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## Bank of Canada governor Macklem has 'declared class war on working people': UNIFOR president

The head of the largest private-sector union in Canada said Monday that Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem is waging a "class war" on working people and it's time to stop hiking interest rates.

"Rather than developing a tailored response intended to slow profits, stop profiteering, fix supply chain bottlenecks and help workers keep up, policy makers have taken to blaming workers instead - including the governor of the Bank of Canada, who has basically declared class war on working people in this country," said UNIFOR president Lana Payne.

UNIFOR represents more than 300,000 employees.

Payne said shareholders and corporate executives are reaping "obscene benefits in the form of higher dividends, share repurchases and bonuses" while workers struggle with high inflation.

"The medicine that the Bank has, with respect to inflation, is causing a lot of pain out there," Payne said.

"The fact of the matter is that the Bank of Canada has raised interest rates faster than many other countries in the world. We should ask ourselves, is it actually doing what he says it needs to do?"

Canada's benchmark interest rate currently stands at 3.75 per cent. In the United States it's 4 per cent, while it's 3 per cent in the U.K. and 2 per cent in the European Union.

Payne the Bank of Canada is



persisting with its plan to raise interest rates even as inflation drops.

"This seems like a lot of needless pain on working people right now in Canada," Payne said, adding that interest rates "are up high enough now. We need to slow this down."

In a recent interview with CBC News, Macklem said that while rate hikes are making life harder for many Canadians, they're necessary.

"We don't want to make this more difficult than it has to be," he told the CBC's Peter Armstrong. "But at the same time, if we don't do enough, if we're half-hearted, Canadians are going to have to continue to endure the high inflation that is harming them every day."

Low unemployment and inflation

Analysis says that if the bank pauses too soon while inflation is still rising, it will have to take even more aggressive measures down the road. On the other hand, if it overshoots

and keeps hiking rates after inflation starts coming down in a sustainable way, many Canadians will suffer needlessly.

While Payne said she thinks the Bank should hold off further rate hikes, Macklem disagrees.

"We do think that there is a need for further increases, but we are getting closer to the end of this tightening cycle. I can't tell you exactly what that is," he told Armstrong. "We're not there yet. But we are getting closer."

Payne also criticized Macklem for comments he made last week to the Public Policy Forum in Toronto, when he said that the current low unemployment rate is not sustainable.

"Blaming workers for having a job and actually demanding decent wages, benefits and working conditions is simply unacceptable. We need an economy that works for everyone, not an economy that delivers only for the few," she said.

Macklem said last week that while a record-low unemployment rate means more people are working, it also means employers struggle more to fill positions.

"The tightness in the labour market is a symptom of the general imbalance between demand and supply that is fuelling inflation and hurting all Canadians," he said, adding that "relieving the pressure in the labour market will contribute to restoring price stability."

Ontario's chief medical officer of health is "strongly recommending" that Ontarians wear masks in all indoor public settings, including in schools and in childcare settings, but stopped short of recommending a return to a mask mandate in the province.

At a news conference on Monday, Dr. Kieran Moore said the province's health system is facing "extraordinary pressures" with the ongoing circulation of COVID-19, the earlier than normal rise in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), as well as influenza.

"What we are facing is a triple threat that requires our collective action and action to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, the very young, the very old and those with underlying medical issues and to ensure that our health-care system remains able to care for Ontarians when they need it," Moore said.

Moore said Ontarians need to get back to using all the layers of protection that have proven to work over the course of the pandemic.

"We should all be screening daily for signs of illness and stay home when you are sick," he said.

"I'm asking Ontarians, especially children six months of age and older, pregnant individuals, families and caregivers with young children, health-care workers and elderly, and those with underlying health conditions to get your flu shot as soon as possible, (to) protect themselves and those around them," Moore added.

Unprecedented surge of sick children

The recommendation to mask up comes as pediatric hospitals across Ontario have been dealing with an

## Ontario's top doctor strongly recommends masking indoors as health system faces 'extraordinary pressures'



unprecedented surge of sick children in recent weeks.

Moore said children aged two to five should only wear a mask with supervision if they can safely tolerate masking, and can put it on and take it off.

Moore has previously said this fall and winter would see a resurgence of respiratory illnesses and that he would recommend masking in certain indoor settings if hospitals began cancelling surgeries to deal with a surge of patients.

"The difficult and complex fall that was predicted has materialized," Moore said Monday.

"COVID-19, influenza and RSV - all three are actively circulating across Ontario in all of our communities ... contributing to the pressures on our pediatric health-care system."

Medical officials have also been increasingly calling for the public to mask up after children's hospitals across the province became overwhelmed with young patients in emergency departments, pediatric wards and intensive care units.

On Friday the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto announced it would be ramping down surgeries to redeploy staff to those areas.

SickKids chief executive officer Dr. Ronald Cohn said the cancellation of surgeries is a big blow to children, their families and health-care workers.

"It is heartbreaking for the families and the children because, you know, the term 'elective surgery' doesn't really exist in children," Cohn told CBC Toronto, adding it's about finding the right time to schedule and perform the surgery.

"Although this current situation is unlike anything we've seen in the pediatric population in recent memory, we have strong systems and structures that have been put in place during the pandemic for our adult community," Simpson said.

More steps needed, doctor says

Dr. Isaac Bogoch, an infectious disease specialist at University Health Network in Toronto, says given what's been happening in the province, a recommendation to mask is not enough.

"I think it's one step, but there's other steps to take," Bogoch told CBC News.

"If you're not going to mandate masks, there are multiple steps to take to improve mask adherence in the community in the absence of this mandate."

He said the province should look at "lowering barriers to masks," by making them ubiquitous, putting them at the front of every mall and in every sports facility in schools "so that you actually have an opportunity to put them on."

Meanwhile, speaking at a news conference on Sunday, an unrelated issue, Premier Doug Ford urged members of the public to get their flu shots and be up to date on the COVID-19 vaccinations.

"Wear a mask every time possible," Ford said.

Ford did not answer repeated questions Sunday about whether his government would be mandating masks in any settings.

"I'm going to follow Dr. Moore's direction," Ford said, a line he repeated several times when pressed on the issue.

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## U.S. military weighs funding mining projects in Canada amid rivalry with China

The United States military has been quietly soliciting applications for Canadian mining projects that want American public funding through a major national security initiative.

It's part of an increasingly urgent priority of the U.S. government: lessening dependence on China for critical minerals that are vital in everything from civilian goods such as electronics, cars and batteries, to weapons.

It illustrates how Canadian mining is becoming the nexus of a colonial geopolitical struggle. Ottawa just pushed Chinese state-owned companies out of the sector, and the U.S. is now considering moving public funding in.

The American military has a new pot of money at its disposal to help private companies inaugurate new mining projects; it's for funding feasibility studies, plant renovations, battery-recycling and worker training. President Joe Biden invoked the



1950 Defense Production Act to expand the domestic mining sector, and the military received hundreds of millions of dollars to implement it. This whirlwind of activity was prompted by a White House study last year warning that dependence on certain foreign-made products represents a national security risk to the U.S., and it cited semiconductors, batteries, medicines and 53 types of minerals.

matter of law," said Matthew Zolnowski, a portfolio manager for the Defense Production Act program, speaking to a gathering of the Canada-United States Law Institute in Washington, D.C.

"So an investment in Alberta or Quebec or Nova Scotia would be no different than if it was in Nebraska or anywhere else in the United States. As a matter of law."

Canadian government provides list of 70 projects. Zolnowski said the U.S. is actively reaching out to companies to explain the process, as many have no relationship with the U.S. government and might not realize how it works.

"We are actively engaging those firms," he said, describing a flurry of recent activity by quoting an old movie line: "It's a duck on a pond. It looks quiet on the surface, but there's a lot happening."

The Canadian government has been active, too. Canadian officials say they've already provided the U.S. with a list of 70 projects that could warrant U.S. funding. Both countries describe this as a generational initiative still in its early stages: Canada, for now, is still a bit player in producing these minerals, which include lithium, cobalt and manganese.

## Tensions rise in Toronto's Persian community as activists try to expose regime links in Canada



As the uprisings continue in Iran, tensions between supporters of the regime and those who aspire to revolution are being felt in the Iranian diaspora.

In Toronto, anti-regime activists have moved to expose government ministers who they say live with impunity in Canada.

"This man sent me, along with many other students, to prison," said Ardashir Zarezaheh, an Iranian-born Toronto lawyer, pointing to his computer screen.

On the website of his organization, the International Center for Human Rights, the photo of Morteza Talebi, the former police chief of Tehran and officer of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), seen on a treadmill, in a gymnasium in Richmond Hill, Ont., in January.

Since the beginning of the uprising in Iran, Zarezaheh has called on members of the Iranian diaspora in Canada to send him information concerning relatives of the Iranian regime who visit or live in Canada in order to expose them on his website.

"We all know that many people affiliated with the Iranian regime live in Canada. They come and go." "They take advantage of life in Canada," maintains the lawyer who spent nearly six years in Iranian prisons for his involvement in student movements.

For Mohammad Tajdoli, there is no doubt that the presence of supporters of the Iranian regime in

Canada has exacerbated tensions within the Iranian diaspora since the beginning of the uprising.

"There is an expression in Iran that Canada is the regime's paradise," says the Iranian journalist based in Toronto.

The activist claims to have contacted the federal government on several occasions in recent years to denounce the presence of relatives of the regime on Canadian territory, without concrete measures being taken by Ottawa.

"They tell us, 'We know, we're watching them,' but that's not enough. [...] That is why we are taking matters into our own hands," he said.

On Oct. 29, in a long-awaited speech by the diaspora, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to maintain sanctions against the Iranian regime and its leaders. A promise received with skepticism by Zarezaheh.

"We know that there are people today in Canada who have benefited from this horrible and corrupt regime and who are hiding in the middle of the community enjoying the opportunities that Canada offers. They are using the wealth they stole from the Iranians. We say: enough is enough," Trudeau said.

He is not the only one. It was this same frustration that prompted Marjan\* (her name has been changed) to begin investigating Iranian regime supporters in Canada. The young

Beyond online denunciations, tensions are also crystallizing in the community. In "Little Tehran," a neighborhood located north of Toronto and which owes its name to its large population of Iranians, certain incidents have multiplied since the beginning of the uprising.

Opposite the famous Plaza Irania, in the heart of the Iranian quarter, a butcher shop has been the target of online vandalism and intimidation by netizens accusing it of having links with the Iranian regime.

Graffiti in Farsi saying "death to the mullahs," for example, was painted on the walls of the Imam Mahdi Islamic Centre in Thornhill, north of Toronto. The mosque was quick to refute any political allegiance.

Both the butcher shop and the mosque declined our offer to comment on the matter.

In front of the same mosque, however, signs with the portrait of the young Mahsa Amini, whose death was the spark of the movement, have been removed, according to a video widely shared on the WhatsApp network. And still in the same place, a motorist tried to rush into anti-regime demonstrators before fleeing and being arrested by the police.

York Regional Police, which serves the territory, says it is not concerned about a possible increase in hateful acts related to the situation in Iran. However, the police say they are aware of the divisions that exist within the Iranian community in the Greater Toronto Area.

According to Tajdoli, tensions have always been underlying in the community, with supporters of the two ideologies living together. What changes this time is that fear has changed sides, according to the journalist.

"The people you see on the streets now, before, they didn't come to demonstrations because they were afraid," he said, explaining that being photographed at an event like this could make it difficult afterward to travel to Iran or could make things difficult for their families back home.

"Now, he continues, the situation is so atrocious in Iran, it is so brutal, so inhuman, that these people say to themselves, 'No, that is enough. I want to participate, I want to do my duty as a human being, as an Iranian.'"

"The wall of fear has broken down."

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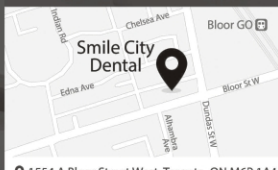
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### Pakistan warns paperless migrants about jail time, alarming Afghans waiting to come to Canada

Afghan refugee applicants and an aid group trying to bring them to Canada are warning the federal government about a new deadline looming in Pakistan for undocumented immigrants.

Pakistan is threatening to throw people in jail for up to three years if they do not renew their visas by the end of 2022. The process costs applicants hundreds of dollars each - putting families that escaped Afghanistan and the Taliban with little or no money at a serious disadvantage.

A video ad produced by Pakistan's Ministry of the Interior has been streaming on government social media channels and on television since the start of October. It warns that "overstaying foreigners may be sentenced for up to three years of imprisonment" after December 31.

"The messaging by the Pakistani government that those Afghans that are in Pakistan illegally will be deported and potentially arrested is very troubling," said Brian Macdonald, executive director for Aman Lara, a non-profit organization of Canadian veterans and interpreters who have been working for more than a year to bring Afghan refugees to Canada.

While the only foreign countries named in the ad are India and Somalia, it's running in three different languages: Urdu (Pakistan's national language) and Dari and Pashto, frequently spoken by Afghans.

"They are targeting us directly," said Mohammad Younas Nasimi, an Afghan refugee applicant. He's living in a hotel room in Islamabad with his wife and six children while he waits to see if he qualifies for a Special Immigration Measures program run by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

The program is meant to help accelerate immigration for former military interpreters and other former employees of the Canadian government and armed forces, along with their families.

As a contract labourer, Nasimi helped Canadian troops in Afghanistan detect bombs and landmines laid by the Taliban.

Nasimi said he has been waiting for a reply from IRCC for years.

He said he fears his family's status in Pakistan is becoming more precarious. A few weeks after he first saw the ad playing on television, he said, his two-year-old son was beaten up in their hotel.

"I still didn't find out who the guy was [that did this to him]," Nasimi said, adding his son suffered head injuries.

"His nose was very damaged and he was bleeding."

He said he sent the Canadian High Commission in Pakistan a note but all he got was a reply stating his immigration file was still being processed.

Pakistan says Afghans with valid papers will be "facilitated".

In a media statement, Pakistan's High Commission in Canada said it remains committed "to facilitating travelling from Pakistan of all those Afghans whose cases are identified by the sponsoring countries/governments through their Missions in Pakistan."

It also said the video ad applies to all overstaying foreigners, not just Afghans.

"[Afghans] having valid travel documents as well as visas/documents for onward travel from Pakistan have been and will be facilitated by the Government of Pakistan," said the statement.

CBC News has spoken to one refugee applicant whose paperless status has placed him in the crosshairs of police.

CBC News has agreed not to identify him because of the dangers he faces in Islamabad and those he would face after being deported to Afghanistan. He said he has been waiting for eleven months to find out if he qualifies to move to Canada.

He said his father worked as a carpenter with the Canadian Armed Forces and he was a volunteer with Aman Lara before he fled Afghanistan in 2021 following its fall to the Taliban.

He, his parents and nine siblings were only able to afford visa fees once after they moved to Islamabad from Afghanistan, he said. His family members have been waiting since to find out if they also qualify for Canada's immigration program.

In mid-October, they received a letter from their guest house urging them to renew their visas. "Dear guest we are facing problem from Pakistan law enforcement agencies," said the note, signed by a general manager for Capetown Guest House.

The Canadian High Commission and the United Nations' International Organization for Migration have since helped him and his family move to another guest house. The family is still waiting for their immigration paperwork to be cleared by the Canadian government.

"Constructive dialogue" with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Global Affairs

Canada said in media statements that they continue to have strong relationships with the Pakistani government.

The IRCC said it has an "active and constructive dialogue" with Islamabad on "issues related to safe passage for vulnerable Afghans."

It side-stepped a question about concerns related to the video ad but said "each country maintains the authority to set its own entry and exit requirements."

Global Affairs said it appreciates "Pakistan's efforts in supporting Canada's Afghan resettlement program."

Roughly 18 charter flights carrying Afghans from Pakistan have come to Canada since January 2022, according to IRCC.

Citing security concerns, however, neither department would say how many Afghans are still waiting in Pakistan for permission to come to Canada.

Aman Lara said it is in touch with about 400 Afghans in the same situation.

According to a directive from Pakistan's government, from June to August this year it granted safe passage to Afghans who did not have valid travel documentation "through land air routes ... on a case by case basis, in coordination with the recipient third countries."

Aman Lara said it hopes authorities in Islamabad return to that policy.

"We encourage the government of Pakistan to reopen that window," said Macdonald.

But according to one Canadian government official with knowledge of the situation, Pakistan has told Canada and other countries with immigration measures for Afghans - such as the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany - that it cannot maintain loose borders forever for the sake of their immigration programs.

The source spoke to CBC News on the condition they not be named, as they were not authorized to comment publicly.

The source also said that, more than a year after the Taliban takeover, Islamabad no longer looks at the Afghan refugee situation as an emergency.

The source said Pakistan does periodic social media campaigns about borders.

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