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## Ontario study finds 'circular hockey hub' vaccine clinic most efficient model

Mass immunization clinics in which vaccinators and volunteers move around a circular set-up of chairs - with clients staying seated - was by far the most efficient model in an Ontario government study comparing different sites.



The Ministry of Health study, obtained by The Canadian Press through a freedom-of-information request, looked at nine different mass vaccination clinics in the last six months of 2021 with an eye to supporting possible future large-scale vaccine campaigns.

The traditional, drive-through and "circular hockey hub" models all had different strengths and limitations, but the circular hockey hub clinic was able to vaccinate the highest number of people per staff member, and clients spent the shortest amount of time there, the study found.

The hockey hub model sees the client sit in one chair and have staff and volunteers come by to complete registration, medical screening, vaccination and observation time all in the same place.

One graphic in the study breaks down the maximum number of doses per vaccinator per hour. The circular hockey hub model saw 50 doses per hour, while the traditional models achieved 13 doses per hour, and the drive-through site saw seven doses per hour.

As well, clients at the circular hockey hub clinic spent a total of five minutes from entrance to getting vaccinated, where the process took 11.5 minutes at the traditional clinic and nearly 14 minutes at the drive-through sites.

The circular hockey hub clinic was run by the Scarborough Health Network, and Dr. Amir JanMohamed, a cardiologist who helped design the model, said if they had to run a mass vaccination clinic again, he would definitely use it again.

"Hopefully we don't have another major outbreak (and) we need to do vaccines," he said in an interview.

"But if we are going to do things, then it behooves us - and this is a motto or modus operandi we have in Scarborough - is to innovate and be efficient and be responsible users of resources."

JanMohamed said he looked at a non-circular hockey hub model that another hospital was using, with chairs arranged in lines and rows. There were inefficiencies, he said, in the vaccinators having to walk along a line of 15 chairs spaced six feet apart to get back to the front.

By making the model circular, it would be faster and less tiring for staff, JanMohamed said.

When the COVID-19 booster campaign was first rolling out, in December 2021 and January 2022, a natural experiment presented itself, he said. The hospital was planning a clinic at an Israeli community center and there were two spaces in which they could do vaccinations, one a traditional hall, the other a rotunda.

"We said, 'Can we put circular models in the rotunda and the square models in the in the social hall, and can you do head to head comparison?'" JanMohamed said.

"The best measure is a head-to-head comparison where there are no other changes except for the way (vaccinators and staff) move around."

In the rotunda, four teams delivered 653 vaccines, while in the hall five teams delivered 555 vaccines, he said.

"The proof of the pudding to me was watching people sit in the chairs after getting vaccinated, texting and talking to their friends and family to say, 'They guys, guess what, you can come here and I was in the chair in X number of minutes, and I'm leaving in 10 minutes. Do you want a vaccination?' Come here now," JanMohamed said.

## Iran leader: Those who poisoned schoolgirls deserve death

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - Iran's supreme leader said Monday that if a series of suspected poisonings at girls' schools are proven to be deliberate the culprits should be sentenced to death for committing "unforgivable crimes."

It was the first time Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all matters of state, has spoken publicly about the suspected poisonings, which began late last year and have sickened hundreds of children.

Iranian officials only acknowledged them in recent weeks and have provided no details on who they believe behind the attacks or what chemicals - if any - have been used. Unlike neighboring Afghanistan, Iran has no history of religious extremists targeting women's education.

"If the poisoning of students is proven, those behind this crime should be sentenced to capital punishment and there will be no amnesty for them," Khamenei said, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

Authorities have acknowledged suspected attacks at more than 50 schools across 21 of Iran's 30 provinces since November.

Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said over the weekend that "suspicious samples" had been gathered by investigators, without elaborating. He called on the public to remain calm and accused unnamed enemies of inciting fear to undermine the Islamic Republic.

Vahidi said at least 52 schools had been affected by suspected poisonings, while Iranian media reports have put the number of schools at over 60. At least one boy's school reportedly has been affected.

Videos of upset parents and schoolgirls in emergency rooms with IVs in their arms have fueled social media.

Iran has imposed stringent restrictions on independent media since the outbreak of nationwide protests in September, making it difficult to determine the nature and scope of the suspected poisonings.

On Monday, Iranian media reported that authorities arrested a Qom-based journalist, Ali Pourtabatabaei, who had been regularly reporting on the suspected poisonings. The hard-line Khatam newspaper in an editorial had called for the arrests of newspaper publishers who printed articles on the crisis critical of Iran's theocracy.

The protests were sparked by the death of a young woman who had been detained by morality police for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code. Religious hard-liners in Iran have been known to attack women they perceive as dressing immodestly in public. But even at the height of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, women and girls continued attending schools and universities.

## Serial killer Dellen Millard found guilty of assault in prison stabbing

Serial killer Dellen Millard has been found guilty of assault causing bodily harm in connection with a stabbing at the prison where he's serving three murder convictions.

Millard appeared by video in Napanee's Ontario Court of Justice from the Millhaven Institution on Monday morning.

He is currently serving three first-degree murder convictions for the deaths of his father Wayne Millard, Tim Bosma from Hamilton, and Laura Babcock from Toronto.

Millard's most recent charge is in connection with a fight at Millhaven on July 11, 2021. He was charged along with a man named Clayton Sumner with assault causing bodily harm on Sean Trites, a fellow inmate.

Court heard the stabbing left Trites with his shirt torn and blood-soaked, cuts to his neck and left shoulder and a fracture wound to his abdomen.

A doctor who saw Trites the next day, reopening his chest to treat fresh bleeding around his heart, testified the injury was potentially life-threatening.

Justice Geoffrey Griffin told the court, Millard represented himself in trial. Both Millard and Sumner were also charged with possession of a "5.5-inch, jail-made metal stabbing weapon" for the purpose of committing an offence, said the judge.

Sumner entered a guilty plea for the assault charge, but Millard pleaded not guilty to both charges.

During the trial, the Crown acknowledged there was insufficient evidence for the possession of a weapon charge for Millard, who was found not guilty and it was dismissed, Griffin said.

Millard represented himself in the matter and called several witnesses,



including Trites, who the judge said testified Millard had saved his life that day.

However, in his decision, Griffin noted Trites was very reluctant to testify, initially refusing to leave his cell, and would not submit to cross-examination by the Crown.

"Hopefully everything works out for you, brother," the judge recalled Trites saying to Millard.

Griffin added that because Trites would not take questions from the Crown he was unable to assess the inmate's credibility and unable to attach any significant weight to his evidence.

Millard, whose brown hair is cut medium-length except for a thin ponytail that was draped over his right shoulder, slowly shook his head as the judge read on.

Griffin pointed to a video camera that captured much of violent portion of the fight, which lasted less than three minutes.

The judge said he watched the footage numerous times, slowing it down and zooming in at critical points to understand what had happened.

While the video makes it clear Sumner is the person who stabbed Trites, it also shows Millard was more than an observer, according to Griffin.

He said the video shows Millard putting his arm on Trites' back and pushing him toward Sumner, before using both arms and standing behind him as he couldn't retreat.

The judge said the footage also shows Millard "controlling Mr. Trites's movement as Mr. Sumner continues the punch-stab motions to Mr. Trites's torso area."

"I am satisfied beyond any reasonable doubt that when Dellen Millard got behind Mr. Sean Trites while Mr. Clayton Sumner was attacking - and Mr. Millard with his arm took control of Mr. Trites's body, thereby compromising Mr. Trites's ability to move away from the attacking Mr. Sumner with his weapon, that Mr. Millard was party to the offence of aiding Mr. Sumner in the assault causing bodily harm," Griffin read from his decision.

Sentencing for the assault.

In a statement to CBC a spokesperson for the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) confirmed an inmate had been assaulted at the penitentiary, but declined to share the identities of those involved, citing privacy.

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## Suicide bombing in southwestern Pakistan kills 10 policemen



A suicide bomber riding on a motorcycle rammed into a police truck in Pakistan's northwestern province, killing at least 10 policemen and wounding 12 officers in one of the deadliest attacks on security forces in recent months, authorities said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, which took place on a bridge in the district of Sibi in Balochistan province, but Baluch separatist and local militancy have been blamed for previous such attacks.

Mahmood Notomzi, a local police chief, said the officers were on a routine patrol when the attack happened, initially killing nine. The casualties were taken to a nearby hospital, where one of the critically wounded police man later died, he added. Sibi is about 150 kilometers (90 miles) east of Quetta, the provincial capital.

Notomzi said the officers who came under attack were deployed last week to Sibi, where an annual cultural festival was held amid tight security.

An army helicopter was sent to evacuate the seriously wounded to a hospital in Quetta, where better health facilities are available.

Last year, a suicide bomber from the extremist Islamic State group targeted President Asif Ali Zardari's security convoy when he attended the Sibi festival. Ali was far away from the site of the bombing, which killed five troops. IS militants later claimed responsibility for that attack.

The festival has been celebrated for several centuries to mark the advent of

sunrise.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif condemned the attack. In a statement, he expressed his condolences to the families of those killed and ordered health officials to provide the best medical care for the wounded policemen. He said the attack was part of nefarious enemy plans to destabilize Pakistan and vowed to defeat terrorism.

Abdul Qudous Bizenjo, the top elected official in Balochistan, also denounced the bombing.

"The terrorists who are carrying out such attacks are the enemy of Pakistan," he said, adding that they will not shake the resolve of the country's police.

Balochistan has long struggled with a low-level insurgency by the Balochistan Liberation Army and other small separatist groups demanding independence from the central government in Islamabad.

Authorities claim to have quelled the insurgency but violence has persisted. The province has also seen attacks by militants from both the Pakistani Taliban and the Islamic State group.

## TD Bank customer lost \$480 after e-transfer cancelled - despite having auto deposit

Christine Mason of Edmonton says she was pleased last September when someone wanted to buy the power tools she'd advertised on Kijiji - a cordless grinder, charger and two batteries.

A man who said his name was Steve said he'd hand over after work and would pay \$480 by e-transfer, since he didn't carry a lot of cash.

"It sounded plausible to me," said Mason. "He was in the trades and I thought, OK, that's fine."

After inspecting the tools, "Steve" opened a banking app on his phone.

Mason entered her email, watched him type in a \$480 but "bom." She then received a confirmation number, indicating the transaction was done.

She'd set up her TD Bank account with auto deposit - a feature designed to protect against the risk of fraudsters intercepting funds, because money is directly deposited into an account, with no additional steps needed, such as answering a security question.

Auto Deposit is advertised as being "fast" and "secure." Mason added it specifically for the e-transfers she'd get selling items online, so she was confident the money would soon show up.

It never did.

A Go Public test has since found that some e-transfers can be cancelled, even when the recipient has auto deposit, depending on what financial institution the money is sent from.

A software engineer who's worked in fintech and banking says the Interac system - used for e-transfers in Canada - isn't bulletproof.

"It's good for people to know that there's risk involved," said Mattias Eyrann, who's studied how money gets transferred from one financial institution to another.

"You're not really protected until you've seen that money settle inside your account by checking your balance."

That's not how e-transfers are promoted online by the big five banks - Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Royal Bank, Scotiabank and TD.

All of them call e-transfers "safe" and "secure," with no mention of the possibility the sender might stop the transaction even after the transfer appears to have been completed.

After "Steve" drove away with the



tools, Mason checked the banking app on her phone, expecting the notification of deposit to show up any minute.

"I was checking constantly," she said. "It kept me up all night."

By morning there was still no notification, no money in her account. So she called TD.

She says she was told \$480 had indeed been earmarked for her account shortly after 9 p.m., but "the transaction was cancelled about 90 minutes later."

The customer service rep also said the sender's first name was actually Riley, not Steve, but couldn't say where he banked, for privacy reasons.

Mason says she was repeatedly put on hold and then told to go through the bank's fraud department. "And then the conversation was cut off."

At her branch, she was told to call a toll-free customer service number and that's when she learned something surprising.

She says, on the call, a manager told her that e-transfers - even to accounts with auto deposit - can sometimes be cancelled, even up to 24 hours later.

"I was so shocked," said Mason. "Even when you're on hold on the phone [with TD] it will say, 'Consider doing auto-deposit because it's safe' ... that's what's so frustrating."

She says the manager said TD wasn't the problem - the bank has safety protocols for e-transfers. Once its customers hit "send" on an account that has auto deposit activated, they can't cancel the transaction.

On the other hand, he said the bank has no control over safety protocols at other financial institutions and some allow customers to cancel e-transfers

of the big banks, senders never had an option to cancel it.

Some credit unions, though, allowed senders to cancel for more than half an hour after the e-transfer was sent - even though the notification the sender received indicated it was completed.

The would-be recipient was not informed of the cancellation.

"That is very tricky and something that should not be happening," said Eyrann.

Mason now believes the man who ripped her off must have sent his e-transfer from a credit union.

"People need to know about that," she said. "Close friends of mine, they're shocked."

Eyrann says, generally, the Interac system is fast and efficient, but there's an unenviable field.

E-transfers are "as safe as whatever the sender's financial institution is and the receiver's," he said. "You can't just trust your own bank, right? You have to trust the sender."

A spokesperson for Interac declined an interview request, but in an email Adrienne Vaughan wrote that the length of time for a transaction to complete is not related to the size of a financial institution, or whether it's a bank or credit union.

"It is more related to the fraud checks happening by the sending and receiving financial institutions before the transaction is approved," wrote Vaughan.

"Each bank or credit union makes their own decisions regarding which checks to complete, and therefore how much time might be required."

Since customers generally have no idea that processing times can vary between financial institutions - and that some e-transfers can be outright cancelled - Eyrann says he'd like to see banks and credit unions use more transparent language.

"Show a little warning next to the transaction," he said. "This may take longer than expected and Don't trust that it's there just yet."

Go Public told TD about Mason's experience, and the fact that the auto deposit feature is advertised as fast and secure.

Spokesperson Ashleigh Murphy said in a statement that the bank is looking into how it can update language around its auto deposit feature "to clarify all nuances for our customers."

Mason says she's still going to sell items online but from now on, people will have to pay cash - other than close friends and family, she says she's done accepting transfers.

"Absolutely not," she said. "Because they can pull it back."

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## You could face a \$200 fine as snow removal gets underway in Toronto

Toronto officials are making a last-minute plea for drivers to move their vehicles in order for crews to remove the piles of snow blocking traffic infrastructure.

Up to 30 centimeters of snow fell on the city in under 16 hours over the weekend during a winter storm that caused power outages as well as thunder and lightning.

As a result, the City of Toronto declared a "major snowstorm condition" in an effort to remove snow from the roads.

As of Monday, vehicles are prohibited from parking on designated snow routes to allow crews to remove snow piles that may be restricting traffic flow as well as interfering with parking and transit infrastructure.

The snow will be collected and transported to one of four dumping areas, officials said.

"Residents who have vehicles parked on designated snow routes are asked to move their vehicles as soon as possible," Barbara Gray, General



Manager of Transportation Services with the City of Toronto, told reporters on Monday morning. "Service requests for snow-related issues can be made on the 311 Toronto mobile app on the city's website."

"We will do our absolute best to respond to and resolve all snow-related 311 service requests as quickly as possible," Vincent Siferazza, director of operations and maintenance of transportation for the City of Toronto, said he expected the snow removal process to begin Monday evening.

"This evening, we'll be removing snow on Bloor Street and Danforth," he said. "We're also going to be removing snow on bridge decks,

that's where you have sidewalks, which may have been covered with snow, and there's no boulevard or road allowance where we can store the snow."

Under a major snowstorm condition, vehicles parked on one of the 150 areas across Toronto designated as "snow routes" could be towed and the drivers could be subject to a fine of up to \$200.

The city has put up signs on all snow routes, but a full list of the streets impacted can be found on their website. It includes most downtown roads as well as streetcar routes.

The last time the city performed snow removal after a storm was in January 2022, after a blizzard dropped up to 50 centimeters of snow. The cost of the snow removal was about \$17 million, according to a post-operations report.

Snow removal, which involves the collection of snow and the transportation of it to a dump site, is different from the city's regular process of clearing or plowing the roads.

The weather in Toronto has been milder since Friday, resulting in slushy sidewalks and icy conditions.

Environment Canada is forecasting temperatures of 2 C on Monday, falling like -9 C with the wind chill. On Tuesday morning it is expected to feel like -12 C with the wind chill.

truly independent to get to the bottom of it all while containing the parliamentary investigation," he said.

Last Thursday, the members of the procedure and House affairs committee investigating the allegations called for a public inquiry into the matter.

Conservative and Bloc Québécois members of the procedure and House affairs committee voted in favour of an NDP motion that seeks to launch "a national public inquiry into allegations of foreign interference in Canada's democratic system."

Whether one will be launched remains unclear. Liberal MPs on the committee voted against the measure. The government has been under pressure to launch an inquiry after multiple media reports detailed alleged attempts by China to influence Canadian society and elections.

He has suggested the proper place to examine the allegations, including the classified information held by intelligence agencies, is the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, where members are cleared to receive classified information and sworn to secrecy.

Poillievre said Monday both can be done at the same time. "We need a public inquiry that is

along.

"If those are satisfied in another forum, I'm open to that. We say that the public inquiry is the best way to do it, but there might be another way," he said.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has so far resisted calls for a public inquiry, saying Friday there are other procedures underway - including a House of Commons committee's expanded probe into the matter - that are equipped to address the allegations.

The NDP, which is upholding the minority Liberal government through a supply and confidence agreement struck last year, is calling for the government to hold a public inquiry.

The idea also has the backing of the Conservative and Bloc Québécois parties.

Singh said on Monday that right now, only a public inquiry would achieve two objectives his party hopes for: a non-partisan and independent probe, and one that is transparent for the public to follow

## Anything less than a public inquiry on foreign interference is not enough: Poillievre, Singh

Canadians need transparency into allegations of Chinese interference in Canadian elections and society amid calls for a public inquiry, the leaders of the Liberal Conservative and New Democratic parties say.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poillievre and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh made the comments to reporters on Monday as the House of Commons resumes following a two-week hiatus, and as suspected Chinese foreign interference in Canada is expected to be a hot topic this week.

When asked if Conservatives would accept being briefed by security officials regarding the allegations first reported by Global News and the Globe and Mail over recent months, Poillievre said that would be "top."

"What they would do is bring opposition MPs or leaders into a

room, give them some information and then swear them to secrecy so they couldn't ever speak about it again," he said.

"Effectively that would be a trick to try and prevent anyone debating the subject anymore, so no, we're not going to have a situation where Conservatives are told that they have to be quiet about this scandal because they're sworn to secrecy."

The NDP, which is upholding the minority Liberal government through a supply and confidence agreement struck last year, is calling for the government to hold a public inquiry.

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Singh said on Monday that right now, only a public inquiry would achieve two objectives his party hopes for: a non-partisan and independent probe, and one that is transparent for the public to follow

## Ontario Liberals face 'a ton of work' before taking on Doug Ford's PCs in next election

After back-to-back election disasters, Ontario Liberals are acutely aware of how crucial the next campaign will be to their party's political survival.

"Three strikes and you're out, right?" quipped one Liberal organizer during a social event at the party's annual general meeting, held over the weekend in Hamilton.

The 1,500 Liberal members in attendance tried very hard not to project the image of a party licking its wounds from its two worst election results since Confederation.

Much of their optimism is based on a belief that Premier Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative government will be vulnerable the next time Ontario goes to the polls, in 2026.

"After eight years of Doug Ford, Ontario will be looking for change in a way that they probably weren't this last election," said Dan Moulton, a party veteran who works for the public affairs firm Crestview Strategy.

But Moulton says there are no easy answers to the task facing the Liberals over the next three years.

"There's an argument out there that Liberals need to reclaim the left from the NDP, and I'd say that more than anything, we have got to reclaim the centre-left from the Progressive Conservatives," Moulton said in an interview during the party's weekend gathering.

"We're seeing a style of politics come from this government that's not terribly conservative, that occupies the space on the political spectrum that Liberals have long held," he said.

"How do we compete with that? It's a really challenging question."

It's a question that will be debated over the coming months by whichever candidates decide to seek the leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party.

The leadership race hasn't officially begun, but the people who are most seriously exploring a run include:

Yasir Naqvi, the member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre and former Ontario Liberal minister in Kathleen Wynne's government.

Nate Erskine-Smith, the



Liberal MP for the Toronto riding of Beaches-East York.

Three of the eight Liberals with a seat at Queen's Park, all of them rookie MPs: Stephanie Bowman (Don Valley West), Ted Hu (Kingston and the Islands), and Adil Shamji (Don Valley East).

Erskine-Smith also says the party needs to rebuild its volunteer presence in every part of Ontario.

"It's very important that we have generational renewal," said Erskine-Smith in an interview. "I think it's also incredibly important that we make our politics about ideas."

We can't just be the not-Doug-Ford party. We have to stand for something ourselves in a very positive way."

The Ontario Liberals were the last major party in Canada - at provincial or federal levels - to choose its leader by a delegated convention. That meant party members in each riding voted for a slate of delegates, who in turn selected the leader.

That process favours the candidate with the strongest party organizing machinery, and it catapulted Steven Del Duca into the leadership in 2020. That contest wasn't even close.

A broad consensus in hindsight among party members that Del Duca was the wrong choice to take on Ford played no small part in their decision this weekend to change the method for picking the leader. The Ontario Liberals will now run their leadership race on a one-member-one-vote system.

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Giving every member a direct say in the leadership will benefit the party in a variety of ways, said Ashley Casanady, a senior consultant at McMillan Vantage public affairs firm and a Liberal strategist.

"The change provides "more ways to attract people to join the party and get in the leadership will benefit the party in a variety of ways, said Ashley Casanady, a senior consultant at McMillan Vantage public affairs firm and a Liberal strategist."

"In the last election, we actually got more votes than the NDP, but we didn't turn those into seats," she said. "I think it's because we've lost the volunteer base to actually knock doors and turn those votes into elected MPs."

The Liberals attracted 1.1 million votes province-wide, about 8,000 more than the New Democrats, but captured just eight seats in contrast to the NDP's 31.

A central task for the party will be figuring out how to appeal to people in key ridings that voted Liberal in four straight provincial elections from 2003 to 2014, but swung to the PCs under Ford.

Jill Promell was a candidate in one such riding (Mississauga-Streetsville). She says while campaigning last spring, she often heard from voters that they had no sense of what her party really stood for.

"Engagement was very low in our community," Promell said in an interview.

"Our messaging was often disjointed and maybe not hitting on what was most concerning to people," Ted Hu, the Kingston MPP who is considering a leadership run, also says the party needed a clearer message.

One piece of anecdotal evidence that Hu encountered came from his daughter's Grade 6 school project about the parties' platforms during the election campaign last spring.

"I asked her in the fall, 'What did the Conservatives want to do?' And she said, 'Get it done.' Then I said, 'What did the Liberals want to do?' And she said, 'Well, I can't remember.'"

Selwyn Hicks, a longtime municipal politician in Grey County who ran for the Liberals in last year's election, put it this way: "We've got a ton of work to do. A ton of work."

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