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## Canada announces \$5 million in funding for humanitarian assistance in response to flooding in Pakistan

Pakistan has experienced heavy monsoon rains and floods since mid-June, causing the deaths of over 1,000 people and affecting the lives of 33 million people across the country. To support the international response to this emergency, the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada, today announced \$5 million in funding for humanitarian assistance.

Canada's support will help scale-up the humanitarian response to provide critical emergency assistance, including food and cash assistance for the most severely affected people. The funding will support the work of trusted and experienced partners on the ground.

The funding announced today is in addition to Canada's existing support provided through the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund and its contributions to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

Over the past 3 months, Pakistan has experienced 375.4 mm of rainfall, nearly 3 times higher than the country's average amount. As heavy rains have continued over the past 2 weeks, flooding and landslides have caused massive displacement, damage and devastation.

Canada will continue to work with its partners on the ground to provide food, clean water and essential



services. Canada stands with the people of Pakistan as they respond to the impacts of the flooding. Canada continues to monitor the situation closely to ensure it is able to support the emergency response.

Quotes

"Millions of people are being impacted by the terrible flooding in Pakistan and the world needs to be there to support them. Canada will be there to support the people of Pakistan in the days and weeks ahead as they respond to these devastating floods. This is part of our initial response to support the emergency humanitarian needs, and we will continue to look at ways we can support those affected during these difficult times."

- Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada

Today's announcement is in addition to continual funding provided by Global Affairs Canada to the Canadian Red Cross Society's Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund, which has allocated support to the relief operation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in Pakistan. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society will use funds for water, sanitation and hygiene services and cash assistance.

On August 19, Canada contributed to the initial funding of US\$3 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, which will be used for health, nutrition, food security and water and sanitation services in flood-affected areas.

As the countdown to the first day of school begins, post-secondary institutions in Canada are getting ready to host their first fully in-person orientation week for incoming students - a rite of passage that was postponed for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Maddie Fines, a first-year student at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., it's a chance for a fresh start.

"I'm really looking forward to just branching out and meeting new people," she told CBC News.

This excitement is felt among all of those involved in orientation - from students to volunteers and staff. After two years of Zoom introductions and virtual tours, student life is finally ready to return to something more normal this fall.

Mahsa Eskandari, an associate vice-president of programming at Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union in Waterloo, Ont., spoke to CBC News about the importance of orientation week.

"There's a lot of this culture that surrounds [post-secondary], especially with the orientation week. I think for a lot of people, that's one of the most exciting times," she said. "You come to campus and you feel the energy, you feel the space, the spirit that everyone kind of has."

"We're coming back in-person orientation."

For those involved in enhancing the campus experience, orientation week is the busiest time of year, said Andrew Bisanz, manager of student life and campus engagement at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). He has been planning about 150 events over the last four months.

"We do have about 11,000 students that are coming into TMU," he said. "I do anticipate that we're going to have a lot of students [at orientation], pretty close to what we had in 2019."

This year, the downtown Toronto

## Students, schools gearing up for first in-person orientation since COVID-19 halted events

university added drag brunch and a body positivity fashion show. It's also teaching incoming students about organizational tools and time management skills, as well as hosting a wellness week.

Mental health is becoming increasingly important to incoming post-secondary students, such as Fines, of Dundas, Ont. She said the number of wellness centres at Trent "is incredible" and will help her adjust to living away from home for the first time.

At Wilfrid Laurier, Eskandari said the school's orientation program has changed from a team competition format to a community format. This year's focus is on building social connection and social belonging, helping students reconnect after the challenges of the past two years, she said.

During the past two years, when the pandemic forced orientation week events to be held virtually, attendance was low - making this year key for schools.

"I don't think I went to any of the events. I probably went to the first Zoom [event] on the first day and then stopped going because it wasn't as fun as I thought it was going to be," said Ana Duvnjak, a third-year student at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont.

Eskandari said she can see why students didn't feel a need to connect.

"It's also probably not what they had been hoping for when they would think about what their first year looks like."



Even when orientation went hybrid, Duvnjak said she still found that the predominantly virtual approach wasn't engaging for students. "We had a lot of kids on the first day, and then everyone just started to slowly taper off."

Toronto Metropolitan University's Bisanz said virtual fatigue was a major reason online orientations didn't work, with both organizers and students struggling to socialize.

"How do we find those tools that can bring students together, to still build that community, to build some of that friendship so that we're lessening the impact of having to be online?" he said.

However, Eskandari highlighted an unexpected pattern that came from virtual orientation.

"We've seen a lot of students who maybe didn't have a fully in-person orientation week tend to volunteer a lot. Because not only do they get to help the first year in their transition to university, but they get to experience maybe some of the things that they didn't get to," she said.

socialize. (Toronto Metropolitan University)

This was exactly the case for Duvnjak, who was a second-year orientation team leader in 2021 after her online orientation the year before.

"I was upset in first year that we didn't get a proper orientation... I feel like a lot of people were hoping that it not only would we get to take part in orientation, which is super fun, but it would kind of make up for missing ours."

Zach Groves is another student who had a completely virtual orientation, so when he became orientation co-ordinator at the University of Toronto, he was apprehensive.

"It's very scary. That's the first thought, I would say, because, like, whenever I think about planning orientation, I just think that, like, I never saw this," the third-year student told CBC News.

Lessons learned going forward

Julie Seeger, an architecture student and orientation co-ordinator at the

University of Toronto, said the university is cutting down orientation ticket costs so that it can reach as many students as possible.

It's also taking advantage of online resources and planning a variety of events for different comfort levels, since some students don't feel ready to return to in-person events.

"We're trying to also include a good number of things that are inside, things that are outside, things that require more close contact versus things that are more relaxed, distanced," Seeger said.

The University of Victoria will be keeping a hybrid model, hosting a virtual Q&A session, campus tour and social programming along with in-person orientation. There will also be a series of Zoom webinars and drop-in "speed friending" and trivia activities.

Emily Hoyst, manager of student life and engagement at the British Columbia University, said COVID-19 helped in programming become more inclusive for students who cannot be physically present because of health considerations, they're uncomfortable being in a large group or they're coming from another country.

"We're being really conscious of and considerate of the ways that we can make our programming more accessible and more barrier free," she said.

International student Monisha Vinod, of Bangalore, India, is an example of that. She used the online orientation at the University of Alberta last year to prepare her for school abroad.

"It was like a course that we had to get done before reaching Edmonton, and it was really helpful with, and it was course assisted her with any travel documents and work programs she might need, but it also helped her become familiar with Canadian culture."

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## Canada's passport, airport and immigration delays improving but still 'a lot of work to do,' ministers say

The federal task force created to improve service delays says that after spending the summer addressing the significant lineups and wait times experienced by Canadians at airports, passport offices, and those waiting for immigration applications to be processed, the situation is starting to improve but "we're not out of the woods yet."

"There's a lot of work to do and in some cases, we aren't up to the pre-pandemic service level that Canadians expect and deserve," said task force co-chair, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Marc Miller during a press conference on Monday.

Providing an update on the progress made so far, the government task force is including:

- \* hiring more than 700 new staff for passport offices;
- \* decreasing passport call centre wait times;
- \* setting up more passport "pick-up

services and lounge measures";

\* hiring 1,800 more security screening officers at airports;

\* decreasing flight delays, cancellations and baggage issues; and

\* hiring 1,250 new staff to tackle the backlog and accelerate processing immigration applications.

Miller acknowledged that the situation experienced by Canadians this spring and early summer "should never have happened," and that in some areas the federal Liberals were "slow in responding."

In assessing what prompted this service delivery crisis, task force co-chair, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth Marc Len said Monday that it was the result of demand far exceeding the federal government's capacity to respond. It's a situation being experienced in other countries as well, she added.

Len cited an "unprecedented" surge in Canadians travelling; the impact of

having to adjust to international travel restrictions and border closures; and government-wide reduced processing capacity during the pandemic as exacerbating factors. Though, Miller said the government is not looking to blame others—whether airlines or other unprecedented global events like the war in Ukraine straining government service demands—because "a lot of the responsibility did lie on our shoulders."

"There's a lot of work to be done, and looking inward and seeing how we can get that machinery of government back up and going to a service standard. And then looking at the long-term as to what we have to do to fix the problem, whether it is old systems that haven't been updated for decades, whether it is more people," Miller said.

He added that these approaches have been taken over the summer to expedite fixes to see people get their

passports more quickly, but questioned whether that's the most effective way to provide a more systemic fix and break down the government's silos."

Monday's press conference was held alongside the cabinet ministers who have responsibility for tackling the long lines at airports as well as passport and immigration offices: Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Karina Gould, who is responsible for Service Canada; Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra; Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser; and Minister of Public Safety Marco Mendicino.

Taking turns highlighting statistics meant to indicate how the situation is turning around, the ministers said they will continue to work on further improving Canadians' access to these key government services.

"We know that the wait is too long, and in many cases, we need to address it and to return the service standard that our clients—Canada's future students, workers, permanent residents and citizens—have come to expect," said the immigration minister about the backlog in processing those files, promising additional measures to help over the next few months.

## Canada's housing market appears to be cooling. Is this the right time to buy?



Home prices are falling in many parts of Canada, but there are making factors to consider before investing an investment, according to experts. Knowing what the mortgage rate is and how much a family spends every month amid rising costs of living are some of the factors that need to be taken into account before purchasing real estate, they say.

The latest data from the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) showed prices hit \$629,971 in July, down five per cent from \$662,924 last July. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, it amounted to \$650,766, a three per cent drop from June. When pandemic lockdowns began in March 2020, the average national price was \$543,920.

The association forecast the national average home price will rise by 10.8 per cent on an annual basis to \$762,386 by the end of 2022 and hit \$786,232 in 2023.

So, is this the right time to invest in property?

Even though such data can be helpful, a professor of Data Science and Real Estate Management at Toronto Metropolitan University, Murtaza Haider, says no one can predict if it's too early or late, so Canadians need to take a more practical approach. Instead of a predictive one when it comes to purchasing a home.

"Affordability is not just the price of a property but what comes out of your pocket every month, then you realize that a lower price and higher mortgage could even mean more money going out of your pocket every

month to support that mortgage," said Haider, who also serves as the research director of the Urban Analytics Institute.

"Right times 'when you're ready' "So the answer is not whether now is the right time to buy or not. The right time is when you're ready to purchase based on your family and financial circumstances that necessitate purchase," he added.

As Canadian real estate prices fall, N.S. market slow to catch up - Aug 19, 2022

Haider explains that when home prices fall, people who want it to happen don't end up buying. As they complain about prices soaring and the housing market being unaffordable, tons of people are actually purchasing real estate.

"It's a counterintuitive behavior ... What happens to buyers is when they see an asset losing value, with housing prices going down - they become concerned and say, why should I buy now? even though they wanted the prices to fall, and the moment they start falling, they wait," said Haider.

"And by doing that, they further contribute to lowering demand and hence lower prices. So that circle continues to unfold. Until such time that the demand comes back, prices start to rise," he added.

While it may seem like the fall season will bring back that demand, it's uncertain how long the pricing slide will last and how low it will go.

"The fall is going to be interesting because we're going to see probably

more buyers jumping into the market and you don't need to do more buyers to provide a little bit more stability to prices," John Passalis, president of Realosophy Realty Inc. in Toronto, told The Canadian Press earlier this week.

"Just a little bit of a bump in demand could be the difference between homes selling in three, four weeks versus selling in two weeks or selling a lot faster."

Regarding the Housing Market - Aug 18, 2022

Regardless, Kelly Caldwell, a realtor based in Guelph, Ont., said if an individual has the financial means to purchase real estate despite rising interest rates, then now is a much better time to buy a property compared to the start of the year when it was way more competitive.

"Before ... it was a time when prices were skyrocketing, there were bidding wars and no conditions on offers," said Caldwell.

"People were just paying far, far too much for a property. So I think it's much better in the sense that things have cooled off ... at least in the one (market) I serve in, there's a very strong buyer's market. So technically, it's a pretty good time to buy," she added.

Caldwell says she's seeing a return of good due diligence conditions in offers like home inspection and property financing.

"When the market's really heated, competitive buyers really felt that they can't get those conditions accepted for an offer," she said.

Consider inflation, mortgage rates - Caldwell echoes Haider's sentiment by saying that the real challenge now is the mortgage rate and the monthly expenses. She said there's a lot of uncertainty when it comes to the economy.

"I think a lot of us are feeling the pinch of how expensive things are ... our gas, our hydro bills, groceries. Everything. So it's probably more important than ever for buyers to have a very tough conversation with themselves about how much they need," she said. "There's a lot of people I know who have recently downsized."

She also said that people who are looking to purchase property should also be mindful of the increasing costs that come with renovations now. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the labour shortage, Caldwell said the cost of materials and labour has "skyrocketed."

"Even finding people can be hard," said Caldwell. "Look at the cost of lumber before you put on a new deck because it may cost you \$10,000 just in lumber today."

"She says traditionally buying an old house that needs a bit of a renovation is a good way sometimes to get into homeownership, but amid rising costs, this is not the case anymore.

"I am still a believer in it, but I think you need to be very tuned in to the cost of building supplies," Caldwell said.

New poll finds majority of Canadians are cutting back on spending

As the housing market cools off, Canadians can take their time when purchasing real estate, according to Caldwell.

"Time is kind of on your side and to take the amount of time that you can to really look around and explore different neighbourhoods, explore different types of properties with an eye on for those that are pre-approved and have a mortgage rate locked in with their lender," she said.

When it comes to sellers, however, Haider says it's important to figure out the reason behind selling that property and to just go for it, depending on the need.

"Is it because you have to move for a new job or because of age? If your circumstances necessitate a sale, then sell. Don't try to time the market. Who knows if the market starts to recover later this year, maybe next year or later," he said.

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# Gauhar Khan reacts to Ranbir Kapoor apologizing about his 'failed' comment on wife Alia Bhatt and she has an advice for them

TV and Bollywood actress Gauhar Khan, who is also quite popular on social media, took to the platform, reacting to the recent apology given by Ranbir Kapoor on a comment he made on Alia Bhatt. The actress, in her post, mentioned that people in recent times have become too sensitive and are quick to react to even jokes that are cracked between a couple. In her statement, she also asked people to take things a little more lightly and sportingly.

Taking to Twitter, Gauhar Khan posted, "Aaj ka log kuch zyada hi sensitive ho gaye hain. Ab agni hivi se kuch bahe phulka mazak kare pe bhi paubandi hai, kya pata kahan pe offend ho jaye. These days, people have become over-sensitive. There are restrictions on even joking about little things with your wife. Because you never



know who gets offended by it? Take a chill pill year, take light, it will resolve a lot of the issues in the world," she said.



Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are currently promoting their film Bahamini. In an Instagram chat with fans, the actor referred to his wife's baby bump and said, "Well I can say somebody has failed" (aka inflated) as a joke. But it seems that the comment did not go down well with social media users who trolled the actor and called the statement misogynistic, insulting, and in bad taste.

# Badshah REVEALS He Was Offered Roles Of Men With Sexual Issues, Says, 'Mujhe Kya Pata Mera Acting Career Mit Jayega'

Case Toh Banta Hai' is a one-of-a-kind weekly comedy show where actors Ritvik Deshmukh and Varun Sharma play the roles of the public prosecutor and defense lawyer respectively. The show has been making headlines right from its premiere day. Rapper Badshah was the latest celebrity to appear in the new episode and he was in his candid and hilarious bit. The rapper-singer talked about his acting career and revealed he was offered the roles of men with sexual issues.

The ace singer also mentioned that he made his debut with Sonakshi Sinha's starrer 'Khamoshi: Shaahkhan' because the two films that were offered to him were about men dealing with sexual issues. Badshah revealed that he declined Vicky Kaushal's role in 'Lust Stories' and Diljit Dosanjh's character in 'Good News' for the same reason. The 36-year-old singer told the judge Kuska Kapila, "Mujhe same pehli film offer hui thi. Last Story, us mai Vicky Kaushal ka role mujhe offer hua jismein woh apni wife ko satisfy nahi kar pata hai, toh maine woh turn down kar diya." He added, "Aur dusra role mujhe offer hua Good News film hai, jismein Diljit Paji ka role offer hua. The joke woh bacha nahi dekar kar pata toh woh bhi maine decline kar di, toh toh maine mujhe yeh offer hua, toh mujhe laga saala cherepe par kuch likha hai kya? Toh maine yeh jinx mitane ko live film ki, mujhe kya pata mera (acting) career mit jayega!"

# India vs Pakistan Highlights: All-Round Hardik Pandya Helps India Beat Pakistan In Asia Cup Nail-Biter

Asia Cup 2022, India vs Pakistan Highlights: Hardik Pandya showed nerves of steel to steer India to a thrilling five-wicket win over Pakistan in an Asia Cup Group A match at the Dubai International Stadium. Chasing a target of 148, Hardik hit three boundaries and a six in the last two overs to take India home with two balls to spare. Pandya remained unbeaten on 33, while both Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja played knocks of 35 each to give India a decent platform. Earlier, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Hardik Pandya starred with the ball as India bowled out Pakistan for 147 in the Asia Cup clash in Dubai.



Hardik Pandya played a crucial role in India's victory over Pakistan. He scored 35 runs and hit three boundaries and a six in the final overs.

# We want Cristiano Ronaldo to stay, says Manchester United coach Erik ten Hag

Coach Erik ten Hag is hopeful prolific striker Cristiano Ronaldo will stay at Manchester United. The Portugal forward has been linked with a move to a Champions League club before Thursday's transfer deadline and was again left out of Ten Hag's starting line-up for Saturday's 1-0 win over Southampton. Ronaldo came on after Bruno Fernandes had given the visitors the lead and at full-time stepped to make the crucial United fans, leaving some to speculate he was saying goodbye, reports DPA. But Ten Hag said, "We played with him. So we want him to stay. That is what we want. I hope so." Ten Hag reiterated his position when asked if he would be satisfied should United not add to their forwards this week, adding: "We have Cristiano Ronaldo, we have Anthony Martial, we have Marcus Rashford, so then we are OK." Ronaldo, who came on for Jadon Sancho, was one of three substitutes Ten Hag made at St Mary's, also swapping Anthony Elanga for new signing Casemiro in the 85th minute and Fred for Christian Eriksen in second-half stoppage time.

# Jacqueline Fernandez Takes Religious Path To Find Solace, Wears Bracelet, And Chants Mantra Amid Conman Suresh Chandrashekhar Controversy

In tough times, everyone turns to the almighty to find solace. The same happened with Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez as her name has been accused by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of her involvement with conman Suresh Chandrashekhar in a Rs. 200 crore money laundering case. Reportedly, she recently visited Gurji's ashram in Delhi.



Mandir that was established by Gurji. Someone close to Jacqueline advised her to visit Gurji's ashram in Chhattarpur to turn tough times into better times. Source adds, since then, Jacqueline is taking Gurji

everywhere with her in the form of wearing a bracelet of Gurji & also chanting gyanmantra once a day. For the unversed, Nirmal Singh, who hailed from Malerkotla in Punjab, died on April 30, 2018.

# AUS vs ZIM: Aussies beat Zimbabwe by 5 wickets in 1st ODI

Cameron Green claimed his maiden five-wicket haul before David Warner and Steve Smith made light work of the run chase to set up a five-wicket victory for Australia over Zimbabwe in the first ODI match of a three-match series, the African nation's first one-day international series in the country since 2004. After Zimbabwe were sent in by Australian skipper Aaron Finch on Sunday, Green took 5-33 as the tourists lost its last six wickets for 15 runs and was bowled out for 200 in the tropical north Queensland city of Townsville.

Australia then made light work of the run chase, as Warner scored 57 off 66 balls and Steve Smith played the anchor role of the innings to make an unbeaten 48 off 80 balls to set up the victory. Glenn Maxwell finished the match with consecutive sixes off Richard Ngarava in the 34th over, who had only one ODI wicket prior to Sunday's match, removed Sikander Raza and stand-in skipper Regis Chakabva cheaply and then returned to clean up the tail as Zimbabwe's hopes of posting a comfortable total fell away in the final overs. "(We) just had a really clear gameplan, got a bit lucky at the end there, was just the right place at the right time trying to bowl back of a length on a wicket that was kind of going up and down," Green said. "I was luckily the one who got the rewards, but I think the rest of the team bowled really well and basically gave me the opportunity to be in that position."

Wesley Madhevere scored a career-high 72 runs and opener Tadevanashe Marumani added 45 as Zimbabwe started watchfully against Australia's bowlers. But, when Adam Zampa got Madhevere caught and bowled and Chakabva was caught by Steve Smith following a Green delivery, Zimbabwe's tail quickly collapsed chasing quick runs. Australia lost Finch for 15 in the eighth over, before Warner and Smith combined for a 65-run stand to have Australia's chase looking comfortable. Alex Carey, Mitchell Marsh and Marcus Stoinis all fell cheaply to spinner Ryan Beal (3-60) to stall the hosts' progress but Maxwell hit a 32 off nine deliveries to seal the victory for Australia in their first of 17 ODIs before next year's World Cup in India. Zimbabwe is making its first appearance in a one-day international series in the country since 2004 with the teams set to play three ODIs in seven days at the 10,000-seat Riverway Stadium. The second game of the three-match series is on Wednesday also at Townsville. The match also held tributes for local hero and former Australia test player Andrew Symonds who died in an auto-accident in May near Townsville. Fans, family, and friends stood in silence before the match before further tributes to the charismatic allrounder were held at the stonings break.

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**MATRIMONIAL**  
Pakistani Sunni Muslim Family looking for suitable match for our Son, 33 years old, never married; born and university educated in Canada. Working for government; Girl should be 25-30 years old. PLEASE CONTACT BY PHONE: 905-746-0676

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E-Mail: hamza\_raes@hotmail.com

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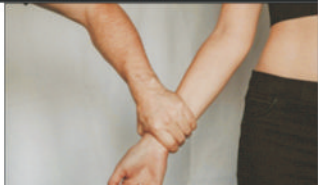
## Realities of human trafficking in Canada on display at national exhibit

Public Safety Canada's exhibit on human trafficking is aiming to teach Canadians about the harsh realities of the issue, as one expert says many aren't aware of what it could even look like.

Julia Drydyk, executive director at the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking (CCEHT), says one of the largest issues concerning human trafficking is most people aren't aware of the signs.

"Unfortunately, one of the biggest problems we have in Canada and why human trafficking is such a big deal is because people do not have an idea what it looks like," Drydyk told CTV's Your Morning on Monday.

The exhibit has been going on since July, ranking stops in Halifax, N.S., Montreal, Que., Thunder Bay, Ont., Winnipeg, Man., Edmonton, Alta., and most recently Toronto, Ont. These cities are among those with the highest rates of police



reported incidents between 2010 and 2020. During this time, Toronto accounted for 20 per cent of all incidents in Canada, Montreal made up 7 per cent, and Halifax accounted for 6 per cent.

According to the CCEHT, 95 per cent of Canadians mistake human trafficking with human smuggling. Drydyk says the misconception comes from people associating human trafficking as an international issue

involving people from different countries being transported in shipping containers. In reality, human trafficking is actively happening across Canada and most cases look like intimate partner violence.

"We're looking for people who are in signs of incredibly toxic and unhealthy relationships," Drydyk explains. Signs of human trafficking can include a person having a new

romantic partner, distancing themselves from friends and family, being secretive about their whereabouts, or receiving excessive gifts. Drydyk says acts of intimidation and pressure are concerning signs Canadians should be more aware of as human trafficking continues to affect all communities.

"This is really about debunking those myths and equipping Canadians with the tools to better understand what human trafficking really looks like in our community," she said.

In their 2019-2020 report, the CCEHT said human trafficking is a gender-based crime that mainly affects women, girls, transgender and non-conforming people. Most victims

who called the CCEHT's hotline were Canadian, and only 14 per cent were foreign nationals. Public Safety Canada reported similar findings saying 96 per cent of victims are women and girls and 91 per cent of them reported personally knowing their trafficker.

If you or someone you know is at risk of human trafficking, Public Safety Canada advises calling 911 or the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010.

## Women journalists targeted in co-ordinated campaign of hate: Canadian Association of Journalists

In her six years in journalism, Fatima Syed estimates she has received about 150 messages of hate. The vile messages arrive in her email inbox, or come in replies to her social media posts.

Syed, a climate reporter for CTV News, Syed is called a variant of the N-word and is referred to as a "Nazi c\*nt". She has been threatened with rape and told that she should be put on her knees and "shot/gunned, Afghanistan".

Syed, a climate reporter with the online publication, The Narwhal, says she has mail often follows reports she files on ethnic and immigrant communities. But the messages are rarely about the issues raised in the articles she writes.

"They tend to be personal attacks. They attack the colour of my skin, my background, my identity or my relationship with countries I've lived in and my relationship with the communities I'm from," says Syed, who is a Muslim Pakistani-Canadian. "They don't want you to exist on the platform you have."

What Syed has experienced is part of a disturbing trend in attacks against media workers that, according to the president of the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ), has reached a "feverpitch."

The CAJ says there was an increase in online abuse and hate directed at reporters during the Freedom Convoy in Ottawa. Now that the protests have fizzled, the CAJ says the attacks have morphed into what appears to be a co-ordinated online campaign directed at women journalists, especially those who report on climate.

Syed, who is also a CAJ board member, says the perpetrators use encrypted email, adding that messages are becoming increasingly threatening.

"I'm terrified that someone has sent six of my female colleagues an email that says their faces are on a wall and that they will come for them in some capacity."

In a statement earlier this month, Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino called online hate,



intimidation and harassment of female, racialized and Indigenous journalists "blatantly unacceptable."

"This alarming trend represents a threat not only to the safety of individuals involved, but to the independence of the media, which is a pillar of our democracy," he said.

Mendicino said he'd met with representatives from the CAJ to discuss what support the federal government can offer. The minister also said that there are plans to meet with both Toronto Police and Ottawa Police to discuss their response to reporters' concerns.

"It is increasingly evident that online abuse towards journalists, especially women, is a disconcerting issue for the media and the rest of our society. The personal toll that such threats and hate have is profound and can cause lasting damage to one of our core democratic institutions," he added.

A CO-ORDINATED CAMPAIGN OF HATE: "This is an organized campaign to threaten and intimidate journalists into silence and undermine the freedom of the press in Canada," says CAJ President Brent Jolly.

According to the association, women make up more than 52 per cent of the country's media workers, while visible minorities account for roughly 25 per cent of newsroom staff.

In the past few days, dozens of female reporters who write for online publications and work for broadcasters

Police say there were 257 incidents of hate in 2021, a 22 per cent increase from the previous year. Ottawa Police say there was a 6 per cent increase in reported incidents of hate in the first six months of this year.

Of the 164 cases logged by OPS between January 1 and June 30, 129 incidents were deemed criminal in nature. The statistics break down complaints by ethnicity and religion, but not by gender, race or profession.

Stéph Wechsler, managing editor of J-Source, an online publication about the journalism industry in Canada, says the rapid response of police to reporter complaints could be attributed to an "incomplete picture" of the danger journalists face.

Wechsler is in the process of creating an open data source that allows journalists to input the type of threat they receive as well as track their race, gender and job status. In addition to analyzing the police response, Wechsler also hopes the data will reveal which reporters are under attack, whether they are full-time staff or freelancers, and what employers can do to improve safety measures.

"What is the impact on racialized women in women in particular and what is being done, or not being done to keep everyone safe? Solutions have been very slow to come here for a problem that has been mounting in particular to white supremacy and online radicalization and its deep rootedness in this country," Wechsler said.

WHEN ONLINE HATE SPILLS OVER: There is a fear among reporters that online threats will turn into physical violence. It has happened before.

In 2018, five employees of The Capital Gazette in Maryland were killed in a mass shooting in the newspaper's office. ABC News reported that the perpetrator, James Ramos, began threatening journalists at The Capital after the newspaper reported on a stalking allegation linked to Ramos.

Former Environment Minister Catherine McKenney says Canadians shouldn't cling to the belief that what happens in the United States can't happen here.

"There was a tendency before to believe that the U.S. is different than us, but we are seeing the same thing here. It's worrying and Canadians should not be naive. I say that as someone who has been on the receiving end."

Part of the problem can be attributed to insufficient data. Toronto

## Canada's economy could take \$139 billion hit from floods, storms, drought by 2050

Floods, droughts and major storms that wash out highways, damage buildings and affect power grids could cost Canada's economy \$139 billion over the next 30 years, a new climate-based analysis predicts.

The report, titled "Aquaticomics," is being published today by GHID, a global engineering and architecture services firm.

GHID's Canadian water lead Don Holland said there are lots of reports that count up insured losses and physical damage after major events like last fall's atmospheric river in British Columbia.

"What this report does is actually takes into account the loss of economic productivity, the shocks to the system when it comes to supply chain prices, and all of that," Holland said in an interview.

He pointed to the 2021 B.C. floods, which for a time cut off rail and highway links between the country's biggest port in Vancouver

and the rest of Canada. The disruption stressed supply chains already hampered by COVID-19, raising prices, slowing production in factories that couldn't get parts, and leaving some shelves empty in grocery stores and other retailers.

"It had huge knock-on effects," said Holland. The report predicts manufacturing and distribution will take the biggest hit from water-related climate disasters between now and 2050 - an estimated \$64 billion in losses, or about 0.2 per cent of the total manufacturing economy year.

While droughts can restrict industrial production, floods and storms cause direct damage to buildings and machinery, or take out power supplies, forcing factories into silence.

The derecho wind storm that ripped across southern and eastern Ontario in May damaged the power grid in Ottawa so badly, parts of the city

were without electricity for more than two weeks. Drought is often seen as only a real risk to agriculture, but extreme drought can be much wider-reaching.

In Europe, near-record lows on the Rhine River might halt marine traffic along Europe's most important shipping lane that links major ports in Belgium and the Netherlands to Germany and Switzerland.

Last week in China, a massive heat wave prompted the government to force some factories to close to ration power as low river levels cut power output at hydro dams and nuclear plants because of low water levels.

Agriculture is the fifth sector analyzed, which in Canada is estimated to lose about \$4 billion over the next 28 years, also threatening food security. The report also looked at the economic effects of water disasters in seven other countries, including Australia, China and the United States.

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