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Sky-high home prices in Canada are 'intergenerational injustice,' Freeland says

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland says the inability for young people in Canada to afford a home is an "intergenerational injustice" that must be fixed.

Speaking in Montreal on Monday to tout last week's federal budget which includes several initiatives targeted towards first-time homebuyers, Freeland suggested housing is "the current economic challenge today."

"One of the things that I am most concerned about as someone who - it stocks me to say this - is 53 years old, is the intergenerational injustice," Freeland told reporters.

"We had a better shot at buying a home and starting a family than young people today, and we cannot have a Canada where the rising generation is shut out of the dream of home ownership."

Freeland said the "core problem" is a lack of housing stock across the country. The budget, she said, is aimed at addressing that.

"We cannot have the fastest growing population in the G7 without also having the fastest growing housing stock," she said.

The Liberal government is planning to spend \$10.14 billion on housing over the next five years, according to last week's budget. The document includes plans to double the pace of homebuilding in Canada in the decade ahead, support those already struggling with housing and limit profiteering in the sector.

The budget also seeks to introduce a new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account (TFHSA) to help

Canadians struggling to get into the housing market save for the cost of a down payment.

Real estate hopefuls would be able to save \$8,000 per year to a



maximum of \$40,000 per person towards the purchase of a first home.

Budget 2022 will help be able to deliver on housing affordability?

Many young Canadians have spoken about the struggle to enter the real estate market as housing costs continue to rise. The average price of a home in Canada hit a new record of over \$816,000 in February.

The budget predicted Canada will need to build around 3.5 million by 2031 to improve affordability, and lays out plans to double the annual pace of building in the country over the next decade, up from the current 200,000 units per year.

Conservative Party interim Leader Candice Bergen criticized the federal government's timelines for failing to help Canadians looking to enter the housing market today.

"We're seeing a housing program announced, as in typical Liberal fashion, that will actually result in not one house built or one house purchased this year," she told

reporters after the budget was released on Thursday.

The NDP have said the budget includes spending incentives the party has pushed, including \$1.5 billion to build new affordable homes and \$4.3 billion toward new Indigenous housing.

The \$1.5 billion will be invested in the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.'s Rapid Housing Initiative, which will be extended by two years.

But NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh has still criticized the budget, saying it does not go far enough.

Freeland said on Monday the federal budget is "absolutely" targeted at getting more homes built across the country as soon as possible.

"That's going to be your long-term answer to housing unaffordability in Canada," she said.

Advanced voting, last 10 days of advanced voting, up from five,

Elections Ontario is encouraging residents to request mail-in ballots or take advantage of extra days of advanced voting this year with the intention of thinning polling station crowds on the province's first - and hopefully only - provincial election day amid COVID-19.

Political parties are currently making pandemic campaign plans and contingency arrangements as the official campaign start nears, but the body that administers Ontario's elections has had a possible pandemic election in its sights for a long time.

Chief electoral officer Greg Esesma wrote to the chief medical officer of health in the summer of 2020 asking for a task force, and the two offices have been meeting regularly since then, he said. Elections Ontario is taking the advice of the top doctor as well as looking at how other jurisdictions have run elections over the past two years.

When voters show up on June 2, they will see floor signage for physical distancing. Plexiglas screens, hand sanitizer and masks available - face coverings won't be required of voters or staff but will be supplied for those who want one.

But Esesma is hoping many voters consider avoiding ballot boxes on June 2 altogether.

"I think one of the things that we're really trying to do this election is really look at flattening the curve of the vote," he said in an interview.

"Traditionally in Ontario - it has always been this way - probably 85 to 90 per cent of those who vote, vote on election day - we want electors to vote when it's convenient for them, when the time is right for them, ensuring that they can come and vote in a safe, secure fashion. Really, that's our ultimate goal."

This year, there will be 10 days of advanced voting, up from five,

Elections Ontario offering more options for voting other than in person on June 2

Esesma said, and the local returning officer can move the poll location. It could be held for a few days in one community, then a few days in another community in the riding, which will be particularly helpful for rural areas, he said.

As well, Elections Ontario has a new online process to apply for a mail-in ballot. People can sign up from May 4 to May 27 and the local returning officer has to have the ballot by 6 p.m. on election day.

Other provinces that have held pandemic elections have seen significant increases in demand for voting by mail, Esesma said.

Ontario only had about 10,000 people vote by mail in the 2018 election, but this year it will likely be far more. In last year's federal election, 300,000 of the mail-in ballots came from Ontario, Esesma said.

On the campaign trail, the NDP is still planning to prioritize in-person events for leader Andrea Horwath, but will have a number of public health measures in place, said the party's executive director.

"[With virtual events] there is something that is lost, that sort of warm, human feeling that you get when you're in a room with folks," Lucy Watson said in an interview.

"The virtual events that we've done have been hugely successful, tremendous turnout, tremendous energy, and I think folks have still been able to make that connection. But, again, our preference and our priority is certainly to have the leader meet with Ontarians in their communities."

Parties pledge to follow public



health rules. Planning is still underway, but many events will likely look like a rally Horwath held last Sunday - outdoors with masks required, Watson said. All candidates and any volunteer who will interact with a member of the public are fully vaccinated, she said.

When canvassing, the party is "strongly encouraging" candidates and volunteers to stay masked, Watson said. Recently, one incumbent candidate tested positive for COVID-19 a day after door knocking in her riding. She and others in the situation will adhere to all isolation guidelines, Watson said.

The party also plans to have a COVID compliance staff member as part of the central campaign, she said.

"We believe that it's our shared responsibility to mitigate risk, and our primary goal is to ensure that activities are safe for the volunteers and the campaigners, the candidates and for the members of the public who are interacting with them," Watson said.

The Liberals came under fire from some supporters for a recent indoor event at which candidates appeared unmasked, though public health

Passport problems as many return to travelling outside Canada

As people return to travelling outside of Canada, many are running into issues getting a new passport.

Amber Kozinski has been looking forward to being in Mexico at the end of April, but her spouse needed a new passport. The process to get this has involved a number of steps and conflicting information.

"When you're travelling within 25 business days, that can be a little overwhelming," she said.

The Brampton resident has reached out to other travellers to ask if she could simply go stand in line at Service Canada.

"Some people wrote 'yes you can go stay' some people wrote 'no'," said Kozinski. "They didn't want to take them unless they were two business days away."

She ended up reaching out to her MP's office and was able to arrange an appointment in Brampton.

"There were probably over 100 people that we walked past [in the line]," said Kozinski.

Employment and Social Development Canada says the average process time for passports is five days if applying by person and 21 days if applying at a Service Canada centre or by mail.

"This is an uptick we've never seen before," said Terry Lyne Woods of Royal City Travel. "If they need a passport, a lot of people won't book until they have it in their hands or confirmation that their passport will be back in time."

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Expanding refugee access to third-country solutions: International leaders launch the Global Task Force on Refugee Labour Mobility

Ottawa—Across the globe, millions of people are displaced and in need of safety and protection. Only about 1% of refugees have access to resettlement each year, leaving millions of people in limbo and a significant talent pool often untapped. Labour complementary pathways provide an additional way, beyond resettlement, for displaced people to find durable solutions in their countries through labour migration programs. In so doing, they recognize refugees' skills, experience and talent, in addition to their need for protection.

To see these successes on a larger scale, we need to make labour immigration avenues accessible to refugees. Today, the Global Task Force on Refugee Labour Mobility was launched and introduced Canada as its inaugural chair. The Task Force will build momentum for labour complementary pathways around the world. Leaders from Canada, Australia, the United Nations Refugee Agency, the

International Organization for Migration, the International Chamber of Commerce, Fragomen, Talent Beyond Boundaries, and RefugePoint held the first meeting of the Task Force to discuss the transformative potential of refugee labour mobility initiatives.

By working together with like-minded partners and countries, Canada will continue to be a global leader in attracting international talent to fill skilled labour shortages and drive post-pandemic economic recovery. Labour complementary pathways are intended to work alongside existing humanitarian resettlement programs, with the goal of expanding the number of pathways available for skilled refugees to immigrate abroad.

This initiative builds on Canada's Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP), a ground-breaking program that recognizes the skills and abilities of refugees by removing barriers and helping them and their families immigrate to

be crucial to informing policy and program improvements.

The Task Force will also prepare a detailed report in 2024, which will document its work and successes and outline policy and operational considerations for the scaling and institutionalization of labour complementary pathways for refugees around the world.

Through this global collaboration, the Task Force will explore how these initiatives can attract skilled refugees in need of protection, while also providing opportunities for them to make meaningful contributions to their new communities.

Understanding and facilitating the admission of skilled refugees through alternative and innovative pathways is not only a complement to our humanitarian commitments, it is a commitment to economic growth through supporting our communities and industries across the country that rely on immigration. Labour complementary pathways will increase the attraction and retention of newcomers in regions with acute economic, labour and demographic challenges. Together, the Global Task Force on Refugee Labour Mobility will further help bring the immeasurable contributions of immigrants to our communities and all sectors of the economy.

Make this Your Child's Best Summer Ever - Sign Up for City Summer Camps Starting May 2

Eager to bring some excitement to your child's summer? Sign them up for a City Summer Camp! With the summer season quickly approaching, many parents and caregivers are excited to get their kids back to some summertime fun. The City is opening up summer camp registration for Mississauga residents on Monday, May 2.

With lots of day camps to choose from, here's a snapshot of a few being offered by the City this summer:

• "Dance & Play (4.5 to 12 years old)

• "Art Express on Stage (4.5 to 9 years old)

• "Multi-Sport Camp (6 to 12 years old)

• "Junior Golf Camp (6 to 12 years old)

• "Visual Arts Camp (6 to 12 years old)

• "Outdoor Explorers Camp (8 to 10 years old)

• "Outdoor Leadership Camp (10 to 12 years old)

To see a complete list of all the day camps, visit ActiveMississauga.ca anytime after Monday, April 25 at 6 a.m.

Camps begin the week of July 4 and run until Friday, September 2, 2022.

Summer camp registration

Registration for all camps is required. It is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents can register directly at ActiveMississauga.ca. If programs are full, the waitlist option can be selected. Customer Service support is available at 905-615-4100 (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

On Monday, May 2 at 6 a.m., online and in-person registration will open for all Mississauga residents to sign up children for summer camps.

The following week, all non-residents interested in signing up their children for summer camps can do so starting on Monday, May 9 at 6 a.m.

About the camps



Children will participate in fun recreational and creative learning activities focused on outdoor play, organized games, sports, arts, crafts, theme days and more.

Additionally, campers will have the opportunity to make new friends, growing their emotional intelligence, self-confidence, self-awareness and other beneficial skills for overall development. The large variety of camps are supervised by qualified staff trained in HIGH FIVE® principles of healthy child development at locations across the City, including community centres, Paramount Fine Foods Centre and the Living Arts Centre to name a few.

Programs

For older youth, the Leader in Training program is returning and a great opportunity to develop employment skills and gain experience to prepare for future camp leader roles. Registration begins on Monday, May 9.

Volunteer opportunities are also back this summer for youth 14 years. For more information, visit mississauga.ca/youth/volunteer.

For more information or to register for other City programs, activities and services, visit ActiveMississauga.ca.

#5... ONTARIO LIBERALS CALL FOR MASK EXTENSION AND EXPANSION TO SCHOOLS, PHARMACIES AND GROCERY STORES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 7, 2022

TO SCHOOLS, PHARMACIES AND GROCERY STORES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 7, 2022

IN-PERSON LEARNING AT-RISK: PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO

Report Comes As Investigation Reveals Ford Conservatives Prioritized Private Schools for Rapid Antigen Tests While Refusing to Send Them to Public Schools Last Fall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 11, 2022

TORONTO - On Friday, while Doug Ford and his Health Minister ignored Ontario Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca's calls for "more science and less silence" from provincial government officials, Public Health Ontario quietly issued the following dramatic warning:

"If the special circumstances of the current situation associated with the current transmission of SARS-2, removal of public health measures, and limited vaccine

availability and/or dose coverage in children less than 12 years, the number of children with severe disease is likely to increase. This may impact pediatric hospital and intensive care unit (ICU) capacity, and also lead to further disruptions in-person learning at schools."

Neither the Premier, Health Minister nor the Chief Medical Officer of Health were available to comment on Public Health Ontario's warning.

On Friday, Ministry of Education data showed:

• "15 per cent of Ontario kids and teachers were absent from school last week (1-4-7)

• "235 Ontario schools had more than 25 per cent of their students and/or teachers absent last Thursday, the last day data was available for (1-1-4)

This weekend, a Toronto Star investigation found that the Ford Conservatives denied public schools rapid tests last September while at the same time shipping 175,000 free rapid tests to private schools. Only 34 per cent of children aged 5-11 have received 2 doses of the vaccine.

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We are seeking a Live-In Caregiver to care for an elderly person at her home in Mississauga. You will provide routine healthcare to the patient and accommodation can be provided to you.


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Be careful what you sign: Ontario man fighting for home after private mortgage gone wrong

A Markham, Ont., man is struggling to hold on to the home when he's lived for 15 years after he signed on to a high-interest mortgage with a private lending company that is now pursuing him in court for not making payments.

Mississauga-based Morex Capital initiated court proceedings earlier this year to take control of the home through power of sale, but has since changed tack after CBC News began asking questions about the situation.

The company's lawyer now says it's willing to negotiate with 44-year-old Christian Brooks to reduce the amount owing on the \$195,000 mortgage that has ballooned to \$240,000.

Brooks went to the alternative lender seeking a loan in 2019 because he thought it was his only option.

The freelance graphic designer had a low credit score, bills to pay and a collections agency was after him. Tax returns show his annual income in the time was slightly more than \$7,000, excluding savings.

"It was my first time doing something like this," said Brooks. "It

was out of desperation."

This type of mortgage - funded by

invests in "high yielding, short-term

first and second residential Ontario



private investors that have pooled money to offer loans in exchange for a return on investment - has become more common in Canada. Borrowers should be aware, it's often not subject to the same kind of lending conditions as a traditional mortgage offered by a chartered bank.

Mortgage carried 10.49% interest rate.

An acquaintance referred him to Morex Capital, a company that

her property, which he used to sign for.

In June 2019, Brooks took out a loan against the \$900,000 house in the form of a one-year, \$195,000 mortgage with a 10.49 per cent interest rate, according to the signed mortgage commitment reviewed by CBC News.

Although he borrowed \$195,000, Morex Capital provided \$148,000 after fees and payouts.

According to the mortgage document, the fees included a \$29,000 payment to an individual who Brooks says he doesn't know, an \$8,000 administration fee, a \$4,000 broker fee and an annual renewal fee of up to \$8,000, along with other potential charges for late payments and lawyers in case of default.

Brooks willingly signed. "I agreed to it because of the situation I was in," he said. "I had no choice but to take it because I was already in financial debt."

He says his goal was to build back his credit, then go to a bank and get a line of credit with a lower interest rate.

Brooks says he made interest-only payments of around \$1,700 via pre-authorized debit each month for two years without incident and claims Morex didn't contact him until June 2021 - two years after the initial agreement - to renew the mortgage.

businesses have offered Ukrainian arrival employment and assistance.

"As a minister responsible for immigration, my heart goes out to families fleeing this tragedy. Ontario is doing everything in our power to support the people of Ukraine. True to the Ontario spirit, our message to Ukrainians is simple: Ontario stands with you, and Ontario's arms are open to you - the people of Ontario will take care of you," said Marco McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. "Ontario's economy is set to boom. With over 338,000 good jobs waiting to be filled and hundreds of Ontario businesses who have stepped up with job offers, we are in a strong position to welcome Ukrainian newcomers and help them find good jobs when they are ready to work."

The government is providing an increase of \$900,000 over three years to the Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society to deliver targeted settlement services. The funding will help Ukrainian newcomers get settled, find housing and access services such as mental health supports, education for children, language instruction for adults, and employment and training supports.

While Canada already mines many of the minerals targeted for investment (this country is the sixth largest global producer of iron, for example), it has significant repositories of others, the volume that are currently produced are not going to be enough to keep up with the coming energy transition and the electrification of transportation systems, Gorton said.

He pointed to recent announcements by General Motors that it will build Canada's first all-electric vehicle assembly plant in Ingersoll, Ont., as well as a cathode manufacturing facility in Quebec, for example.

"They can only succeed if they have a secure supply of mined materials," Gorton said. "And in the last 20 years, the amount of base metal or critical mineral exploration in Canada has been very low."

Mineral production for many of these substances is highly concentrated. More than three-quarters of global output in lithium, cobalt and rare earth elements come from three countries, the International Energy Agency reports, and China has a strong presence across the board when it comes to processing critical minerals.

Brian Kingston, president and chief executive of the Canadian Vehicle

Global EV demand creates once-in-a-generation opportunity for Canadian mining sector

Ottawa is set to pour an "unprecedented" amount of public money into the mining and metals sector as growing global demand for electric vehicles creates what industry insiders say is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Canadian resources.

In last week's federal budget, Justin Trudeau's Liberals committed to providing up to \$3.8 billion over eight years to create what the governments calls Canada's critical minerals strategy.

The aim is to increase extraction and production of Canadian nickel, lithium, cobalt, copper, titanium, zinc and other minerals that are used as components in electric vehicles and their batteries.

The ultimate goal is to create a domestic supply chain for electric vehicles, and in doing so, boost the economy while tackling greenhouse gas emissions at the same time.

"It's setting the table for Canada to create its own industry and not rely on others nearly so much," said Pierre Gorton, president and chief executive of the Mining Association of Canada.

While Canada already mines many of the minerals targeted for investment (this country is the sixth largest global producer of iron, for example), it has significant repositories of others, the volume that are currently produced are not going to be enough to keep up with the coming energy transition and the electrification of transportation systems, Gorton said.

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Brian Kingston, president and chief executive of the Canadian Vehicle

Manufacturers' Association, said the government is going to need to invest in the entire vehicle supply chain if it wants to meet its stated target of having 60 per cent of all light vehicles sold in Canada be electric by 2030, and 100 per cent by 2036.

"We're seeing automakers make a significant investment into electrification... but with that comes demand for critical minerals," Kingston said. He pointed to the IEA's Net Zero by 2050 report, which projects more than six times the current amount of mineral inputs will be needed in the next three decades.

Industry needs investment. One of the most important planks of the government's new strategy is a new 30 per cent tax credit, set up as a flow-through share arrangement, for exploration expenses for certain targeted minerals.

That will be an important incentive, said Chris Doornbas, president and chief executive of E3 Metals Corp., a Calgary-based junior resource company that holds the rights to one of Canada's largest lithium resources, located within the Leach Reservoir, a historic oil and gas-producing region of Alberta.

"What the industry needs all over is investment," Doornbas said. "It is getting a bit easier now, but two or three years ago it was really difficult finding equity capital to fund the business."

The publicly traded E3 Metals has developed technology to extract the lithium that occurs naturally within oilfield brines, and is in the process of developing a field pilot project before moving onto the commercialization stage.

While the federal budget also



contains consumer incentives to grow electric vehicle adoption in the form of a tax credit, Doornbas said the most important government stimulus needs to happen at the other end of the chain.

"We won't have the vehicles without the critical minerals," he said. "We need to approach it from the bottom up, right now."

In addition to investing in exploration, the Liberal government is also committing \$1.5 billion for new critical minerals projects in the areas of processing, materials manufacturing and recycling, as well as \$144 million for research to support the responsible extraction and processing of critical minerals.

That's critical, said Amanda Hall, a geophysicist and founder of Calgary-based Summit Nanotech, which has developed a proprietary lithium extraction technology that the company says uses less water and chemicals and produces fewer emissions than traditional extraction methods.

"It's really important for us to do this well, and not just throw government money at it willy-nilly," Hall said. "We need to make sure we're doing this sustainably, and building out infrastructure throughout."

But there is no time to waste, Hall added, because the explosion in demand for batteries and other EV components is happening now.

"I was in the House of Commons recently speaking to them - about Canada's position in the lithium ion supply chain and how behind we are to China right now," she said.

"Government support is crucial for (industry) right now, because we really don't want to miss this boat."

All three were shot in the space of seven minutes, before the killer took off. The details of what happened are laid out in interviews, radio logs and 911 transcripts gathered by the Mass Casualty Commission.

"The whole thing, it was... tough. It hit me, hit me pretty hard," Sgt. Darren Bernard, one of the first officers to find Stevenson's body, said in an interview with RCMP in July 2020.

The commission is tasked with examining the events of April 18 and 19, 2020, when Gabriel Wortman killed 22 people, including a pregnant woman, during the course of a 13-hour rampage through several rural communities.

Stevenson was the most senior member on duty at the RCMP's Enfield, N.S., detachment on the morning of April 19, and directed where her team members should go as shift supervisor.

Slain RCMP officer went down in gunfight with Nova Scotia mass shooter, inquiry hears

Const. Heidi Stevenson grabbed her pistol and began shooting at Nova Scotia's mass killer after he rammed her vehicle head-on, with the RCMP officer managing to fire 14 shots and injure the gunman's head before she was killed.

New documents released Monday detail what the commission leading a public inquiry believes happened at Shubenacadie, N.S., on April 19, 2020, when the gunman, who was disguised as a Mountie and had already murdered 19 people, shot and injured RCMP Const. Chad Morrison and then killed Stevenson and bystander Joey Webber.

All three were shot in the space of seven minutes, before the killer took off. The details of what happened are laid out in interviews, radio logs and 911 transcripts gathered by the Mass Casualty Commission.

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Province Helping Ukrainians Find Jobs in Ontario

Access to jobs, health care, income support and free education will help Ukrainian arrivals settle safely and quickly.

TORONTO - At a time when the province has hundreds of thousands of in-demand jobs to be filled, the Ontario government is launching a suite of supports for Ukrainian families arriving under the new emergency travel authorization, including a dedicated hotline (1-888-562-4769) and email address (ukrainians@ontario.ca) to connect new arrivals with job-search supports and local employers in the community.

"Our government will always embrace newcomers to the province, particularly at a time when we need more people to help fill in-demand jobs and especially the brave people facing the unjust war in Ukraine," said Premier Doug Ford. "As families arrive from Ukraine, we're making sure the resources and supports are in place to help them find meaningful employment while also keeping them safe and

healthy."

The suite of supports available to Ukrainian newcomers arriving under the new federal travel authorization also includes:

- * Access to Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage which includes health care supports and services they may need, including mental health services.

- * Access to drug benefits for Ukrainians through OHIP eligibility or receiving emergency income assistance.

- * Access to emergency housing through settlement service agencies and Ukrainian community organizations, including host homes and other temporary settings that Ukrainians may need until long-term arrangements are made.

- * Ensuring Ukrainian elementary and secondary school students can attend publicly funded schools for free.

- * Trauma-informed counselling and culturally responsive supports to students and families as

well as the promotion of intercultural understanding and awareness of Ukrainian stories and history, through a \$449,000 provincial investment to Canadian-Ukrainian community organizations.

Support for persons who have been admitted to Canada on an emergency basis for humanitarian reasons staying at Ontario's publicly assisted colleges and universities through a new provincial \$1.9 million Ontario-Ukraine Solidarity Scholarship.

Financial support of up to \$28,000 through our province's Second Career Program, for those who apply and are eligible, for basic living allowances, tuition, transportation, and other critical needs.

These measures will ensure that Ukrainian arrivals have access to good paying jobs and economic opportunities, while building on the government's ongoing efforts to attract, support and protect newcomers. In addition, hundreds of Ontario





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