

**STOP Worrying!**  
**Traffic Tickets?**  
**SAEED A. KHAN**  
 Former Toronto Police Officer & Court Officer

Off: 416-423-4964  
 Cell: 647-283-5426 Fax: 416-423-2165  
 E-mail: saak2pk@hotmail.com

ALL TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS  
 DIVORCE OFFENCES  
 DRIVING NO INSURANCE  
 ALCOHOL TRAFFIC DISPUTES  
 SMALL CLAIMS COURTS  
 CRIMINAL MATTERS (S.U.M.M.)

1237 Woodbine Ave. Toronto, ON M4C 4E5  
**SOS PARALEGAL SERVICES**

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: Sagenext

THE ONLY SOUTH ASIAN MAGAZINE FOR ALL SOUTH ASIAN MARKETS

South Asian  
**Generation Next**

PH: 905-279-5600 | Email: pakistanpost2@bellnet.ca | Vol 16 | Issue 469 | January 05, 2023 | www.pakistanpostcanada.com

اپنے گھر کے لیے تعمیر بنائیں KINGSWAY

آرٹ آپ \$999 تک کارڈ سے تین ماہ کی قرض  
 گھنٹوں میں پاکستانی کرنسی  
 کم سے کم 0.75% ڈاؤن پیمنٹ  
 Islamic Finance Available

CALL: MAZHER IQBAL  
 416-875-4488  
 Ph: 905-268-1000  
 Off: 905-268-1000  
 Email: amah\_nashe@hotmail.com

## Government of Canada announces a temporary negative COVID-19 test requirement for travellers arriving from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong or Macao

Air travellers two years of age and older will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test before departing for Canada beginning January 5.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to evolve, the Government of Canada has taken a prudent and measured approach to adjusting border measures to protect the health and safety of Canadians. In response to the surge of COVID-19 in the People's Republic of China and given the limited epidemiological and viral genomic sequence data available on these cases, the Government of Canada intends to put in place certain temporary health measures for air travellers entering Canada from China.

As of 12:01 a.m. EST on January 5, all air travellers who are two years of age and older, arriving on flights originating from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong or Macao, will need to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result, taken no more than two days before their departure, to the airline prior to boarding. The test could be either a negative molecular (such as a PCR test), or a negative antigen test that has been documented to show that it has been monitored by a state health service or an accredited laboratory or testing provider. Passengers who tested positive more than 10 days before their departure flight, but no more than 90 days, can provide the airline with documentation of their prior positive, in place of a negative test result.

These planned health measures will apply to air travellers, regardless of nationality and vaccination status. They are temporary measures, in place for 30 days, that will be reassessed as more data and evidence becomes available. Airlines must receive the negative COVID-19 test result, or documentation of a positive test result taken within the prior 10-90 days, before the traveller boards the plane, otherwise the traveller will be denied boarding.

Further, when arriving at Primary Inspection Kiosks and eGates, or when making a customs declaration using the optional Advance CBSA Declaration prior to arriving at airports in Canada, travellers will be asked if they have travelled to the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong or Macao in the last 10 days. If they have, Canada Border Services Agency Officers will provide them with additional public health information on transmission of COVID-19, personal protective measures and what to do if they develop symptoms of COVID-19. This applies to air travellers only, not to those arriving by land.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is putting in place a pilot

The price of buying a home in Ontario dropped from its lofty heights during the past year, and the question for 2023 is whether the downward trend will continue.

The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) benchmark price of a home in Ontario - a measure that combines sale prices of condominiums, attached and detached houses across all markets in the province - peaked at \$1.08 million in March of 2022.

That was a staggering 64 per cent leap in just two years, from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CREA's benchmark figure for Ontario has since fallen by nearly 20 per cent, but even that sharp decline only takes prices back to the level they were at in September of 2021.

How much lower will home prices in this province go? With the number of homes bought and sold monthly now lower than it's been per capita since the mid-1990s, when will the real estate market start to pick up again?

CBC News surveyed real estate experts and analyzed published forecasts to give you this preview of the Ontario housing market for 2023.

Overall, real estate analysts generally expect home prices to continue to fall, but not a lot further than they already have.

Rishi Sondhi, of TD Economics, forecasts prices in Ontario will decline through early 2023 but bottom out in the second half of the year.

"We are expecting further downside (to prices) but less relative to what we've seen so far," said Sondhi in an interview.

"We think that the bulk of the correction... is behind us."

That partly because there are some

## Where Ontario's housing market is headed in 2023

do not raise rates, that will give more confidence to potential buyers.

Volume of listings expected to remain low

"We are in what I call 'even-stevens times' at the moment," said Ostlund in an interview.

"On the one hand, we've got more affordable home prices than we've seen in the last couple of years. But on the other hand, we have the continued rising interest rates that are affecting buyers' ability to qualify for the mortgage amount they need."

Real estate analysts generally believe the volume of listings and sales in Ontario will remain low for some time to come.

"People really don't want to list their homes when sales and prices are falling, for obvious reasons, and so far, that factor is sort of winning out and keeping supply relatively subdued," said Sondhi.

Every month since June, home sales numbers in the Greater Toronto Area have been at their absolute lowest in more than a decade - with the exception of the lockdown-affected period in the spring of 2020.

"Sharply higher interest rates and the considerable loss of affordability continue to challenge buyers. And we think they will keep the market quiet for some time to come," said RBC economist Robert Hogue in his housing market report in December.

On the price side, Hogue noted that Toronto-area prices have fallen 18 per cent from their peak and said "any further depreciation is likely to be more incremental."

There are also signs that the recently rapid pace of new home construction is slowing. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) recently warned that in the Greater Toronto Area, the combination of a sharp dip in condo pre-construction sales, higher building costs and higher interest rates "could lead to project cancellations or delays in project launches."

"We're in a very different environment," said Bartlett. "Demand has cooled off, prices have come down, interest rates are higher."

He says this could have an impact on the supply of new housing coming on the market in the latter half of 2023.

Mark Ostlund, a real estate expert with Bartlett, Ontario's largest credit union, says if the Bank of Canada is

# THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING?



**Seller's**  
 List your Home For Only

**\$999**

\* some conditions Apply  
 (2.5% Extra for the co-operating brokerage)

**Buyer's**  
 Get the **1%** Cash Back

Call Us Before Selling or Buying Your Home  
 This will Save you Thousands of \$\$\$\$



Call: **Azfar Amin**  
 Sale Representative

**416-858-5114**





## Here's a look at what's going to cost you more, and less, in 2023

There was no shortage of economic uncertainty over the last year. Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted global fuel supplies and caused gas prices to reach record levels. The Bank of Canada's aggressive interest rate hikes rattled mortgage rates for Canadian consumers. And inflation remained an underlying theme of concern.

As Canadians worry about affording the costs of feeding their families, living under a roof and driving their vehicles, they look toward a new year, hoping for financial relief.

Here's a look at what things will cost in 2023.

**GAS**  
Despite lower gas prices offering much-needed relief during the holidays, Canadian pump owners soared to record heights in 2022. One industry analyst predicts the cost of gas will rise yet again in the new year.

Tim McTeague, the president of Canadians for Affordable Energy, told CP24.com Canadians could see the average price of a litre of gasoline jump to \$2 again.

"Count on it," he said. McTeague said that the relief of gas

stations in recent weeks will be short-lived, warning that gas prices will begin rising later in January - with \$2 a litre becoming an average price in Ontario and other provinces.

"We had a pretty good run in December," he said. "The world got very nervous about rising interest rates, demand destruction, and COVID lockdowns in China. And all those played very heavily towards keeping prices in check and pushing them down," McTeague said.

"Colder weather is going to put pressure on diesel, and natural gas, which in turn will put pressure on oil and ultimately on gasoline prices. And that could start to emerge by the second or third week of January," he added.

He said that, by the end of April, prices could be back to just under \$2 a litre, with factors such as the federal carbon tax increasing that month.

According to data from Statistics Canada, the average price for regular fuel in Canada was \$1.31 a litre this time last year, when driving trends were much lower as Canadians wrestled with the spread of Omicron.

As demand increases, experts say

supply limits will cause prices to keep rising.

**FOOD**  
Food prices in Canada also likely won't see much improvement. According to the latest Food Price report from Dalhousie University, grocery costs are projected to see up to seven per cent more in 2023.

The report anticipates that a family of four will have an annual food expenditure of up to \$16,288.41, "an increase of up to \$1,055.60 over the total annual cost in 2022."

"We were hoping to have better news for Canadians, given the difficulties experienced in 2022, but our models tell us a different story," the report said.

It noted the war in Ukraine plays a large role in rising food costs - a result of disruptions in three major commodities: wheat, sunflower oil, and fertilizers. The last of those plays a large role in lower crop production on Canadian soil, driving an estimated increase of six to eight per cent in costs this year.

The report explained that limits in wheat and sunflower oil also largely contribute to supply falling to meet

demand, which will continue to be a problem as Western sanctions block Russian exports.

**REAL ESTATE**  
There is some good news for Canadians, however, and it's in housing affordability, as experts anticipate a continued correction trend, which has been sustained since the summer of 2022.

"Sales and prices are contracting particularly sharply in Ontario and British Columbia," an August economic viewpoint report by Desjardins noted.

"At the national level, we expect a roughly 23 per cent decline in the average home price between February 2022 and December 2023," it said.

"And despite the accelerated pace of decline, we remain of the view that home prices will end 2023 above their pre-pandemic levels nationally and in each province."

According to a TD Bank report, the average price of a home in Canada could drop between 20 and 25 per cent from the first quarter of 2023.

Data released by the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) showed average prices reached \$629,971 in July, which is a five per cent fall from \$662,924 the previous year. This amounted to a three-per-cent drop from June.

"I think we've learned that there's still a lot more to learn."

How does a country determine if a virus is endemic?

An endemic virus refers to the "constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in a population within a geographic area," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

But making the official designation of a virus as endemic is not necessarily a scientific endeavour, but rather is more "political" and can vary, says an epidemiologist at the University of Ottawa.

"There is not a set of criteria that we can use to define endemicity," she said.

"It is very different from defining a pandemic."

Infectious disease specialist Dr. Isaac Bogoch agreed, saying the official designation of a virus as endemic in a country is "not all scientific."

"A lot of it is based on politics, on perception, and different places might come up with different definitions," he said.

"I don't know how globally we're

## Will 2023 be the year COVID-19 becomes endemic in Canada? Experts weigh in

As Canadians close the door to 2022 and look ahead to the new year, many may be hopeful they can also look forward to good news when it comes to COVID-19.

But will 2023 be the year the emergency phase of the pandemic is declared over and that Canada recognizes the virus as endemic?

It turns out, declaring or deciding that a virus is endemic is not a straightforward or clearly-defined process.

But if such a declaration is made in Canada in the coming year, some infectious diseases experts say they are concerned about how this could affect people's attitudes and behaviours regarding the virus.

While the definition of COVID-19 endemicity may be unclear, SARS-CoV-2 has proven it is capable of presenting new surprises and challenges that can have significant impacts on the health of Canadians and the operation of health-care systems across the country, says Dr. Raymond Doonan, epidemiologist and associate professor at the University of Ottawa.

"I think we've learned that there's still a lot more to learn."

How does a country determine if a virus is endemic?

An endemic virus refers to the "constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in a population within a geographic area," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

But making the official designation of a virus as endemic is not necessarily a scientific endeavour, but rather is more "political" and can vary, says an epidemiologist at the University of Ottawa.

"There is not a set of criteria that we can use to define endemicity," she said.

"It is very different from defining a pandemic."

Infectious disease specialist Dr. Isaac Bogoch agreed, saying the official designation of a virus as endemic in a country is "not all scientific."

"A lot of it is based on politics, on perception, and different places might come up with different definitions," he said.

"I don't know how globally we're



going to define this, but I do know that it's important that we not bury our head in the sand and ignore that it's there."

The last year has proven the most deadly for the disease in Canada, with over 19,000 deaths recorded to date, according to federal data.

2022 also saw a massive increase in the number of Canadians infected with the virus after the Omicron variant emerged in late 2021 and tore through communities and across the globe.

More than 70 per cent of Canadians have likely been infected with COVID-19 since Omicron arrived, compared to less than five per cent of the population who had contracted COVID-19 before Omicron, according to blood test studies funded by the federal government through the national COVID-19 Immunity Task Force.

In addition, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, told Global News in a year-end interview new federal data also shows about 15 per cent of people in Canada who self-report contracting the virus experience prolonged symptoms.

While the risks of contracting long COVID are still unknown, the high numbers of Canadians who have been infected with the virus coupled with the fact 83 per cent of Canadians have received at least two doses of the vaccine means many people have acquired so-called hybrid immunity, which some studies have shown provides enhanced protection, Tam said.

And while this is good news for Canada, the fact that COVID-19 immunity wanes over time means it's still too early to declare the emergency over, Bogoch said.

"The virus continues to mutate as you do, and we aren't entirely sure if another variant will emerge that might undo some of the good that we've seen happen through vaccination... and hybrid immunity,"

he said.

Doonan said that while it's not yet clear if the virus is endemic, it's important to understand that a disease is endemic is unlikely to change much, Sullivan said.

But she is concerned about the message such a declaration could send to the public.

"It's important to understand that saying that a disease is endemic doesn't mean it is no longer a public health problem, because it is," she said.

Diseases like tuberculosis and malaria are considered endemic in parts of the world where they continue to infect and kill millions of people.

When people talk about Canada moving into an endemic phase of COVID-19, it implies a level of success over the virus, Sullivan said.

"But it is not, because endemic diseases still require policies, still require structures and responses," he said.

"I don't mean we can stop bothering about those responses."

If governments decide to change their messaging to say the virus is endemic, he believes the result could be "problematic."

Doonan echoed these concerns, saying he worries about the way the word endemic is used and the implications it can evoke.

"It seems to be an excuse by policymakers to do nothing just because something is endemic... hands up, we can't do anything about this," he said.

"High levels of endemicity are not good, and there are things we can still do to push those numbers down if we want to."

How COVID-19 might impact Canada and the world in 2023

Health Canada says surveillance indicators, including clinical and wastewater testing, show that SARS-CoV-2 is still circulating across the country and while Canada is past the peak of the last COVID-19 resurgence, "it is too soon to let our guard down."

For the last several months, WHO officials have been urging countries to beef up tracking, testing and

surgeoning of COVID-19, following a marked decline in surveillance measures as public health restrictions have been relaxed worldwide.

WHO has even added caveats to its weekly epidemiological reports on global COVID-19 circulation and case numbers, noting that any trends "should be interpreted with due consideration of the limitations of the COVID-19 surveillance systems."

Bogoch says this drop in surveillance and data collection is "problematic" and a "major issue" in Canada and around the world.

"The less data we have, we're wandering blindly into who knows what, and that can only harm us," he said.

How declaring COVID-19 endemic could affect responses to the virus

Given that virtually all former public health restrictions have been lifted across Canada, an official declaration of COVID-19 being endemic is unlikely to change much, Sullivan said.

But she is concerned about the message such a declaration could send to the public.

"It's important to understand that saying that a disease is endemic doesn't mean it is no longer a public health problem, because it is," she said.

Diseases like tuberculosis and malaria are considered endemic in parts of the world where they continue to infect and kill millions of people.

When people talk about Canada moving into an endemic phase of COVID-19, it implies a level of success over the virus, Sullivan said.

"But it is not, because endemic diseases still require policies, still require structures and responses," he said.

"I don't mean we can stop bothering about those responses."

If governments decide to change their messaging to say the virus is endemic, he believes the result could be "problematic."

Doonan echoed these concerns, saying he worries about the way the word endemic is used and the implications it can evoke.

"It seems to be an excuse by policymakers to do nothing just because something is endemic... hands up, we can't do anything about this," he said.

"High levels of endemicity are not good, and there are things we can still do to push those numbers down if we want to."

How COVID-19 might impact Canada and the world in 2023

Health Canada says surveillance indicators, including clinical and wastewater testing, show that SARS-CoV-2 is still circulating across the country and while Canada is past the peak of the last COVID-19 resurgence, "it is too soon to let our guard down."

For the last several months, WHO officials have been urging countries to beef up tracking, testing and

# We are seeking a Live-In Caregiver

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


**Responsibilities:**

- Provide routine individualized care to the elderly
- Monitor and report changes in patient health status
- Provide personal care, such as bathing and dressing patients
- Provide specialized healthcare such as administering medication and changing bandages
- Teach family members ways to care for patient

**Qualifications:**

- Experience in home health, or other related fields
- Positive and patient demeanor
- Ability to build rapport with others
- Ability to handle physical workload
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

**Please contact Umar Farooq at 416-529-4856 for more information.**



dentistrywithcaretoronto.ca  
416 539 9887 smilecitydental17@gmail.com

## Dentistry With Care

**FREE SPECIFIED DENTAL TREATMENT Paid by the Government**

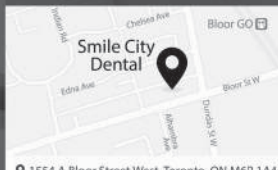
**Dr. AKBAR CHANG, D.D.S.**  
**Dr. ANIL TEJANI, D.M.D.**

We have over 20yrs of experience working with:

- Social Assistance Programs
- Refugee Programs
- Welfare
- ODSP
- First Nations
- Healthy Smiles Ontario Program
- Low Income Families
- Private Insurance Benefits

Multilingual staff and dentist — we speak:

Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Hungarian, Korean, Portuguese, Sindhi, Sinhala, Spanish, Tamil, and Urdu.



1554 A Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M6P 1A4

CALL: (416) 539 9887 FOR AN APPOINTMENT Emergencies are seen on the same day!

# WORLDWIDE ISLAMIC MARRIAGE BUREAU

میرٹل خان 25 برسوں سے Matrimonial Services کی وجہ سے Toronto میں اپنی ایک شناخت رکھتی ہیں۔ سچوں کیلئے رشتہ چاہتے ہوں یا اپنے لیے زیادہ تر مزہ ہو۔ یہ وہوں باطلاق کی شہدہ یا شہدک ان سے رابطہ کریں

905-568-5222 نکاح کیلئے نکاح خواں کا بندوبست بھی ہے

محمد علی (انجینئر) اور صوفیہ دین کو شادی کی مبارکباد

Mon-Fri.... 10AM to 8PM

Sat ..... 11AM to 6PM

Sun ..... 3PM to 8PM

www.islamicmarriagebureau.com



## Orangenow Media

We Are Here! We Create and Deliver Quality Videos

- TV Commercials
- TV Shows
- Promotional Videos
- Music Videos
- Product Demos
- Cinematography
- Events Videos and Coverage

Contact :  
Babar Syed : 416-300-1266  
Fahim Khan: 647-786-3546  
Office : 905-270-0144  
www.angenenow.ca







## Canadians are angry because 'they're hurting,' Conservative leader says

While arguing for more civility in politics, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre also called on elected officials Friday to explore the reasons why Canadians feel so angry in today's political climate.

Speaking to reporters in Ottawa, Poilievre addressed a recent piece by Erin O'Toole posted to the publishing website Substack, in which the former Conservative leader called the "P\*\*\* Trudeau" Regs "the very antithesis of what it means to be conservative."



Poilievre went on to reference a case at the Mississauga Food Bank in Ontario, where a client asked about medical assistance in dying because of the poverty they were living through. He also pointed to the cost of home ownership and opioid addiction as other examples of how Canadians are struggling, adding that in his nearly two decades in politics he has "never seen so much hurt and so much pain and suffering in our population."

"So sure, let's tell people to be more civil. But let's as political leaders, let's actually try to solve the problems that have upset and angered and hurt people so badly," Poilievre said. "It is our job to turn that hurt into hope, to transform it into something better."

In the piece, which he posted on Thursday, O'Toole called the

"proliferation" of political displays such as the "P\*\*\* Trudeau" Regs "a sign that we are slowly becoming desensitized to political stunts and aggressive rhetoric whether it comes from the left or right."

"In fact, the extremes appear to be playing off one another as they frame the debate around the motivations of political leaders. The extreme left claimed (former prime minister) Stephen Harper was destroying Canada and the extreme right claimed (Prime Minister) Justin Trudeau is a traitor," O'Toole says.

"These radical positions may seem outlandish to the majority of Canadians, but unfortunately, extreme views get more amplification and often drown out more moderate views."

O'Toole, the MP for Durham, Ont., resigned as leader of the Conservative Party of Canada in February after a majority of his caucus voted to remove him.

Liedt O'Toole, the Conservatives earned the most votes in the 2021 federal election but failed to win a majority of seats, with a net loss of two ridings. The Liberals would go on to form a minority government.

O'Toole's removal as leader came amid the trucker convoy rally in Ottawa that saw weeks of protests against vaccine mandates and COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Abmel Hassan said in a press release issued on Dec. 21. "Homes are meant to be lived in, a place where families can lay down roots, create memories and build a life together."

Housing affordability continues to be a challenge in Canada. Although average home prices have dropped in recent months, an assessment published by the Parliamentary Budget Office in September shows the average cost of a house is 67 per cent more than what the average Canadian household can afford.

A separate report published by ReMax in September also points to a housing supply crisis in major Canadian metropolitan areas. By limiting foreign investor activity among residential properties, market watchers expect the ban will create new buying opportunities for Canadians by opening up supply.

Despite this, statistics from the CMHC released in 2017 show foreign buyers owned a small percentage of residential properties in different Canadian cities. Additionally, real estate experts have offered mixed reactions to the regulations when it comes to the impact they will have on Canada's housing market.

## More money is a must, but health-care delivery also needs a major rethink, doctors say

As the premiers and the federal government continue to battle over health-care funding, leading doctors and experts say that while more government money is needed, the way health care is delivered in Canada also needs to change.

The issue is dominating the national conversation now as patients find themselves let down by a shortage of doctors and nurses, overwhelmed pediatric hospitals and a backlog in necessary but elective surgeries.

The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) recently had to accept staffing help from the Canadian Red Cross as it struggles with a surge in hospitalizations caused by respiratory viruses like influenza, RSV and COVID-19.

Alex Munter, CHEO's CEO, said the hospital has just experienced its "busiest May, June, July, September, October and November" in its 50-year history.

The Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary is facing a similar situation. It let up a heated trailer next to its emergency room as it continues to operate beyond 100 per cent capacity.

"We are seeing a greater number of children significantly unwell, requiring hospitalization at a given time in a short period, than we have probably ever seen before," said Dr. Stephen Freedman, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Calgary.

"Our biggest challenge in our emergency right now in Calgary is often space to see kids. We've started triaging, but that's not ideal for them to move to. So they're stuck in the emergency department for 24, 36 hours."

Experts say that hospitals and family practices in Canada were built to operate at almost full capacity all the time. When the system experiences spikes in need, doctors and nurses simply work longer hours to meet the demand. But the system was operating over peak capacity for a long time during the pandemic - and doctors and nurses started burning out.

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) surveyed its members and found 53 per cent of doctors were reporting burnout in 2021, compared to 30 per cent in 2017. A similar survey of 5,200 nurses by the



Registered Nurses Association of Ontario found more than 75 per cent of nurses qualified as burnt-out in 2021.

"It is like driving around with only \$5 in the gas tank, knowing that winter is here, knowing that a day that's minus 30 is just around the corner, but then not changing the approach and idling and then running out of gas," said CMA president Dr. Aikta Lafontaine.

Dr. Lafontaine said that if doctors and nurses continue to burn out on the job, the system will deteriorate further.

Canada has a well-documented shortage of doctors and nurses - a problem made worse, doctors say, by the increasing administrative burden they face.

The CMA says family physicians work an average of about 52 hours a week, but only spend 36 hours caring for patients. The rest of their time is taken up by administration and other non-medical tasks.

The same is true of other doctors. Medical residents work about 66 hours a week but see patients for 48. Specialists work more than 53 hours a week but see patients for just 36. Surgeons work almost 62 hours a week and only see patients for about 46.

"It has nothing to do with their individual resiliency or high capacity or compassion or commitment to patient care, but it's because we find ourselves in a health-care system that's broken," said Dr. Rose Zacharias, president of the Ontario Medical Association.

Dr. Zacharias said the administrative burden has "grown astronomically," extending beyond

paperwork to arguing for beds in hospitals and arranging emergency transfers.

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions says its members are similarly streamlined into administrative tasks that require them to manage staff, arrange transfers, fill out reports and even perform some cleaning duties.

"The reason why we're in the situation that we're in, I think, is because over the past couple of decades we've been really focused on cost-cutting as a solution to our health-care problems," said Dr. Lafontaine.

"Provincial and territorial governments have implemented approaches that have really focused on the cost per volume of procedures and appointments and... as a result we've lost a lot of the bandwidth that we used to have when it came to spikes in demand."

A very political debate While these problems persist, the debate between the premiers and the federal government has been largely about money.

Canada's premiers say the federal government is only paying 22 per cent of the cost of providing health care. They want that boosted to 35 per cent - an increase of \$28 billion to the \$45.2 billion Canada Health Transfer (CHT) starting this year - and for the CHT to increase by six per cent annually after that.

The federal government said that while the CHT only covers 22 per cent of health-care costs, taxation powers transferred to the provinces in 1977 to pay for health care - and funding for things like mental health services, home care and long-term

care - bring the federal government's share to a much higher 35.5 per cent. Federal Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos said he is willing to bring more money into the system - but only if the provinces agree to system reforms to improve outcomes.

Doctors and administrators working in the health-care system say that reform is essential if any new money is going to improve delivery - and they have plenty of ideas about the changes that need to be made.

Relieving the administrative burden The addition of administrative staff specifically tasked with non-medical responsibilities could help, but that won't happen without long-term, predictable funding that would come from a new health deal between the provinces and the federal government, Munter said.

"Five years ago we could put up a one-year contract, people would take it and then hope to be able to find a full-time job after. That's not possible anymore," he said. "We'll get zero applicants for those kinds of positions."

"We have to hire people permanently. And... a lot of the funding that comes and goes into the health system is temporary money." The federal government and the provinces have agreed to streamline how health information is shared in Canada, but doctors say that effort needs to speed up to take some of the administrative burden off doctors and nurses.

"Our digital integration is very poor," said Dr. Zacharias. "Doctors document inside software that doesn't communicate with hospital software, or pharmacist software, or COVID vaccination software."

Experts say that while it takes years to reverse a shortage of doctors and nurses, quickly recognizing the foreign credentials of doctors and nurses already living in Canada would boost their numbers now without poaching health-care workers from abroad.

"We do have hundreds of doctors here in Ontario that have trained elsewhere that don't have a Canadian license," said Dr. Zacharias. "If we were able to... put these physicians through those three months of a practice-ready assessment... we could see hundreds of doctors in the system by the spring."

Fixing the problem in the longer term is harder because it takes about five to 10 years to train a doctor in Canada. That timeline demands long-term, predictable funding, doctors say.

## Who's exempt from Canada's foreign homebuyers ban? Here's what you need to know

Canada's ban on foreign homebuyers is now in effect, barring commercial enterprises and individuals outside of Canada from buying residential properties in the country. Passed by Parliament in June of last year, the ban officially began on Jan. 1 and will remain in place for two years.

High levels of demand for housing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic prompted average home prices to skyrocket, hitting a national peak of \$816,720 in February 2022. Competition within Canadian housing markets also reached new levels, with properties often receiving multiple offers and buyers submitting purchase agreements with few terms and conditions, leading them to assume more risk.

Although average home prices in Canada have since dropped, housing affordability remains a concern among many Canadians. Fueling some of

this anxiety are rising interest rates. Those with variable-rate mortgages are already paying hundreds more per month, compared to early last year. Those with fixed-rate mortgages, who have yet to renew, also say they are "terrified" of raising interest rates.

As the foreign homebuyers ban takes effect in Canada, here's what you need to know about the regulations.

According to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, a residential property includes detached homes or similar buildings, as well as semi-detached houses, rowhouse units, residential condominium units and other similar premises.

The legislation applies to residential properties that are located in a census metropolitan area or a census agglomeration, says the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). A census

metropolitan area has a total population of at least 100,000 people, with at least 50,000 living in its core, while a census agglomeration has a core population of at least 10,000 people. The regulations also apply to vacant land that does not have any livable dwellings but is zoned for residential or mixed use.

Homes in municipalities with a core population of less than 10,000 are not subject to the ban, nor are recreational properties such as cottages and lake houses. Additionally, the law does not explicitly ban the purchase of larger buildings with multiple units.

**WHY IS THE BAN IN EFFECT?** According to the CMHC, the legislation aims to "make homes more affordable" for those living in Canada by cracking down on foreign investment.

"Homes should not be commodities," Housing Minister

**HAWKS**  
TRAVEL & TOURS LIMITED  
A NAME YOU CAN TRUST

**SPECIAL DISCOUNT**

**FLY TO PAKISTAN** for spring break, Ramadan and Eid

\*Fares starting from

**CAD 1,250/-**  
subject to availability

**TORONTO TO KARACHI (OUTBOUND):**  
04TH MAR 2020 - 31ST MAY 2020.

**TORONTO TO ISLAMABAD AND LAHORE (OUTBOUND):**  
01ST APR 2020 - 31ST MAY 2020.

For Booking & Details  
**CALL NOW: 905 615 1616**

info@hawkstravel.com  
WWW.HAWKSTRAVEL.COM

# GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH PAKISTAN POST

Advertise your Business on Pakistan's Best Channels

Advertisement Rates Starts From

# \$99

/Month

Special Offer on Canadian Base Pakistani Show on Geo TV

and in the Best Pakistani Newspaper in Canada

We have Best Rates for all Indian and Pakistani TV, Radio and Newspapers

Customize your Advertisement Package according to your Budget

For Complete Advertisement Solution for your Business

Contact Now  
**Azfar Amin**

**PH: 416 858 5114**  
Email: azfar@pakistanpostcanada.com