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## Canada, Germany to sign hydrogen deal in N.L.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz are set to sign a green energy agreement later this month in Newfoundland that could prove pivotal to Canada's nascent hydrogen industry.

The German government on Friday issued a statement confirming the agreement will be signed Aug. 23 in Stephenville, where a Newfoundland-based company plans to build a zero-emission plant that will use wind energy to produce hydrogen and ammonia for export.

If approved, the project would be the first of its kind in Canada.

Germany is keen to find new sources of energy because Russia's invasion of Ukraine has led to a surge in natural gas prices. As well, Russia has reduced its flow of natural gas to its European customers, prompting concerns about supply shortages.

Meanwhile, the company behind the Newfoundland project, World Energy GH2, has said the first phase of the proposal calls for building up to 164 onshore wind turbines to power a hydrogen production facility at the deepsea port at Stephenville. Long-term plans call for tripling the size of the project.

"There is a heightened urgency for Canada to step into this new market that's in such high demand," said Stephenville Mayor Tom Rose, who noted the province did not lift a moratorium on wind farm development until this year. "We're poised now to be the green energy hub of North America."

Among the companies behind the project is CFI1 Ventures Inc., led by Nova Scotia-based billionaire John



Risley, who is best known as co-founder of ClearwaterSeafoods. As for Trudeau and Scholz, Rose said they will be joined in Stephenville by cabinet ministers and a delegation of German business leaders who will attend a green energy trade show before the signing ceremony.

Stephenville's ideal place Rose said Stephenville is an ideal place for a wind farm because the area is known for having a world-class "wind corridor." As well, the town has the means to produce the large amounts of water needed for hydrogen production because heavy-duty infrastructure remains in place from the Abitibi-Price paper mill that closed in 2005.

"It appears to be the energy of the future and the demand is very robust," said Rose, who was born and raised in the area. "We're stepping up when another country needs our resources."

The multibillion-dollar project was registered with the province in June and now requires an environmental impact statement.

In its proposal, World Energy GH2 says it is on the cutting edge of a new green industry.

"The development of large-scale

They repelled down the side of Germany's iconic Elbphilharmonie building. Blocked a German liquefied natural gas site. And thousands of residents from across Europe filled the streets of Hamburg, Germany, in what has been a week-long protest calling for a more sustainable society.

At the heart of their movement is this warning: liquefied natural gas (LNG) is not the solution to the energy crisis magnified by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

As Russian military aggression in Ukraine reached the six-month mark, governments and energy industry lobbyists, including Canada's, are floating the idea that adding LNG capacity could help circumvent Europe's reliance on Russia's oil and gas supply. But there's backlash to the idea, with one demonstrator in Hamburg suggesting that to invest more in LNG would be "climate suicide," exacerbating already high levels of carbon in the atmosphere.

"In general there's the idea that Europe needs LNG to stay warm in the winter and this is really a lie," Toni Lux told CBC News from the site of a protest camp set up this week in northwest Hamburg.

"A crime against climate" Lux is with the German climate activist group Ende Gelände, who along with 40 other groups, came together to create the System Change Camp. Since Monday, an estimated 6,000 people from across Europe have joined in the festival-like atmosphere, tenting, working and sharing ideas in Hamburg's Altona Volkspark.

Many of those ideas have focused on alternatives to expanding LNG reliance, which the German government is considering in response to the energy crisis sweeping Europe.

But Lux said energy policy needs to stay fixed on transitioning to renewable sources, saying more terminals would be "a crime against

## Worried about a warming world, thousands of Germans reject using LNG - including Canada's

climate and against people."

Since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, sanctions imposed by Europe and the West sparked retaliation from the Kremlin in the shipment of energy supplies. Germany, in particular, has been hard hit as it relies heavily on Russian gas pumped through the Nord Stream Pipeline, which has been reduced to about 20 per cent of its usual supply since July 27. (The Kremlin has blamed the reduction on technical issues, saying that Western sanctions affected its ability to get turbines from Canada and perform other maintenance on the pipeline.)

Regardless, as energy prices around the world shoot upward, companies and governments - including Canada - are considering more LNG development as a possible solution.

As Germany's co-ordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation, Michael Link has previously visited Ottawa promoting the need for more LNG and other trade between his country and Canada. Link said that while he understands it takes years to build infrastructure for LNG terminals, the need is urgent.

"I'm not speaking only about Germany," he said in an interview with CBC News Network's Power & Politics host Vasy Kapelas. "Italy, the Netherlands, a lot of us in the European Union really are in bitter need of safe democratic energy suppliers. And I think that would be good news for Canada too, because I see Germany and Canada and the European Union as a whole as ideal



partners."

Could Canada ramp up LNG exports?

In June, Reuters reported that German government officials, including Chancellor Olaf Scholz, are interested in Canada's export potential for LNG, suggesting Scholz and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met on the sidelines at a G7 summit.

At the same time, the news agency reported that federal Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson has spoken with Canadian LNG companies with established infrastructure about whether they could increase exports to meet the demand from Europe.

In an update to CBC News, Spanish company Repsol said it's exploring ways to increase export capacity at its facility in New Brunswick.

"The company will look at any and all business that enhances or creates value at Saint John LNG, including the potential to add liquefaction capabilities to the existing facility," Repsol spokesperson Mike Blackie said.

Other Canadian oil and gas suppliers also say they're eager to expand further into Europe, with GNL Quebec saying it could help "Europe to diversify its energy sources."

Alberta-based Prairie Energy has proposed a multibillion-dollar pipeline to ship natural gas from Western Canada to Nova Scotia, where it could then be sent across the Atlantic.

And though Germany is a world leader in decreasing its energy consumption, it's saying it needs more liquefied natural gas thanks to the shifting geopolitical landscape in Europe, said Pierre-Olivier Pineau, professor at Montreal's HEC business school. The world should listen, he said. But he notes that Canada's oil and gas sector wants guarantees before investing in new infrastructure to boost export capacity. And he's not certain that will happen.

"I've never heard Germany saying ... We are willing to sign a purchase contract for the next 20 years, so that it secures all the financial aspects of the project," he said.

What expansion would look like in Germany

For LNG terminal expansion in

Germany, there are proposals for growth at multiple spaces between now and 2030, mainly in the north of the country in regions that include Wilhelmshaven and Brunsbüttel, according to a report from Reuters.

On Saturday, police clashed with protesters as they attempted to block some bridges and rail lines. A small group of demonstrators broke from the crowd and managed to block Hamburg's Kattwyk Bridge, stopping rail traffic.

On Friday, several Ende Gelände activists were reported to have blocked an LNG site near Wilhelmshaven.

And earlier a fertilizer facility in Brunsbüttel was the site of another blockade.

Protests climaxed in the street march of thousands, all people calling on the country - and Europe - to find an alternative to LNG to address the energy crisis.

Charly Dietz, who also took part in the demonstrations, said Hamburg was chosen because of its importance as a major port city in trade in and out of Europe.

"I think for Germany, Hamburg will be one of the critical points for the future in terms of energy transition," Dietz said.

"We really feel like on a bigger scale together we can really move forward, push this capitalistic system to fail and build up society in solidarity to have a good life for everyone."

The German government says Chancellor Olaf Scholz will visit Canada for a three-day trip starting next Sunday to meet with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Scholz will be joined by Germany's economy and climate minister, Robert Habeck, and make stops in Montreal and Toronto. They'll also visit Stephenville on Newfoundland's west coast, where a potential new hydrogen agreement is expected to be signed.

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## Canada to test wastewater for polio

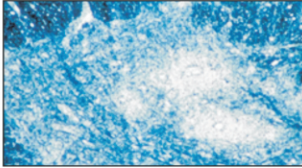
Canada plans to start testing wastewater in a number of cities for poliovirus following new reports of cases abroad, the Public Health Agency of Canada confirmed on Friday.

Although Canada has been polio-free since 1994 - thanks to uptake of the polio vaccine - PHAC warns it could return, since it is still circulating in other countries.

New York State confirmed a single case of polio on July 21, and the Associated Press reported on Friday that the virus that causes the highly transmissible paralytic disease has been detected in New York City's wastewater.

In a statement emailed to CTVNews.ca on Friday, the Public Health Agency of Canada said it is aware of the confirmed case in New York, and that it plans to launch a wastewater testing initiative in Canada "as soon as possible." So far, no recent cases of polio have been detected in Canada.

PHAC has been communicating with national and international partners who are experts in this field



to finalize a wastewater testing strategy," the agency wrote, adding it will also begin testing wastewater samples collected earlier this year from key high-risk communities to determine if polio was present in Canada prior to the reported international cases.

"PHAC will also be sending samples to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for additional confirmation," the agency wrote. It did not say when or where testing will take place.

SILENT SPREADER  
Polio is often asymptomatic, but in some cases, the viral infection can

lead to paralysis or death.

Since wastewater analysis can detect the presence of viruses in a community where asymptomatic cases might otherwise evade clinical detection, environmental scientist Mike McKay said it could be a valuable tool to public health agencies watching to see if the virus returns to Canada.

McKay is executive director of the University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research. He leads a team that has analyzed wastewater samples from Windsor, Learnington, Amherstburg, Lakeshore, London, Sault Ste. Marie,

## Slowing inflation does not mean you get your spending power back

Investors in financial markets were ecstatic when the latest inflation data seemed to show that rising prices in the United States had peaked.

While business journalists often imply that increasing share values are a universally good omen, it is not clear that many Canadian working people, especially those who don't have the cash to invest in stocks and bonds, are ready to breathe a sigh of relief.

As we wait for Canada's own inflation rate out Tuesday - also expected by economists to be down from its high - there may be good reasons to think that even for market traders, last week's euphoria may be premature.

Irational rebound?  
Some financial commentators were calling last week's jump in stocks a bear market rally and an irrational rebound.

And the Canadians I spoke to representing labour, academia and private sector business all had strong reservations about the idea that declining inflation represents a panacea that will make everyone feel good again.

A cooling property market, where many Canadians have put their savings, shows few signs of reversing its latest downward trend.

The lingering effects of a decline in spending power may never be reversed.

And a slump in consumption because of falling wages and wealth is likely to hit Canadian businesses hard and may instead be a signal of more economic trouble ahead.

"Companies which were able to increase [prices] and pass on that higher cost to consumers would be benefiting, at least in the short term," said Guruprakash Pandher, an economist and professor of finance at the Odette School of Business at Ontario's University of Windsor.

Pandher understands why markets reacted positively to signs of falling inflation, because it could mean central banks might not need to raise interest rates as much or as fast. But he worries the past year's soaring price rises have already done their damage.

The problem, he said, is that

## Slowing inflation does not mean you get your spending power back



inflation is cumulative - like compound interest in reverse. A decline in the rate of inflation does not get your spending power back.

Workers can never catch up.

As an example, Pandher points to the employee wage contract at his own university, which he describes as a microcosm of the situation across the country. Signed just last year, the contract provides for increases of one per cent a year for three years, and slightly more in the fourth year.

Even when inflation was rising at the central bank's target range near two per cent, an increase of one per cent would mean real wages - where real means after taking inflation into account - were actually slowly declining, with the result that employee purchasing power was constantly shrinking.

But with Canadian inflation in the eight per cent range, the decline is much sharper; it means real wages for those employees declined by seven per cent this year alone. Pandher said that even if the rate of inflation begins to slow, by the end of the contract period employees "might be 14, 15 per cent below the inflation rate and they will never catch up to it."

And while that is bad for workers because they are effectively getting poorer, it is also bad for businesses since total spending in the economy is also declining.

"Keep in mind that if wages are not going up sufficiently, there will be less money by consumers to buy in the future, so that's going to come back and bite those companies as well," Pandher said.

But asked whether that will lead to an increase in economically disruptive

labour action, Bruske answered the question indirectly.

"I think we are in for many more strike votes," she said.

Karl Schamotta, chief market strategist at U.S. payments company Corpay, is skeptical that Canadian unions still have the clout to push wages up and ignite a new wage price spiral. Nonetheless, he said tightness in the labour market has shifted bargaining power to workers.

Like Pandher, he is not convinced that signs of a decline in inflation means the economy can escape a downturn - even if a worker shortage means the job market will not suffer as much as in the past.

"In other words, we're likely to see employers trying to hold on to their workers for longer than they did in previous economic slumps," he said.

Don't look down

Schamotta said it is clear that wages have fallen behind and company managers know that it will be hard to keep raising prices even if their costs, including the cost of labour, continue to increase. He agrees that spending will continue to fall - not just because of falling real wages, but because of falling assets including most people's biggest asset: their home.

"Specifically we are looking at a large and prolonged decline in home prices across Canada, particularly in major cities that is going to impact how wealthy consumers feel," he said.

Like the cartoon Coyote who has run off a cliff, he said, Canadian consumption has already begun to collapse, but consumers and the businesses that depend on them haven't yet looked down and realized.

Canada's chief central banker, Tiff Macklem has said repeatedly that the only way to keep workers' wages from falling further behind is to get inflation under control quickly with high interest rates, even at the cost of destabilizing the market for Canadian homes.

Despite market optimism that signs of success in battling inflation mean interest rate rises will slow, Schamotta said that until inflation is truly controlled, central banks may be reluctant to send that message.

Instead he is, in forthcoming monetary policy statements they may decide to deliberately "pour cold water on the idea that monetary conditions are going to become loose at any time soon."

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Ranveer Singh wins Best Actor of the Year Award for 83 at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

Ranveer Singh, who was hailed by many for his performance in '83, has won the Best Actor of the Year award at the prestigious Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM)...



guiding me and for inspiring me with his leadership. I share this honor with the cast and crew of '83 who are so dear to me, and with whom I share a very, very warm bond."

Salman Khan Fans Say Shah Rukh Khan Will Bring 'Panoti' To 'Tiger 3'; Demand SRK To Be Replaced With 'Hrithik Roshan as Kabir'

The cancel culture has mixed trouble for Bollywood and it is obviously getting difficult for producers to keep up with the audience's growing demand which seems rather unreasonable. Bollywood had high hopes for Amr Khan's film...



"Shooting has not started yet so this is the right time... @rff please remove @iamsrk's cameo from the #Tiger3."

Anjali Arora Brutally Trolled While Celebrating The Success Of 'Saiyan' Song, Netizens Call Her 'Overacting Ki Dukaan'

Anjali Arora has been hitting the headlines for the right reasons. Her MMS video was leaked and surfaced on the internet. Arora, while speaking to RJ Siddharth Kanan mentioned that she wasn't the one in the video clip. Now, she is being brutally trolled as she celebrated the success of her song 'Saiyan Dil Mein Aana Re'...

ENG vs SA: Duanne Olivier ruled out of test series with hip flexor muscle tear

South Africa's right-arm fast bowler Duanne Olivier on Sunday was ruled out of the upcoming three-match Test series against England due to a grade two right hip flexor muscle tear. Olivier sustained the injury during South Africa's four-day tour match against England Lions at the Spitfire Ground in Lawrence in Canterbury...



Their Test tour of England. Since his return into the Test team from the series against India in 2021-22, Olivier has picked 11 wickets at an average of 33.63 in five matches.

WI vs NZ ODI series: Matt Henry ruled out, Ben Sears to replace him

Experienced New Zealand pace bowler Matt Henry has been ruled out of the three-match One-day International series against the West Indies due to a rib injury, dealing a huge blow to the tourists who are currently involved in a T20I series in the Caribbean.

Parthiv Patel reveals biggest positive aspect of Rohit Sharma's captaincy

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel pointed out that captain Rohit Sharma backing his players to the hilt even when they are not performing has been a standout for him. Parthiv cited the example of the Indian team sticking with pacer Avesh Khan in the 4-1 T20I series triumph over the West Indies despite not-so-impressive performances in first-innings matches.



multi-national trophies like the Asia Cup and Nidahas Trophy under Rohit's captaincy."

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## Canada Must Remove Obstacles To Immigration, Say Business Groups

Canada immigration news: Employers in Canada are not able to bring in skilled workers quickly enough due to the backlog of applications at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), says a business group.

"There is a real dichotomy between the government's message (i.e., efforts to attract foreign workers to Canada) and the reality once candidates go through the process," claims the Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC) in a report.

"It is not a good experience."

"Employers that recruit highly-skilled international talent want to see a program that provides Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) exemptions and fast tracks applicants in high-demand occupations," notes the report.

Canadian employers are so fed up with delays in processing immigration applications that most of them are now willing to pay a premium for faster service.



"When asked if they would be willing to pay an additional fee for expedited processing of applications, ranging between 10 per cent and 25 per cent above current processing fees (for example, to cover additional government costs) 73 per cent of respondents answered favourably," notes the report.

The organization also wants large employers in Canada that access the International Mobility Program (IMP)

Trusted Employer Program that would allow employers to more easily tap into skilled international talent.

Immigration officials, however, claim much of this is already in the works.

"IRCC is moving towards a more integrated, modernized and centralized working environment in order to help speed up application processing globally," said IRCC spokesman Peter Liang in June.

"To support the processing and settlement of new permanent residents to Canada as part of Canada's Immigration Levels Plan, the government has committed \$2.1 billion over five years and \$317.6 million ongoing in new funding in Budget 2022.

IRCC Says It Is Already Modernizing And Processing Applications Faster

"Supported by additional funding of \$85 million from the 2021 Economic and Fiscal Update, we are continuing our efforts to reduce application inventories accumulated during the pandemic. The funding builds on the work that has already been done to reduce wait times, such as hiring new processing staff, digitizing applications, and implementing technology-based solutions such as digital intake and advanced analytics."

## Thousands of Afghans who helped Canada trapped in Afghanistan, struggling to leave

MPs and veteran-led aid groups are urging ministers to do more to help thousands of Afghans who assisted Canadian Forces but remain trapped in Afghanistan a year after the Taliban seized Kabul.

They warn that 8,000 Afghans approved to come to Canada have not yet been able to escape. Many do not have a passport or visa and applying to the Taliban for documents could put them in danger.

Another 3,000 Afghans who helped Canada's Armed Forces and government have not been approved to come to Canada, according to Aman Lara, a veteran-led non-governmental organization working to help interpreters and other Canadian government employees on the ground.

Brian Macdonald, Aman Lara's executive director, urged Canada to extend the special immigration program, set up to settle 18,000 former local employees of the Canadian Armed Forces or government, which is being effectively wound down after reaching capacity.



40,000 Afghan refugees in Canada.

Canadian activists and opposition MPs accused the Liberals of not doing enough and say some families are in hiding from the Taliban as they await approval of their immigration applications.

NDP immigration critic Jenny Kwan, who has been in contact with many Canadian refugees who worked with Canadian Forces, said there is a "stark difference" between the government's treatment of those fleeing the Taliban and those fleeing the Russian invasion.

She said the situation for Afghans who helped Canada is "grave," with many unable to escape the country and facing persecution by the Taliban.

Kwan said some received no reply to their applications from the Immigration Department other than an automated response. Others seeking visas from the Taliban authority to escape their regime were put in peril if they identified themselves.

"Their lives are in danger. They told me what the Taliban are calling them: they are called 'the Western dogs,'" Kwan said.

"We owe them a debt of gratitude. We cannot abandon them."

Amanda Modtjeonge, a military veteran and activist, said she has witnessed families being split up, with only some members making it to Canada. She also warned that Afghans who worked for Canadian Forces "are being hunted" by the Taliban.

"Nobody should face death for working for the Government of Canada, especially when this government can identify those who

Vincent Hughes, a spokesman for Fraser, said the Afghan and Ukrainian immigration programs are very different.

He said Afghan refugees who arrive through programs set up to bring them to Canada have a right to stay permanently, whereas it's believed many Ukrainians who have fled to Canada intend eventually to return to Ukraine.

Helping get people out of Afghanistan and to Canada was very challenging, he added, as Canada has no diplomatic presence there and does not recognize the Taliban government.

"Our commitment of bringing at least 40,000 vulnerable Afghans to Canada has not wavered, and it remains one of the largest programs around the world," he said.

Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada, who has no contact with the Taliban regime, said "the experience of the past one year in Afghanistan has been very painful and disturbing."

Hassan Sorosh said the Taliban had swiftly reintroduced "repressive policies" including restrictions "on almost every aspect of girls' and women's lives and rights."

"The Taliban's forced takeover has caused a huge disruption to constitutional order, socio-economic development, public services and civil society activities," he said.

The ambassador called for the international community to take a unified approach toward the Taliban and put greater pressure on them "as they continue to insist on their uncompromising approach and repressiveness."

"We remain grateful to Canada for maintaining a principled position on the current tragic situation in Afghanistan and for a sustained commitment in support of the people of Afghanistan including women, girls and those who need resettlement support," he said.

In a joint statement on Sunday, Canada's ministers of foreign affairs, immigration, international development and national defence said "we have witnessed the hardships endured by the Afghan people, with some having undergone harrowing journeys to flee the country and countless others living in fear of persecution and retribution."

"Faced with a heart-wrenching situation in Afghanistan, Canadians opened their hearts to help people rebuild their lives and more than 17,300 Afghans have arrived in Canada over the past year."

## What you need to know about Canada's divisive ArriveCAN app

Ottawa is making plans to expand the capabilities of its ArriveCAN app even as criticism continues to mount over the mandatory online data-entry system for travellers entering the country.

Earlier this week, Transport Canada gave an update on its plans to improve the app, including by adding an optional, online advance CHSA declaration feature for people going to the Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Billy Bishop Toronto City, Ottawa, Quebec City and Halifax international airports.

The feature, which Transport Canada says cuts the amount of time travellers spend at a Canada Border Services Agency kiosk by a third, is currently only available to those passing through Toronto Pearson, Vancouver or Montreal-Trudeau international airports.

"With the thousands of travellers arriving in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal airports each day, the use of the optional advance CHSA declaration has the potential to save hours in wait time," according to Transport Canada's



release.

With Ottawa signalling no plans to do away with the app, here's a refresher on how it works, why it's in place and who's for and against its continued use.

But Canada still wanted a way to account for people's vaccination statuses and COVID-19 results from a recent test. The app allowed visitors to take a photo or upload a snapshot of their vaccine documentation into the app before going through customs.

How does it work today?

Canada has lifted most of its travel

restrictions for fully vaccinated travellers, including the need for domestic travellers to show proof of vaccination while travelling by train or plane.

But regardless of vaccination status, all travellers coming into Canada are required to submit their information to the ArriveCAN app - or the website version if they don't have a smartphone - up to 72 hours before entering Canada.

When travellers finish inputting their information, they're emailed a receipt to show a Canadian border officer upon arrival, along with their COVID-19 test results and any vaccination documents.

The app has not been without its issues. Last month, the CBSA acknowledged a glitch that incorrectly informed travellers to quarantine when in fact they didn't have to, affecting around 10,200 people.

What are the potential penalties for non-compliance?

Canadians who fail to provide the required information through ArriveCAN won't be denied entry but may face a 14-day quarantine, the need to take a COVID-19 test on arrival and a follow-up test eight days later.

They may also be fined \$5,000 and face "additional delays at the border for public health questioning," according to Canada's main ArriveCAN information page.

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