by Sukesh Chandrasekhar, claims lawyer in Rs. 200 crore Money Laundering case

Actor Nora Fatehi is currently being questioned by the Enforcement Directorate as a witness in a Rs. 200 crore money laundering case. The accused Sukesh Chandrasekhar who is being investigated for cheating and extortion is being represented by lawyer Anant Malik. Malik has now claimed that Nora Fatehi received a luxury car from his client as a gift.



Sukesh Chandrasekhar, while being produced at a Delhi court on Saturday told the media that he has gifted a car to Nora Fatehi. He told the media, "Why don't you ask your lawyer (Nora Fatehi's lawyer)?" Earlier, in the court, Sukesh's lawyer said, "Nora Fatehi claims to be a victim but she was gifted a BMW car. Apart from that Jacqueline and Sukesh were dating, there are my investigations. This is straight from the horse's mouth. They are the ultimate beneficiaries, that's why they are being called for questioning."

# Salman Khan and Sanjay Leela

# Bhansali to reunite for docu-series 'Beyond The Star'

Acc filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali is all set to reunite with one of his favourite actors Salman Khan. The duo had shared a love-hate relationship in the past and were all set to reunite after 21 years for the film Ishabali. However, the film was eventually shelved just days before it was slated to go on floors.

# Shaheen Shah Afridi's Wickets Gave Lot Of Confidence: Pakistan Skipper Babar Azam Highlights Pacer's Influence In Win vs India In T20 World Cup 2021



An elated Pakistan skipper Babar Azam spoke highly of left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi in the post-match presentation after registering a historic 10-wicket win against India in their T20 World Cup 2021 opening match in Dubai. Shaheen took the game by storm when he dismissed Indian opener Rohit Sharma for a first-ball duck and then came back in the next over to take KL Rahul for three runs.

# Virat Kohli laughs off "Will you drop Rohit Sharma" question after India vs Pak match

Virat Kohli on Sunday laughed off a question by a journalist who asked if India will consider dropping Rohit Sharma from the team for the remainder of the tournament. Kohli said, "That's a very brave question. What do you think, sir? I played the team that I thought was the best. What is your criticism?"

# Details about Rani Mukerji and Saif Ali Khan's character in Bunty Aur Babli 2

Rani Mukerji and Saif Ali Khan are ready to be seen together on screen again after more than a decade. This time around it is for the sequel to Bunty Aur Babli (2005). The second part will show the life of once-behaved making comers Rani and Saif. While Babli has now become a housewife who misses being the centre of attention, Bunty has retired and misses planning robberies that once made the country talk about them.



People in this village are not exposed to fashion as all of them become the Fashion Queen of Unstungli. While Saif spoke about his character and said, "Not a day goes by without Rakeesh missing the thrill he felt when he was the legendary conman Bunty. Though he has kept his identity a secret and enjoys his marriage with Vimmy, he misses the action, misses strategizing for con

# "Not A Team That Presses Panic Button": Virat Kohli After Crushing Defeat To Pakistan In T20 World Cup

India captain Virat Kohli tipped his hat to the Pakistan team after failing to a crushing 10-wicket defeat in a T20 World Cup Super 12 match at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday. Despite India's big loss, Virat Kohli said there was no need to press the panic button. This was the first time in history that Pakistan beat India in a World Cup encounter.

downfall by removing Rohit Sharma in the first over and then accounted for KL Rahul as India found themselves in a spot of bother early. Suryakumar Yadav showed flashes of his potential but was sent packing by Hasan Ali. Kohli and Pant forged a 53-run partnership for the fourth wicket to bring India back in the game but the latter fell just as he was beginning to pepper the bowlers.

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## Homes sold over asking price: Ottawa's gap is the highest in Ontario

Bidding wars have been a common feature in Ottawa's real estate market for the past few years, coinciding with an historic shrinking of available listings.

Indeed, the speed of the drop since September 2018, when 3,439 residential homes were listed along with nearly 1,000 condos, has been spectacular. By September 2021, the number of available listings had plummeted to just shy of 1,300 for residential homes and less than 560 for condos - a three-year decline of 62 per cent and 43 per cent respectively.

Considering there are roughly 400,000 private dwellings in Ottawa, that's an awfully thin bit of inventory. This provides the backdrop for an interesting survey published last week by Zoocasa, a Toronto-based real estate brokerage that offers a variety of tools for visualizing trends in the industry.



In this analysis, Zoocasa examined what people paid for homes and compared this to the listing price. In general, a big "over-asking" price is evidence of an imbalanced market in favour of the seller.

Of 29 cities surveyed, Ottawa's average sale price was the largest, and by a significant margin. Zoocasa

calculated the average sale price in September involving all types of properties in Ottawa was \$670,000 compared to an average list price of just \$524,000 - representing a gap of 28 per cent. (Ottawa Real Estate Board data showed a \$640,000 average sale price in September, consisting of \$702,000 for residential

properties and \$425,000 for condominiums.) Zoocasa said the next-largest spread between asking and selling price - 16 per cent - was recorded in Whitby and Windsor.

Somewhat surprisingly, 16 of 29 Ontario cities saw sellers accept below-list prices. The most dramatic example was in Caledon, north of Toronto, where sellers listed at \$2.8 million, but sold for an average of \$1.6 million.

Why is the over-asking price so high in Ottawa? Part of it is because we were several years behind Toronto and its hinterland in experiencing the rapid run-up in real estate prices. On that list of 29 cities, 16 recorded average sale prices in September in excess of \$1 million. Bidding wars at that level are very expensive and only the wealthiest can afford them. The Zoocasa data suggests resistance to high asking prices appears to be setting in for the moment.

Monte McNaughton, the minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, will introduce the Working for Workers Act, 2021.

"This is a bill that leaves no one behind," McNaughton said during a media briefing on Monday.

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Health Canada is also looking at the possibility of extending the shelf life of some vaccines based on new data from the manufacturers, so they can be kept in storage for a few extra months.

"As we know more about the vaccines, and also as manufacturers make changes to their formulations, we get more information about how stable those vaccines are, how long they can be held on the shelf," said Dr. Supriya Sharma, chief medical adviser at Health Canada.

Moderna has already made a submission to extend the shelf life of existing vaccines in Canada from seven months to 10 months, for example.

Sharma said any changes to the shelf life of vaccine products would have to be approved by Health Canada and supported by data on the safety and efficacy of the longer expiry.

## Right-to-disconnect policies included in new labour legislation being introduced by Ontario government

The Ontario government is introducing new legislation that would require large employers to put in "right to disconnect" policies and ban-competes clauses.

The legislation would require employers with 25 or more employees to develop and implement from-work policies, which could include expectations about response time for emails and encouraging employees to turn on out-of-office notifications when they are not working.

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place where people burn out from endless work, and where family time comes last.

"This is an issue that's been really highlighted because of the pandemic," McNaughton said. "The lines between family time and work time have been blurred. I think all of us have faced challenges over the last couple of years."

Mixed reaction from opposition Ontario's opposition parties applauded the principle behind the bill, but some expressed skepticism at the Progressive Conservative push to be on the side of workers.

"[This is] a party that's done so much damage to working people, by cancelling minimum wage increases, not acting rapidly enough during the second and third waves of the pandemic to bring in legislation to support front-line workers," said Green party leader Mike Schreiner.

"I think solutions speak louder than words and I think working people in Ontario will see through the government's belated actions."

Premier Doug Ford cancelled a scheduled increase to a \$15 minimum wage enacted in legislation from the previous Liberal government, which had also guaranteed workers 10 days of personal emergency days, including two paid.

These days were replaced with three sick days, three family responsibility days, and two bereavement days, none paid. During the pandemic, the Tories introduced a temporary program of three paid sick days.

NDP Deputy Leader Sara Singh said the proposal McNaughton has announced at various news conferences is ideas her party supports, but she is concerned about what the details of the bill will say, considering the secure.

"These are values of New Democrats and something we'll continue to fight for, but let's not forget, this is a government that cut the minimum wage, has taken away

people's paid sick days, and hasn't been working hard," she said.

Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca said he's looking forward to reading the details of the bill, but he called it encouraging that the government has at least been talking lately about being more supportive of workers.

"I want to say on balance, even though it's late, even though I know a lot of Ontarians don't think it's necessarily genuine, if it's going to produce a positive outcome for workers and their families it deserves support," he said. "It has merit."

Legislation prohibits use of non-competes agreements. The proposed legislation will also prohibit employers from using non-competes agreements. Those types of contracts often restrict employees from taking new jobs with another business in the same field after they leave the company.

The government said the proposed changes would ban such non-competes agreements. The proposed legislation will also make it easier for immigrants in Ontario to advance their careers and earn more money.

Employers would still be able to protect their intellectual property through narrower clauses, the government said.

The legislation would also make it easier for immigrants to get licensed to work in professions that match their area of expertise, require temporary help agencies to be licensed, and require businesses to let delivery drivers use their vehicles.

Seri Abdo, co-founder and CEO of the Toronto-based start-up Hungertub, said the requirement of allowing drivers and couriers to be able to use the bathrooms within on their route directly affects his employees.

He also welcomed the work-life balance initiative, saying it's important to his company. "We see it as a very important part of doing business," Abdo said at Monday's briefing.

Hungertub provides meal delivery to workplaces.

## Five Ontario cities where houses are selling most above asking price have been revealed

The top five Ontario cities where houses are selling the most above their asking price have been revealed and surprisingly, Toronto didn't make the list.

A new report released by Zoocasa this week calculated the percentage difference between the average sold price and the average list price in 29 cities across Ontario for the month of September.

According to the report, the calculations reveal the largest difference in the list price and sold price is occurring in markets where the average home price is below \$1 million.

The report found that Ottawa tops the list for homes selling over asking, with a 27 per cent difference on average.

The average listing price of a home in Ottawa in September was \$523,842 but the average selling price was \$669,874.

Next on the list was Whitby, where the average list price was \$938,831 and the selling price was \$1,092,945.

Windsor, Oshawa and Ajax were next on the list. Homes in those regions sold between 16 and 13 per cent above asking in September.

Three of the top five markets are located in the Durham Region, long considered a hot alternative to the City of Toronto, at a commutable distance, the report said.

The report found that in September, housing in Toronto sold on average seven per cent under asking, and the selling price was \$1,033,373.

## Canada considers what to do with millions of unused COVID-19 vaccine doses

OTTAWA - Canada must decide what to do with millions of unused COVID-19 vaccine doses now that officials have confirmed they won't be needed to vaccinate children.

Roughly 6.6 million doses have been distributed to the provinces but not yet used, and there are an extra 13 million in Canada's central vaccine inventory.

Dr. Theresa Tam, the chief public health officer, says provincial and federal governments are working to figure out how many doses will be needed in Canada so that everyone can be fully vaccinated, and get a booster if they need one.

At the same time, they are keeping tabs on when doses expire to make sure they do not go to waste.

"Vaccines are a valuable commodity and extremely important to Canada, but also the world," Tam said at a briefing Friday.



Canada has already announced it would donate more than 40 million doses to COVAX, a global vaccine-sharing alliance, to be distributed to countries in need.

Those donations focused on the Johnson & Johnson and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines. Though both are approved by Health Canada, Canada's domestic vaccine strategy focuses on administering mRNA vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

With 2.9 million pediatric doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine set to be delivered to Canada for kids aged five to 11, it's likely Canada won't use all of its mRNA vaccines before they expire.

Initial agreements between Canada and the mRNA manufacturers didn't allow for those doses to be donated, but that has been worked out, Tam said.

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