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## Canada issues new sanctions against 74 people and businesses in Russia, Belarus

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced new sanctions against 74 people and businesses in Russia and Belarus as G7 leaders discussed the threat to global stability posed by the invasion of Ukraine.

The sanctions include 46 entities linked to the Russian defence sector, and 15 Ukrainians who support the Russian occupation of the country.

The Canadian government has also sanctioned 13 people linked to government and defence and two entities in Belarus.



Trudeau says Canada also plans to sanction those related to state-sponsored disinformation and propaganda agents, in an attempt to counter Kremlin disinformation. Canada will also ban the export of advanced technologies that would improve Russia's domestic defence manufacturing capabilities.

Canada has also banned the export of advanced technologies and goods that could be used in the manufacturing of weapons to Belarus, as well as the import and export of a broad range of luxury goods between Canada and Belarus.

Trudeau also announced that Canada, along with the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan, will ban the import of certain gold goods from Russia, shutting the commodity out of formal international markets.

The announcement came in a written statement on Monday after a two-hour meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and G7 leaders at their summit in Germany. Zelenskyy, appearing

virtually, told the leaders the country will need help to rebuild its infrastructure.

The leaders met in a bright and beautiful meeting room in Schloss Elmau, Germany, a veritable mountaintop castle surrounded by blooming meadows and stunning vistas.

Zelenskyy appeared on a small monitor looking down on the group, stone-faced, in front of a grey background.

The conflict has been a running theme through Trudeau's meetings with world leaders in Germany, as well as last week at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda.

Zelenskyy thanked G7 leaders for their support, and laid out Ukraine's requests for tougher sanctions against Russia, more defensive military support, and help to rebuild the bombed and destroyed communities and infrastructure once the conflict subsides, according to Canadian government officials who provided a briefing on the condition they not be

named.

He made the point that governments should start thinking about that work now.

Russia announced its own set of new sanctions against Canada on Monday, targeting 43 Canadians including the prime minister's former adviser Gerry Batts and Conservative strategist Jenni Byrne.

Trudeau spoke to Zelenskyy on the first day of the G7 summit to inquire what he needs from the leaders. According to Zelenskyy's Twitter account, the two spoke about increasing defence support for the embattled country.

The heads of the world's most developed economies dedicated their first session of the day to discussing the war and listening to Zelenskyy's pleas for more aid.

That sentiment was shared by Ontario Sen. Ratna Omidvar who proposed her own Senate legislation to enable similar asset seizures two years ago. At the time she was motivated to help the displaced Rohingya population by sanctioning corrupt generals in Myanmar.

"Kleptocrats must pay for their crimes, not through simply being sanctioned and their assets being frozen, but by their assets being repurposed and confiscated," said Omidvar.

Although C-19 will work a bit differently than her bill, Omidvar still calls it a "good start" and supports the government's move.

"The question no longer is 'if we

## Canada can now seize, sell off Russian assets. What's next?

Selling Russian-owned assets to pay for Ukraine's reconstruction may sound like a logical approach to restitution, but as the Canadian government gains new powers to begin this process, questions remain about how it will work, and whether some issues are headed to court.

C-19, the budget implementation bill, received royal assent last Thursday. Among its many measures are new powers to seize and sell off assets owned by individuals and entities on Canada's sanctions list. While the new powers could be used in any international conflict, the Liberal government's current priority is helping victims of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Canada's stepped-up sanctions powers were discussed with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen during her visit to Toronto last week.

"We think it's really important to extend our legal authorities because it's going to be really, really important to find the money to rebuild Ukraine," Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland told Canadian and American reporters. "I can think of no more appropriate source of that funding than confiscated Russian assets."

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"The question no longer is 'if we



should confiscate," the senator said. "The question is: 'How should we repurpose?' ... Who's involved? How do we provide accountability? How do we protect ourselves?"

Test cases expected

Although some jurisdictions, notably Switzerland, already confiscate and return certain illicit assets, this move by Canada - and potentially other G7 countries meeting in Germany this week - is unprecedented.

Allies agree on the imperative of cracking up more economic pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, but it's still a risky play. Other hostile governments could seize Canadian-owned assets abroad in retaliation. It also may violate customary international law, such as the UN Articles on states responsibility.

The new powers target assets in Canada owned by an individual or entity on the federal government's sanctions list. Previously, authorities could seize the proceeds of crime. With C-19, they can confiscate the assets of sanctioned individuals whether they're acquired legally or illegally.

Is that fair? Omidvar anticipates the new powers being challenged in Canadian court. "I keep thinking we need a couple of test cases," she said.

The senator's original bill proposed seizing and redistributing assets by court order, with a judge adjudicating concerns.

C-19 puts more power in ministerial hands, something that is "faster and nimbler," Omidvar acknowledges, but also less transparent.

During debate in the Senate, Omidvar called on the government to take "politics out of the equation" so Canada would not be accused of inappropriate distribution of funds, "or worse, appropriation of funds for its own use."

When asked about the legality of these new powers earlier this month, Justice Minister David Lametti said "you don't have an absolute right to own private property in Canada," and compared it to other processes of government expropriation.

Adrian Blamchard, a spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly, told CBC News that "necessary checks and balances" are provided in C-19, including a formal judicial

frozen by Canada so far, but the company did not respond.

Separate from its powers to seize assets, the budget implementation bill also implements a publicly accessible beneficial ownership registry to make it easier to trace the ownership of anonymous shell companies. That could reveal more about Russian assets in Canada.

However, a business that's registered provincially instead of incorporated federally would only appear in the national registry if provinces and territories agree to participate - if they don't agree, there is a potential loophole. Omidvar warned her Senate colleagues during debate.

Who gets the proceeds? Omidvar's original bill would have required the recipient of redistributed funds to report back to a court on its use.

C-19 puts the minister of foreign affairs in charge of who gets the money and what happens to it.

"Operationalizing this is going to be a little bit of a challenge," said fellow senator and former G7 shepa Peter Boehm. "This is all very, very new."

The former senior Global Affairs official suggests the government needs to get safeguards in place.

"What is the mechanism? To whom should these assets go? Do they go to individuals? Do they go to state actors?" Boehm said, noting that Canada may want to coordinate with other like-minded countries and UN agencies, like the World Food Program. "There are a lot of questions there... we need to know and the Canadian people would want to know where this money is going and if it's being properly spent."

The G7 considered asset seizures previously, Boehm said. He expects they could feature in at least behind-the-scenes conversations this week, if not the final communiqué.

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## Ottawa police say they're ready to shut down Canada Day occupation attempts

Ottawa city officials say they are prepared for a "unique" Canada Day, with plans to keep anti-government protests from turning into another occupation.

The traditional nationally broadcast shows are returning for the first time since 2019, this time from the plaza in front of the Canadian War Museum because of ongoing construction on Parliament Hill.

Ottawa police say they expect more protests and larger crowds than usual during Canada Day celebrations as groups related to the Freedom Convoy continue to plan demonstrations. Some in those groups have indicated they'd like to protest through July and August.

"This is expected to be a unique Canada Day, with larger crowds and a larger event footprint," interim Ottawa police Chief Steve Bell said during a Monday news conference.

"We've developed our plans in the shadow of the unlawful protests and Rolling Thunder event. We've been



speaking with community members and businesses and we're very aware of the lingering trauma and concern about what they're hearing after those events."

Bell said officers will allow legal protests while shutting down illegal activities, including setting up structures or speakers without a permit and the threat of occupation,

like on downtown streets in the winter.

He said police have been following online commentary and trying to talk to people who've said they're coming to protest.

"We've planned, we're prepared and we have the resources," Bell replied when answering a question about whether police were ready to

step in again like they did in late April, when attempts to gather near the Rideau Centre mall were shut down by officers.

Provincial police and the RCMP have offered help to shut down occupation attempts as long as there's a risk, he said.

At least 5 days of traffic control. Last week, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson told people thinking of coming to the capital "not to be intimidated by individuals who may be coming to Ottawa to cause trouble."

He said Monday he wants this to be a safe, festive event for children and families and that people who "come to disrupt" will be dealt with, without warning.

Overall, Bell said police are expecting hundreds of thousands of people downtown. For comparison, an estimated 56,000 people went to the shows on Parliament Hill in 2019 and that doesn't count everyone celebrating nearby.

About 16,000 people attended the noon show on the Hill in 2019. (CBC News)

There will be the traditional Canada Day mad-closes Friday July 1 and early Saturday, though there are more closures near LeBreton Flats because of that change in show location.

## Where Canada stands in the world if the global economy weakens

The latest forecast for the global economy shows a grim outlook of the world torn by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war against Ukraine.

Almost all countries are expected to experience slower growth in 2022-23 due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, according to a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

With the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, OECD recently lowered its estimates for global growth, slashing it to 3 per cent in 2022 from 4.5 per cent projected last year.

In 2023, the global growth is estimated to decline further to 2.79 per cent.

Current inflation across OECD countries in 2022 is 9 per cent, twice its earlier projections. The organization said that with the ongoing humanitarian crisis, high inflation could persist in rich countries and create food shortages for poorer ones. It called for global cooperation to prevent a food crisis by avoiding mistakes similar to those that led to the inequity in vaccine distribution.

"The price of this war is high and will need to be shared," said Laurence Boone, the OECD's chief economist. The report said if the war continues to escalate, European economies relying heavily on Russian fuel may worsen, because alternative energy sources may not be enough or easy to ramp up.

"Governments also have to play a role through support targeted to those most vulnerable to rising food and energy inflation," Ms. Boone said.

SO, WHERE DOES CANADA STAND? Canada's economy has largely recovered from the pandemic but the OECD report said the Bank of Canada should continue to raise its policy rate and shrink its balance sheet in order to return to its target inflation.

Along with income from high resource prices, a large part of the recovery, the report said, is due to its limited trade ties with economies that have been hit hard by the war in Ukraine.

Current inflation in Canada is 6.8 per cent—the highest since 1991—but the country could follow the same path of the U.S. Federal Reserve's aggressive rate hike last week, the latest since 1984.

OECD expects the Bank of Canada



to move towards a faster policy tightening so that the domestic productive capacity is not strained by the rising demand.

The Bank of Canada has been raising interest rates to curb the inflation.

In a recent speech in Montreal, Bank of Canada deputy governor Toni Gravellie said, "sharp rebound in global demand for goods, along with pandemic-related restrictions and some weather-related events, created the perfect storm."

With growing demand, the federal and provincial governments should focus on strong resource revenues to reduce the public debt, while targeting temporary income support for households facing living-cost pressures, the report said.

In its recent Financial System Review, the Bank of Canada said the share of highly indebted households had risen.

"In Canada, elevated levels of household debt and high house prices remain two key interconnected vulnerabilities," the bank said in its annual Financial System Review.

INCREASE IN THE POLICY RATE

Following the relaxation of most containment measures in late January, Canada has seen large output gains in contact-intensive services and strong contributions from resources sectors, construction, and manufacturing.

But the report has warned about the supply chain disruptions, exacerbated by labour shortages and high inflation. The food and energy price rises are already reducing an average Canadian household's purchasing power and will negatively impact private spending, even as rising rates return to more normal levels, according to OECD.

OECD said more rate rises from the Bank of Canada could help tame the

price pressures and "bring the monetary policy to neutral settings, where it neither stimulates nor weighs on the economy."

According to the OECD, Canada's policy rate is projected to increase to 2.5 per cent by early 2023. In case of continuing inflation, the organization forecasted an additional increase in rates.

In June, a second increase of 50-basis points by the Bank of Canada brought the benchmark interest rate to 1.5 per cent.

"We are taking these large steps because inflation has been persistently high, the economy is overheating, and the risk that elevated inflation will become entrenched has increased," Bank of Canada's Deputy Governor Paul Beaudry said in his remarks.

STRONG GROWTH TO CONTINUE AMID EXTERNAL SHOCKS

OECD projects Canada's real GDP is to grow by 3.8 per cent in 2022 and said the country can withstand the economic shocks from the Russia-Ukraine war since it has limited trade links with hard-hit economies.

OECD reported that most economies are relatively tight and are now experiencing labour shortages with a sharp rise in vacancies. Recent data from Statistics Canada showed that the job vacancies climbed to 957,500 in the first quarter, the highest quarterly number on record.

The pandemic resulted in huge declines in international migration which contributed to the labour shortages in some countries.

For Canada, OECD said higher immigration in the world helped ease these labour shortages and the wage pressures in supply-constrained industries.

## Canada has 3 of the world's most liveable cities in 2022

Toronto and Vancouver might hog the spotlight when it comes to well-known Canadian cities, but it turns out Calgary is the best place to live—at least this year.

The annual ranking of the world's most liveable cities has been released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and 2022's Global Liveability Index, and Canada was the biggest winner, with three of its cities nabbing a spot in the top 10.

Cowtown, as it's affectionately known, grabs not only the honour of being the top-ranked Canadian city on the list, but also comes in at #3, worldwide.

The ranking rates 172 cities around the world over 30 factors, including access to healthcare, amount of green space, cultural and sports activities, crime rates and infrastructure.

"The concept of liveability is simple: It assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions," the Economist report states. A score of 1 is "uninhabitable," according to the EIU, while 100 is "ideal."

Each year the list typically has many North America and western European cities claim top honours, and this year is no exception. Vienna, Austria claimed the top spot, followed by Copenhagen, Denmark, Zurich, Switzerland and Calgary tied for third spot. Vancouver followed just behind, claiming the fifth position.

However, factors like war, unrest, and the ability to cope with COVID played into the rankings, meaning there were some key shifts when comparing this year's rankings to 2021's list.

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"Aditya Chopra saw my photos first and said 'yeh toh actor nahi ban sakta' - says Arjun Kapoor

Arjun Kapoor completed 10 years in the film industry in May 2022. The actor had debuted in Yash Raj Films' Ishbaque and starred alongside Parineeti Chopra. Arjun Kapoor recalled his struggling days in the film industry and how he was told he wasn't lead actor material. He also said that he didn't want to debut under Boney Kapoor's production because it would have an easy road. He said, "Aditya Chopra saw my photos first and said yeh toh actor nahi ban sakta, isko hum supporting... (he can't be an actor, we can maybe cast him as supporting...)



Adding further, he revealed that Aditya Chopra had seen an uncensored version of his audition in which he was goofing around with the casting director. Arjun revealed, "Adi made a reluctant decision and asked to try me on screens," recalled Arjun.

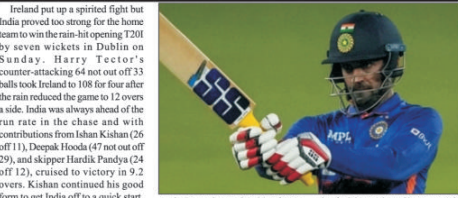
Ranbir Kapoor reveals interesting details about his double role in Shamshera

After unveiling the trailer of the anticipated film "Shamshera", the makers on Saturday, dropped a BTS video from the sets of the film. In the video, Ranbir, Sanjay Dutt, and the film's director Karan Malhotra is seen discussing how Ranbir's two characters in the film, Balli and Shamshera, were created. "Shamshera is one of those films that when the narrative got over, I know for a fact that I had to be a part of the film. It's amazing that I'm playing two characters in one film! Both are very different and unique but their heart and their soul are very similar. The transition from Shamshera to Balli was very interesting for me as an actor," Ranbir said. Ranbir also revealed an interesting detail of his character Balli, the son, in Shamshera. He said, "While Shamshera is a part of a tribe, the leader of the tribe, Balli is born in the prison of Kaza". About his intense Shamshera look in which he is sporting some grey hair, Ranbir explained, "We greyed him a bit because he is in his late 30s or early 40s. It's the same actor who is playing both these parts but both had to look distinctively different."

Jug Jugg Jeeyo Box Office Estimate Day 3: Sees another jump on Sunday; collects Rs. 15.30 crores

In the pandemic times, multiple-oriented films have shown a template trend of a 25 percent jump on Saturday followed by a flat Sunday, but Jug Jugg Jeeyo has defied the trends as the Saturday jump came in the 37% zone, with another 25% jump on Sunday. The good news for the film lies in the fact that the cities like Jaipur, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, and Surat have finally come on board on Sunday. With the audience outside the 8 metro centers on board, the audience base has certainly widened for the film over the weekend, though we still await the word of mouth about the movie outside of the metro. The talk in premium centers is certainly on the positive side, which has resulted in an upward trend over the weekend. This is a fair opening weekend, in fact, in real terms the best opening weekend by miles for a film that devoid of support from the mass audience. In terms of post-pandemic releases, Jug Jugg Jeeyo has scored the fifth-biggest opening weekend after Sooryavanshi, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2, Gangabai & Samrat Prithviraj. It is more or less in the same range as Bachchan Pankaj.

Deepak Hooda shines, India beat Ireland in rain-hit 1st T20I



Ireland put up a spirited fight but India proved too strong for the home team to win the rain-hit opening T20I by seven wickets in Dublin on Sunday. Harry Tector's counter-attacking 64 ran out off 33 balls took Ireland to 108 for four after the rain reduced the game to 12 overs a side. India was always ahead of the run rate in the chase and with contributions from Ishan Kishan (26 off 11), Deepak Hooda (47 not out off 29), and skipper Hardik Pandya (24 off 12), cruised to victory in 9.2 overs. Kishan continued his good form to get India off to a quick start. The first over of the innings went for 15 runs as Kishan collected a couple of fours and a six off Joshua Little. In a rather surprising move, Deepak Hooda came to open alongside Kishan in place of Ruturaj Gaikwad. He found his rhythm after a scorching start and put up a match-winning 64-run stand with Hardik. Just when it seemed the Indians were running away with the contest, Craig Young got rid of Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav (0) in successive deliveries to raise hopes for his team. Kishan's stumps were rattled in another attempt to get a full ball out of the

Pakistan Cricket Board To Challenge IPL's Proposed Extended Window At ICC Meet

Feeling "short-changed", the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to challenge the proposed two-and-a-half month expanded window for the Indian Premier League. PCB chairman Ramiz Raja said that the issue will be raised at the next ICC conference. "There has been no announcement or decision as yet on the IPL window being increased. I have my views on this issue at the ICC conference," Raja said during a media conference here Friday. "My point is clear: if there is any development in world cricket that means we are being short-changed, we will challenge it in a very forceful manner and put our point across strongly in the ICC," he said. The PCB's decision to officially challenge the decision comes weeks after BCCI secretary, Jay Shukla, in an exclusive interview with PTI said that the Indian board will be getting an extended window for the IPL in the ICC's next FTP cycle starting from 2024 till 2031. "Twice Ganguly has invited me to attend the IPL final last year and this year and cricketing wise it made sense to go, but then, because of the situation, we had to look at the fallout of accepting the invitations," he added. "From the next FTP cycle, IPL will have an official two-and-a-half-month window so that all the top international cricketers can participate. We have had discussions with various boards as well as the ICC," Shah had told PTI. Raja also said that while Pakistan is keen on playing India, the political equation between the neighbors continues to act as a major hurdle. "I would like to see (Ganguly) on the sidelines on this and I hold him at presently there are three former cricketers heading their first boards and they can't make a difference who will," Raja said.

England 113 runs away from series sweep against New Zealand

England is 113 runs away from completing a series whitewash against New Zealand after the hosts put themselves in a commanding position with eight wickets in hand in the final innings of the third test on Sunday. Chasing 296 for victory, Ollie Pope and Joe Root were at the crease at stumps after the pair made light work of a competitive target as England finished day four on 183-2. The pair set up what promises to be an intriguing final day, with Headingley hopeful of having a packed house as they look to replicate the Trent Bridge test's atmosphere by offering free tickets. England lost Alex Lees to a run-out after a mix-up in the fifth over while his opening partner Zak Crawley (55) was caught in the covers of Michael Bracewell, with skipper Kane Williamson involved in both dismissals. But Pope (81) and Root (55) steadied the ship with an unbeaten 132-run partnership as they saw off the fast bowlers and targeted spinner Bracewell, who went for over six per over when New Zealand also had their side for 52 runs while Jack Leach became the first England spinner to claim two five-wicket hauls in a home test since Derek Underwood in 1974. Blundell was in fine form and desperately tried to reach his century with unorthodox shots but he was left stranded on 88 not out as he ran out of partners. The hosts were dealt a blow before play started when wicketkeeper Ben Foakes was ruled out of the remainder of the game after testing positive for COVID-19, with Billings brought in as a substitute. England, 2-0 up, is bidding to win every match of a home series with at least three tests for their first batsmen and they can't make a difference who will. Raja said.

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## Cost of living concerns must be balanced with fiscal restraint, Chrystia Freeland says

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland says she must strike a balance between helping Canadians suffering from the effects of inflation and pursuing a policy of fiscal restraint - or risk making the cost of living problems worse.

In an interview airing Sunday on Rosemary Barton Live, Freeland, who also serves as deputy prime minister, said she was open to further action on affordability issues but that she believes measures already underway - worth \$8.9 billion - would help alleviate the impact on Canadians.

"I have to strike a balance. One is supporting Canadians with affordability challenges and the other is fiscal restraint, because I don't want to make the Bank of Canada's job harder than it already is," Freeland told CBC chief political correspondent Rosemary Barton.

The Bank of Canada has a mandate to maintain Canada's inflation target, which is two per cent (within a one to

three per cent range) per year. Freeland said it was the bank's responsibility to deal with inflation and respect its independence.

In a speech earlier this month, she argued that previously announced programs - including boosts to benefits for low-income workers, increasing other inflation-indexed benefits and implementing the government's child-care and dental programs - would help with affordability concerns.

Freeland reiterated that view in the interview airing Sunday, saying the government's child-care and dental programs were already on its way to Canadians.

"It's OK to be mad," she said. "I'm OK to be mad at me. I really understand that this is an incredibly challenging economic time. It's really, really hard for a lot of people."

The federal government has been under fire concerning inflation from both the opposition Conservatives and the New Democrats. The Liberals have a supply-and-confidence agreement with the NDP to keep the minority government afloat on key issues.

Opposition on the attack. In response to Freeland's speech, Conservative MPs Dan Albas and Gerard Delteil issued a statement criticizing what they call the government's "tax-and-spend" strategy.

"This flawed economic approach cuts away at the earnings of

hard-working Canadians and ignores the most basic principle of economics: that spending during an inflationary crisis will only fuel inflation further. Yet, the Liberals continue down this path with reckless abandon, inflicting more inflationary pain on Canadians."

The NDP, which has argued that corporations are taking advantage of inflation to increase profits, says the government should put an "access profits tax" on oil and gas companies and give money back to Canadians through the GST/HST credit and child benefit.

Leader Jagmeet Singh called Freeland's approach "absolutely insulting."

"Soft landing" still possible. Freeland met earlier this week with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who said recently that a recession in the United States is not "inevitable," although inflation is "unacceptably high."

Canada still has a path to a "soft landing," Freeland said, where the country could stabilize economically following the enormous blow of the COVID-19 pandemic without the severe recession feared by many.

Freeland maintained an upbeat tone about Canada's ability to weather global economic uncertainty, especially when compared with other G7 countries.

concerns spread in nursing homes found the province had no plan to protect long-term care residents from the virus.

Michael Karner-Sokolics, General The bioscience and technology entrepreneur was elected in York Centre earlier this month and takes over the Solicitor General file from Sylvia Jones.

Gregory Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. The former mayor of Brantford, Ont., will serve as Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Greg Rickford had held the position previously and will stay on as Minister of Northern Development and Minister of Indigenous Affairs.

Rickford also oversaw the mining portfolio, which will now be led by George Pirie, the former mayor of Timmins, as Minister of Mines, with a specific mandate to develop the Ring of Fire.

Other cabinet positions that remain unchanged include Monte McNaughton as labour minister, Steve Clark as municipal affairs and housing minister, Vic Fedeli as economic development minister, David Piccini as environment minister, Todd Smith as energy minister, and Doug Downey as attorney general.

## Canada's inflation rate now at 7.7% - its highest point since 1983

Canada's inflation rate rose at its fastest pace in almost 40 years in the year up to May, as the price of just about everything continues to go up.

Statistics Canada reported Wednesday that an uptick in the price of gasoline was a major factor causing the overall inflation rate to hit 7.7 per cent. Gas prices rose by 12 per cent in the month of May alone, and are up by 48 per cent compared to where they were a year ago.

Food prices were also a major factor to the upside, with grocery bills increasing by 9.7 per cent over the past year. Within the food category, the cost of edible fats and oils skyrocketed 30 per cent, the fastest increase on record.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a major factor in that uptick, as Ukraine is one of the world's leading suppliers of sunflower oil, and the war has caused shortages of the pantry staple.

Jamli Bhatia, who runs Toronto restaurant Burgers n' Fries Forever, is feeling these increases acutely. From meat for burgers, to flour for buns and even cardboard for packaging, he's seen the price of just about everything he needs to run his business skyrocket during the pandemic.

"We've seen things go up literally 50 per cent overnight and it's been very hard to stomach," he told CBC News in an interview. He has had to keep prices low for his customers; he knows there is a limit to how much he can charge without losing business. "Luckily, burgers have always been kind of recession proof and even pandemic proof."

The cost of home furnishings are also rising at a record-setting clip, with furniture prices increasing by 15.8 per cent in the past year, mostly due to higher input and shipping costs. A major factor in that increase was the start of tariffs of up to 300 per cent on some upholstered furniture from Vietnam and China starting last year, CBC News has reported.

Higher incomes had expected. Economists had been expecting the rate to increase from a 30-year high of 6.8 per cent in April, but the numbers for May blew past those expectations. Prices increased by 1.4 per cent in the month of May alone. Seasonally adjusted, that makes May 2022 the biggest one-month jump in the inflation rate in 30 years.

"If you aren't over 40, you have

never lived through inflation like this, and unfortunately, we are not experiencing much of a reprieve going forward," TD Bank economist Leslie Preston said. "Inflation is expected to remain elevated through 2022."

The inflation rate rose in every province, from a low of seven per cent in Saskatchewan, to an eye-watering 11.1 per cent in Prince Edward Island.

Atlantic Canada is seeing some of the highest inflation in the country right now, and Bonnie Caldarelli, who runs All Points Courier service in Dartmouth, N.S., says it's hard to stay on top of rising costs.

"I'm the same as just about everybody in the country, but running a courier company, it hits us particularly hard," she told CBC News in an interview on Wednesday. For her, the biggest problem of late is the price of gas, which makes it "very difficult to manage a small business with transportation as your main core business."

She recently raised her prices across the board to cover fuel costs, because customers said they'd prefer that to a temporary fuel charge that could fluctuate.

"We're trying to reach some kind of balance between our margins and 2020 to stimulate the economy through the pandemic, but in recent months, it has moved aggressively to hike rates. Another 75-point hike would bring the bank's key lending rate to 2.25 per cent, the highest it has been since the financial crisis in 2008."

While higher borrowing costs are likely to bring down inflation over time, the impact is unlikely to be swift, economist Kiefer Van Malignien with the Conference Board of Canada said, which is why consumers and policymakers should brace for high prices to stick around.

Bank of Canada now more likely to hike lending rates.

The higher-than-expected inflation figure makes it all but certain that the Bank of Canada will raise its benchmark interest rate by three quarters of a percentage point at its next policy meeting in July, in an attempt to rein in runaway price increases.

Consumers are feeling the pinch. Laura-Marie Poynter, a single mother from Toronto, recently got a second job to bring in some extra income for herself and her teenage daughter, but she's discovered that getting a second job has actually added to her costs in the form of having to pay more for transportation, and having to order food because she's not at home to cook as much.

"It's frustrating that I have to take time away from my home and my child in order to keep things in my fridge and a roof over our head," she told the CBC in an interview.

## Hundreds protest outside Toronto U.S. Consulate after Roe v. Wade is overturned

Hundreds of people protested today outside the U.S. Consulate in Toronto following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, effectively ending federal protection for abortion rights in the country.

Those attending the rally, organized by the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), were in support of those affected by the Supreme Court's decision in the U.S., but also noted barriers in accessing abortion here in Canada.

While for some women attending, the protest was personal, as they shared their own abortion stories, Madeleine Pearce said she was fortunate to be able to access an abortion service provider when she needed it.

"There were no restrictions, it was super easy, and it was fully funded," she said. "I'm here in solidarity, I believe every person should have the right to choose what they do with their body."

On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 6-3 to overturn the constitutional right to abortion established by Roe v. Wade in 1973. The decision sent shockwaves across the U.S. and beyond and several cities across the country have seen protests in response.

Erin Kotecki Vest, the chair of Democrats Abroad Canada, which represents Americans in Canada who support the Democratic Party in the U.S., said Americans living in Canada sought news on the constitutional right.

"But we also motivated now. We want to mobilize, we want to see action," she said.

## This is who's in and who's out of Doug Ford's cabinet

Ford has made some big changes to his front and back benches, including appointing a new Minister of Health, keeping the current education minister in place, and adding a newly-elected MPP to the Tourism, Culture and Sport file.

This is who's in and who's out of the current Progressive Conservative cabinet:

Sylvia Jones: Minister of Health. The former Solicitor General of Ontario will now serve as Minister of Health and replace Christine Elliott. Elliott held the post for the entirety of Ford's first term and was at the helm of Ontario's sometimes rocky COVID-19 response. She decided not to run in the June election.

Jones will oversee billions in planned hospital infrastructure spending and also assume the role of deputy premier.

Stephen Lecce: Minister of Education. The King-Vaughan MPP was in the hot seat during the province-wide teachers strike in 2020 and rolling school closures due to COVID-19 the same year. There was speculation that

he may be replaced. Michael Ford: Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. Rookie MPP Michael Ford will take on the role of Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. Ford, who is the Premier's nephew, has served as a Toronto city councillor since 2016.

Neil Lumsden: Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. The first-time MPP and former CFL running back will serve as Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

The hall of famer was elected to the Hamilton East-Stoney Creek riding on June 2.

The Tourism, Culture and Sport file was previously held by Lisa MacLeod, who no longer holds a cabinet position.

Peter Bethlenfalvy will continue to serve as the helm of Ontario's finance ministry.

He was Ford's third finance minister in the first term, replacing Vic Fedeli and then Rod Phillips, who resigned after he vacated in the Caribbean during a provincially

lockdown. Bethlenfalvy tabled the province's 2022 budget in April, which was not passed before the election but stood as their platform.

Caroline Mulroney: Minister of Transportation. Caroline Mulroney will remain as Ontario's Minister of Transportation. She previously served as the Attorney General of Ontario from 2018 to 2019.

Merrilee Fullerton: Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. Fullerton stays on as Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.

The Kanata-Carleton MPP formerly oversaw the long-term care portfolio during the peak of Ontario's COVID-19 waves, which disproportionately affected seniors living in assisted-living facilities.

Fullerton was shuffled to the Children, Community and Social Services file in June of 2021 - less than two months after a commission investigating how and why the



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