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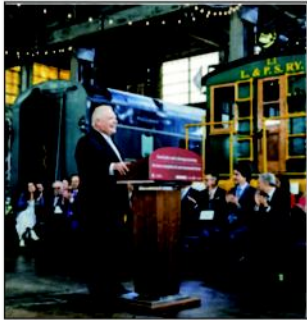
## Volkswagen's New Electric Vehicle Battery Plant Will Create Thousands of New Jobs

ST. THOMAS - From mining critical minerals to building batteries and cars, Ontario and Canada continue to attract historic, transformational investments across the electric vehicle supply chain to secure more good-paying jobs for workers today and for decades to come.

Last month, Ontario and Canada secured a historic investment from Volkswagen, Europe's largest automaker. Volkswagen is investing \$7 billion to establish its first overseas electric vehicle battery manufacturing plant in St. Thomas, Ontario. This is the largest electric vehicle-related investment in Canadian history, signaling a strong vote of confidence in Ontario and Canada's highly-skilled workers, strong economies, and competitive business environments.

Premier Doug Ford and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau were joined today by Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, and the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, François-Philippe Champagne, to highlight this generational deal for St. Thomas, Ontario, and Canada's entire electric vehicle supply chain.

The plant, Volkswagen's largest to date, will create up to 3,000 direct jobs and up to 30,000 indirect jobs. Once complete in 2027, the plant will produce batteries for up to one million



Improvements to roads, highways, utility services, and police and fire services.

electric vehicles per year, bolstering Canada's domestic battery manufacturing capacity to meet the demand for electric vehicles now and into the future. The plant, which will generate about \$200 billion in value, will be the largest manufacturing plant in Canada. Construction is expected to begin next year.

To strengthen and grow St. Thomas and the surrounding communities, Ontario will invest in other important infrastructure projects across the region, including

South Africa's envoy to Ottawa is urging Canada to help broker an end to Russia's war in Ukraine, arguing that sending arms to Kyiv will only prolong a dangerous conflict that is aggravating hunger in developing countries.

"We have all the instruments of human agency to stop this war, but we just simply don't want to," Rieaz Shaik said.

In a wide-ranging interview, he said Russia needs to be held accountable, but urged the Trudeau government to drastically change course on its most central foreign policy issue.

"I just hope they could stop for a moment and reflect [on] how much Canada has contributed to peace in the world. And why throw that away?"

South Africa is among 32 countries that have abstained from United Nations votes calling on Russia to end its invasion of Ukraine.

While Canada and other G7 countries have said they will support Ukraine for as long as it takes, the majority of the world's population lives in countries that have opted against outright condemning Russia for its invasion.

Some of them depend on trade with Russia, while others want good relations with Washington, Moscow and Beijing. Many have voiced contempt for European concerns taking away attention and development dollars from larger, less-governed elsewhere.

Soviet support decades ago for anti-colonial movements also prompts some to voice support for Moscow, even though Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union.

South Africa is ruled by the African National Congress, a political party that grew out of an anti-apartheid organization that had members trained by the Soviet Union in military tactics.

## South Africa envoy urges Ukraine peace talks, says Canada stance on war 'shocking'



Shaik insists South Africa's motives are to defuse the conflict.

"Let me just say it categorically: South Africa is opposed to the invasion of Ukraine. The violation of the UN Charter is unacceptable to us. The territorial integrity of Ukraine must be maintained," he said.

"The only part where we are saying we have an alternative voice is that we do not believe that the solution to these violations lies in war, or counter-war or anything else."

Shaik said the United Nations Security Council must broker a resolution to the conflict, even if it requires a reform of an institution that has largely followed the same rules since 1945 and gives Russia veto powers.

He argued this approach would bear more fruit than Ukraine and its Western allies refusing to undertake peace talks with Moscow until Russia returns all occupied territory.

"If you put an outcome of a negotiation as a requirement to negotiate, then you're not going to have negotiations," he said.

Moscow's concerns should be acknowledged, envoys say.

The ambassador said the world could better acknowledge that Moscow has security interests and make commitments to alleviate its concerns. In exchange, Russia would be subject to agreed-upon mechanisms to ensure it respects Ukraine's borders.

That was the exact idea behind the 2014 and 2015 Minsk ceasefire agreements that he argues both sides didn't respect, but which Ukraine argues left the country vulnerable to further invasion. Russia claimed it could not order operations to respect the deals, despite emboldening these groups.

"If Putin's fear of NATO expansion is making Europe fragile, then remove that fear," Shaik said.

He argued that a much more productive response than having leaders ponder whether Russia is trying to re-establish the Tsar, or if Putin is mentally unstable, as Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly has suggested.

"The only thing that the bogeyman narrative does is create fear. And we must never forget that fear produces cruelty."

Shaik added that any reconciliation process must look at the wrongdoings of both sides. "It is hard to believe that in war, only one side committed atrocities," he said.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has documented mistreatment of Russian prisoners of war, though the reports are far less common than documented abuse at the hands of Russian soldiers, and Kyiv more often follows through with criminal investigations.

South African authorities will have to grapple with whether to enforce an International Criminal Court warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin if he follows through on plans to attend the BRICS Summit - which also includes Brazil, India and China - this August in Johannesburg.

Ottawa has told developing countries that Russia is to blame for driving up living costs and distracting the global community from dealing with climate change.

Canada's ambassador to the UN, Bob Rae, often makes the case that not laying such blame will set a precedent for other countries to violate sovereignty.

"There is no grand conspiracy against Russia. The international community is not anti-Russian. Russia is facing the consequences of its own actions." He told the General Assembly last October, shortly before its latest vote to condemn the invasion.

Incredible northern lights seen in parts of Canada they normally wouldn't be

Canada's sky became a brilliant mosaic of deep purples and vibrant blues and greens on Sunday night.

A severe Level 4 geomagnetic storm caused a radiant show of aurora borealis that could be seen across southern Canada.

According to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), over a billion tons of "superheated magnetized gas," also known as a coronal mass ejection, erupted from the sun on Friday.

The gas travelled at over three million kilometres an hour, arriving to Earth earlier and stronger than the NOAA expected.

Canadians posted photos of the dancing lights: deep magentas in Fredericton, N.B., and light teal greens in Calgary. Even the Greater Toronto Area was able to see some northern lights action.

The next three years are expected to be prime northern lights viewing, according to this website. NASA says that the sun's magnetic cycle "rings up into overdrive" every 11 years, also known as the solar maximum.

"Along the way, changes in the Sun's magnetism produce a greater number of sunspots, more energy and cause solar eruptions of particles," NASA's website says.

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## PSAC strike enters Day 6. Here's what you need to know

One of Canada's largest labour disruptions has entered a sixth day as the union representing thousands of striking public-service workers looks to hammer access to ports.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada says more than 100,000 of its staff remain on strike, some of whom are expected to move their picket lines Monday to strategic locations more likely to have an impact on the federal government.

"We're actually going to be escalating those actions," said Chris Aylward, the union's national president, giving the example of heightened activity at "ports across the country."

Over the weekend, both sides accused each other of obstructing negotiations and being too slow to respond to key developments.

Aylward called on the prime minister to intervene and blasted the government for failing to reach a deal



Two years ago when negotiations began, Fortrier's office said it made a second proposal Saturday that the union had not responded to by late Sunday.

"This screams of the incompetence of Mana Fortrier as the president of the Treasury Board, and her team," he said at a press conference Saturday afternoon.

Still, negotiations continued at a steady clip.

The union president said the Treasury Board had presented an offer on Saturday afternoon, and the union

collective agreement. Meanwhile, the Union of Taxation Employees, a subdivision of the public-service alliance that is separately negotiating a contract for more than 35,000 striking Canada Revenue Agency workers, said it hasn't been at the bargaining table since Tuesday.

Earlier in their negotiations, the CRA offered a wage increase of nine per cent over a three-year period on the recommendations of the third-party Public Interest Commission. But the union has been pushing for a 20.5 per cent increase over the same time frame.

Marc Briere, the national president of the taxation employees' union, says the union is waiting for the Treasury Board to come back with a fair offer and is ready to come back to the bargaining table when that happens.

"There's been close to zero progress over the weekend, and we are very upset," said Briere.

In a statement on Friday, the tax agency said it was calling for the union to return to mediated negotiations in person, but that proposals were still being exchanged on other issues specific to the CRA.

## Poll suggests most Canadians don't want Charles as King



With the formal coronation of King Charles less than two weeks away, a new survey suggests Canada's new monarch could have a tough road ahead when it comes to winning over Canadians - and support for his wife, Camilla, appears even weaker.

Though the May 6 event is likely the first coronation many Canadians will have a chance to watch themselves - the last one was when Charles's mother, Elizabeth II was crowned 70 years ago in 1953 - the number of Canadians who say they're looking forward to watching the event is small.

A new poll from the Angus Reid Institute suggests most respondents (60 per cent) oppose even recognizing Charles as King. Just 28 per cent say they have a favourable view of Charles, while nearly half (48 per cent) do not.

And the news is equally bad when it comes to how they feel about Charles's wife.

Following the death last September of Queen Elizabeth, there was much speculation and debate about what Camilla would be called with Charles becoming King. At first, she was Queen Consort, a title the late Queen endorsed before she died. But when the invitations to the May coronation were sent out by Buckingham Palace, she was named Queen Camilla.

"During the period of mourning, there was potential for confusion if the [late] Queen was used to refer to both the late Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Camilla," Toronto-based royal author and historian Carolyn Harris told

CBC News earlier this month.

"With the coronation, there is only one King and Queen, Charles III and Queen Camilla."

That clearly doesn't sit well with some Canadians.

Two-thirds (66 per cent) of respondents to the Angus Reid Institute survey said they're against even recognizing Camilla as Queen of Canada. A majority (60 per cent) say she should not be referred to as "Queen." Only 21 per cent think she should carry the title of Queen, while 19 per cent said she should be referred to as Queen Consort.

"Canadians are fairly unequivocal around their views of whether the monarchy represents a modern institution, and indeed an institution that they wish to see sit at the top of Canadian law, politics, constitution for generations to come," Shachi Kurl, president of the Angus Reid Institute, told CBC News.

"And the answer to that is no."

Support for the monarchy down in Quebec has been on the decline, and lowest in Quebec.

In this latest poll, more than half of respondents (52 per cent) said they don't want Canada to continue as a constitutional monarchy for generations to come, and of them, the vast majority (83 per cent) said they'd be fine with opening the constitution to break the ties. In Quebec, 66 per cent of respondents are against Canada remaining a constitutional monarchy.

Overall, 45 per cent of respondents said they'd support opening the

constitution to sever ties to the monarchy, while only one-third (33 per cent) think Canada should remain a constitutional monarchy for generations to come.

Perhaps not surprisingly, then, turning in to the coronation isn't necessarily at the top of Canadian to-do lists.

While a majority of those who responded to the survey (59 per cent) said they'll pay some attention to the May 6 coronation, only nine per cent said they're really looking forward to it. One in five (20 per cent) said they might tune in for some of it, while 29 per cent said they may read about it, but really aren't that interested.

Kurl said these numbers would have those at Buckingham Palace feeling uneasy.

"It's not as though Canadians are in the streets preparing to protest against the monarchy, but the amount of ambivalence and the 'meh' factor in Canada - which represents a very significant country within the British realm - it would be fairly concerning."

It comes down to relevance, Kurl said.

"There's less and less connection to the monarchy among Canadians than there was 70 years ago, when the Queen herself ascended to the throne and became monarch. At that time Canada was a country with extremely close, both cultural and familial ties to the United Kingdom ... Today, Canada's demographics are vastly different."

Greater affection for Queen Elizabeth

While Canadians may never have felt great affection for Charles, they did embrace his mother, right up until the end of her life. Angus Reid Institute surveys from around the time of her 96th birthday one year ago found 63 per cent of respondents said they had a positive view of her, and 59 per cent said they would be saddened by her death.

But none of her potential heirs - including Charles's son, Prince William - are as popular.

Only three in 10 told the Angus Reid Institute they view Charles positively (28 per cent), and more than half (52 per cent) believe he will do a worse job of William's mother as monarch. About one in five (21 per cent) think he'll do about as well as his mother, while only three per cent think he'll do a better job.

Robert Finch, chairman of the Monarchy League of Canada, told CBC News it's not surprising the transition is facing some challenges, given that the monarchy and Queen Elizabeth became essentially inseparable from one another during her long reign.

He believes that over time Canadians will come around to supporting Charles's mother as monarch. But he says they don't see their mother as they learn more about him.

He cited some of the initiatives Charles undertook as prince.

"Things such as reconciliation with Indigenous people, working with young Canadians and their environmental movement - I mean, Charles was an environmentalist long before the green movement became mainstream," Finch said.

"Those are Canadian values that people would look at and say, yeah I can relate to that."

According to the poll, Prince William and his wife Catherine are seen more positively than Charles, but still fall short of the support Elizabeth garnered. Among Canadian respondents overall, 53 per cent have a positive view of William while that number is 56 for Catherine.

However, among those who said they don't support Canada continuing as a constitutional monarchy, support for the couple dropped to 36 and 41 per cent respectively.

Of note, though, is that among those who said they support Canada remaining a constitutional monarchy, far more have a favourable impression of William and Catherine (83 per cent support for each) than for Charles (62 per cent) or Camilla (43 per cent).

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# WHAT! Salman Khan Lends His Lucky Firoza Bracelet To Aamir Khan For A Day On Eid?

On Saturday, Arpita Khan and Aayush Sharma hosted a star-studded Eid party at his residence and it was attended by the who's who of Bollywood. From perfectionist Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Anil Kapoor, and Suniel Shetty to Karishma Aaryan, celebs arrived in style for the bash. What caught everyone's attention was Aamir wearing Salman's lucky Firoza bracelet on his right wrist. Going by the pictures, it seems like the Sultan actor lent his favorite bracelet to Aamir for a day on Eid celebrations.



In the video shared on a celebrity paparazzi Instagram account, the PK actor could be seen happily posing for the shutterbugs. He wore a red kurta and blue jeans and was also seen sporting the Firoza bracelet on his right wrist and it looked loose to him. However, when Aamir left the party, he was seen without the bracelet, which only means he gave it back to Salman. The Laal Singh Chaddha star was also seen posing with Karish Aaryan for photos. Soon after Aamir's video surfaced online, fans started guessing that the Deobank Khan must have lent his bracelet, that his father gifted him to Aamir for a day. One netizen commented, "Salman Black Ka Bracelet, aamir Bhai ke hath Mein."

# Model Gets Chance To Spend Evening With Shah Rukh Khan At Mannat

A model named Navpreet Kaur just got lucky as she got an invite to spend the evening with none other than Shah Rukh Khan. Yes, you read that right! The model spent a day with the actor and his family at his house Mannat and was left overwhelmed by his hospitality. Navpreet took to Instagram to share a post where she described her meeting with SRK and revealed he baked a pizza for her. Not just that, the superstar also went to escort her to the airport when she was about to leave.



On Saturday, Kaur posted a bunch of her photos from her time at Mannat and wrote a lengthy note talking about her emotions. She also posted a selfie with the Pataasha actor and of the veg pizza he baked for her. Navpreet Kaur wrote, "I promised myself I'll never post this as this memory is too precious to just keep it to myself. Cheers to this so blessed day of my life at @Mannat. The king @iamsrk himself baked a pizza and that too veg because 'bhai panjabi veg bhi hota hain' All the while I was at his house, I thought I was dreaming and someone was soon going to wake me up. I kept my calm and composure because I didn't want to freak out in front of him."

# Urvashi Rautela sends legal notice to Twitter user for spreading fake news about her equation with Agent co-star Akhil Akkineni

Urvashi Rautela started her career in the entertainment industry as a model and later transitioned into acting. She made her acting debut in 2013 with the film Singh Saab The Great and has since then appeared in several Hindi films. She has also worked in a bunch of Telugu-language films. In fact, the release of her latest Telugu film with Akhil Akkineni, Agni, is around the corner. However, a self-proclaimed film critic, Umair Sandhu's tweet has upset the actress. Reacting to his "false claims", Urvashi has sent a legal notice to him as well.

For the unversed, a Twitter user, by the name of Umair Sandhu, tweeted that Urvashi called Akhil an immature actor and felt uncomfortable working with him. The tweet went viral in no time and grabbed the attention of the actress. Miffed by the claims, Urvashi decided to take action against him. Giving out details of the same, on Sunday afternoon, Urvashi took to her verified social media handle and shared a note post, which read, "Defamation legal notice has been served by my legal team. Definitely disgraced by indecent journalist like you for your spurious/offensive tweets. You're not my official spokesperson. And you're very immature kind of a journalist who made me & my family extremely uncomfortable."

# They are just trying to give me a farewell: MS Dhoni on Eden Gardens dressed in yellow for the KKR game

On Sunday as Kolkata Knight Riders walked in to play their home game against Chennai Super Kings, there was a sea of yellow shirts that filled Eden Gardens. Chants of 'Dhoni! Dhoni!' would be louder than the far and few in numbers that reverberated for a KKR boundary. CSK captain MS Dhoni would say post match, "I will just say thanks for the support, they came in big numbers. Most of those guys will come in a KKR jersey next time. They are trying to give me a farewell, so thank a lot to the crowd."

Opener Devon Conway would say, "Being MS in your group, it's great to have him. It does feel like a home fixture every time we play. CSK fans get behind him and as a group, good to be part of this group." "I have played a lot of cricket over here. I had a job at Khargpur which was two hours from there. The love comes from there," Dhoni said at the time.



The visitors would turn the evening in their favor with a 49-run win in a run fest that saw them score 235 runs, the highest ever in the shortest format at this venue. The 2022 IPL season has been speculated by many as Dhoni's last. Since retiring from international cricket in 2020, the former India captain hasn't participated in any competitive cricket match other than the IPL. Ajeetkya Babana, who scored an unbeaten 71 off 29 deliveries also praised the skipper, "It is a great journey. I've played under Mahi bhai for India for many years, and even at CSK it has been a great learning. If you listen to whatever he says, you will more often than not perform."

# Trent Boult removes Virat Kohli for a golden duck in IPL 2023

IPL 2023: Virat Kohli was out on the first ball of the match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals in the 2023 Indian Premier League (IPL) match on Sunday. Trent Boult stunned the crowd at the Chinnaswamy Stadium by bowling Kohli for a golden duck.

This was also the first time Boult got him in this tournament. A delivery that started around off and tailed back in late, Kohli played his front foot across and tried to get but on ball but misses, getting hit on the pads. Earlier, Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson went the loss and elected to bowl against Royal Challengers Bangalore. Given this, it is worth mentioning here that Urvashi is not the first actress to slam this Twitter user. Readers may recall that a couple of weeks ago, actress Celina Jaitley lashed out at him after he had written, "Celina Jaitley is the only actress in Bollywood who slept with both Father (Feroze Khan) & son (Fard Khan) many times."



Rajasthan Royals: Jos Buttler, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson (c/wk), Devvutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Shimron Hetmyer, Ravichandran Ashwin, Jason Holder, Trent Boult, Sandeep Sharma and Yuvendra Chahal.

# IPL 2023 Final in Ahmedabad, Chennai to host two final-four fixtures as BCCI announces Playoffs venues

The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced the venues for the Indian Premier League 2023 Playoffs and the final on Friday. While Chennai will host Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator on May 23 and 25 respectively, the Eliminator and the summit clash will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on 26th and 28th respectively.

The one-lakh plus capacitated cricket stadium had hosted the final last year as well with home side Gujarat Titans beating Rajasthan Royals to claim the trophy in their maiden IPL season. IPL 2023 kickedstart at Motera with the Gujarat Titans playing the four-time champions, Chennai Super Kings. The venue hosted its first international match back in February 2021, a day-night Test between India and England.

# Model Gets Chance To Spend Evening With Shah Rukh Khan At Mannat

A model named Navpreet Kaur just got lucky as she got an invite to spend the evening with none other than Shah Rukh Khan. Yes, you read that right! The model spent a day with the actor and his family at his house Mannat and was left overwhelmed by his hospitality. Navpreet took to Instagram to share a post where she described her meeting with SRK and revealed he baked a pizza for her. Not just that, the superstar also went to escort her to the airport when she was about to leave.

The venue in the Tamil Nadu capital was refurbished back in 2010 with the construction continuing for over an year. In March 2013, the Supreme Court had ruled that the renovation violated regulations relating to public safety leading to three stands (J, K and J) remaining sealed until 2020.

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## Canada buying gasoline, sniper rifles and radios for Ukraine

Canada is buying gasoline and sniper rifles for Ukraine - part of the latest military assistance package announced Friday by Defence Minister Anita Anand at a meeting of allies in Europe.

Anand announced that Canada is purchasing up to 3.3 million litres of fuel through NATO programs. The announcement was made at the monthly gathering of countries helping to supply arms and equipment to the embattled Eastern European country, being held at a U.S. airbase in Ramstein, Germany.

The deal for fuel amounts to \$34.6 million.

The Liberal government also will be buying 40-50 caliber sniper rifles and ammunition from Prairie Gun Works in Winnipeg, and \$2 million worth of radio sets - 16 in total - to be used in Leopard 2 tanks, eight of which were donated by the Canadian Army last winter.

The other part of the aid package announced Friday involves providing Ukraine with modular flotation bridges which allow combat engineers to cross rivers or re-embank destroyed

bridges.

Friday's meeting was the first gathering of allies since a major leak of U.S. intelligence. One leaked intelligence document - reported on earlier this week by the Washington Post - said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has told NATO leaders privately that Canada will never meet the military alliance's benchmark of spending two per cent of GDP on defence.

"It's not going to comment on the alleged leaked document," Anand told reporters at the meeting in Germany. "But I will say that Canada continues to make foundational investments in defence and in military."

Defence spending in Canada is "on an upwards trajectory," Anand said, pointing to the government's longstanding plan to boost defence appropriations by 70 per cent between 2017-2027 and more recent plans to modernize NORAD.

The leaked intelligence assessment, which the Post said bore the stamp of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, also said that allies have become skeptical of Canada's capacity to meet its military

commitments - particularly its promise to boost the NATO battle group in Latvia to a brigade.

In Washington on Thursday, a senior defence official speaking on background said the leaked classified documents aren't likely to hamper ongoing efforts to support Ukraine.

"What we have heard from allies and partners is that... they've determined and we welcome this - not to allow any kind of negative information or spinning of negative information to undermine our unity and our focus and strength of purpose," the official said.

Anand also downplayed any friction among NATO allies, saying she's in close touch with U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin. She said Canada and the U.S. remain "very dear friends" and the sharing of intelligence will continue regardless of the leaks.

"Our teams are in very close touch. We continue to share data and information, not only with the United States but with our Five Eyes allies, and the Five Eyes relationship has never been this strong," she said, referring to the intelligence sharing arrangement involving the U.S.,

Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

A House of Commons committee heard criticism of both Canada and NATO on Friday.

"NATO needs to put in place a longer-term strategic plan to provide weaponry and other support to Ukraine," said Kerry Buck, a career diplomat and Canada's former ambassador to NATO.

"For the past year, the support to Ukraine, the rhythm of support to Ukraine, has been marked by [Ukrainian President Volodymyr] Zelenskyy asking for something specific, and then allies moving sometimes quickly, sometimes more slowly to find what is needed, provide the training and get it into theater. But this is different from a strategic plan that ensures a steady flow of predictable support."

Members of the Ukrainian-Canadian Congress also told the defence committee Friday that they were disappointed by the lack of any reference in the recent federal budget to further military aid beyond what has already been committed.

"We are concerned that the budget didn't send the signal of strong support for Ukraine in the years ahead," said Iur Michalichyn, executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Transporting humanitarian aid after February's deadly earthquake, while Haili's government is frustrated by Canada's reluctance to lead a multilateral security mission there.

Asked about the report Wednesday, Trudeau defended Canada's defence spending, which is growing significantly.

Planned increases will see Canada's defence spending grow by \$15 billion, or 40 per cent, within several years. Ottawa also has promised to buy F-35 fighter jets and modernize NORAD.

"I continue to say, and will always say, that Canada is a reliable partner to NATO, [a] reliable partner around the world," Trudeau told reporters while entering the daily question period.

Fewer than half of NATO members have reached the alliance's agreed-upon target of spending two percent of their GDP on defence.

Canada ranks among the lowest spenders within NATO as a share of national GDP. It ranks among the highest in terms of actual dollars spent, it means among the highest.

Andrew Leslie, a former senior military official and longtime Liberal member of Parliament, said he agrees with the assessment in the leaked document.

## A recent gold heist in Canada may be the largest, but not the first

Police in Canada are investigating one of the largest gold heists in the country's history, after more than CS20m (\$1.5m, £1.2m) of the precious metal and other valuable goods were stolen from Toronto's airport this week. But it's not the first heist of its kind in Canada - nor the first involving an airport.

This week, in a brazen piffage, a "high-value container" disappeared while it was being transported to a cargo holding facility near Canada's busiest airport.

Authorities say the thieves gained access to the public side of a warehouse near Toronto Pearson International Airport that was unmonitored by airport security.

The theft, which is still under investigation, was an isolated and "very rare" incident, police say. While a heist of that magnitude is indeed rare, a look at Canadian history shows it's not the first.

A mysterious gold bullion robbery that remains unsolved.

The Toronto Pearson International Airport has often been used as a hub for gold mined in the province of Ontario, and in September 1992 it was the scene of a mysterious heist.

Back then, Pearson was known by another name: Mallon Airport. It is where thieves managed to steal about CS215,000-worth of gold bars (valued at about CS2.5m today).

The gold was stored in a steel mesh wire cage before it was loaded to a Montreal-bound plane. From there, it was destined to be shipped to the UK.

But when the plane arrived in Montreal, there were only four boxes of gold bullion out of 10.

According to articles from the Toronto Star at the time, the robbers were never spotted. No suspect has been publicly named since the heist took place 70 years ago.

The gold "just seemed to vanish," a police officer told reporters at the time.

"The theft happens all the time at airports," says Stacey Porter, an independent security consultant who conducts security risk assessments for airports.

Airports are large facilities with lots of potential security vulnerabilities, especially in areas where bags and cargo are kept, he says.

Camera capture every movement that passengers spend inside airports, but



even the captain of the plane could come under suspicion.

Eight years after the Winnipeg robbery, in 1974, an even larger gold heist followed, this time at the Ottawa International Airport.

The Stopwatches Gang - a group of three criminals who staged bank robberies in both the US and Canada - stole six unrefined gold bars valued at CS750,000 (CS4.3m today).

The gang threatened a lone security guard at gunpoint in the middle of the night and then handcuffed him to a pipe before getting a hold of the gold, which was stored inside a cage at a freight terminal secured by a small padlock.

The trio were eventually caught, only to escape from prison and carry out more robberies in the US before they were arrested by FBI agents.

A Brink's-Mat depot near London's Heathrow Airport was the site of one of the largest gold heists in history.

The Crime of the Century

While Canada has an impressive history of gold heists, none come quite close to one that has been dubbed the "Crime of the Century" in the UK, involving the theft of gold bullion in November 1983, valued then at £26m.

In today's currency, that amount is worth around £112m, or CS188m in Canadian dollars.

The robbery unfolded after six armed men broke into the Brink's-Mat depot near London's Heathrow Airport, with the help of one of the security guards who was in on the theft.

They were expecting to find large sums of foreign currency. Instead, they stumbled on precious gold, diamonds and rubies.

The theft led police on a lengthy chase to find all of those who were involved, as the criminals enlisted the help of others to help turn the gold into cash.

## Here's when markets expect the Bank of Canada to start cutting interest rates

The Bank of Canada will hold interest rates at the 15-year high 4.50 per cent until the end of 2023, before starting to cut rates at the start of next year, according to a median of market participants in the central bank's survey released on Monday.

The Bank's survey of market participants, the second iteration of the poll first released in February, showed a median of the participants forecasting interest rates dropping to 3.0 per cent by the end of 2024.

Market participants in the first survey released in February had said rates would fall to 4.0 per cent by the end of the year.

A median of 26 participants predicted a 0.1 per cent contraction of gross domestic product at the end of 2023, compared with a 0.4 per cent decline forecast in the last survey.

The participants, surveyed from March 9-23, cited weaker housing market and tightening of financial conditions among top risks that could curtail Canadian growth.

The bank raised interest rates eight consecutive times through January in an effort to cool high inflation that peaked at four decades high last year.

The bank has since kept rates steady at two meetings, in part because Governor Tiff Macklem has said the goal is to slow growth, but avoid recession.

Annual inflation rate eased to 4.3 per cent in March, but is still more than double the bank's two per cent target. The bank expects to hit its inflation target by the end of next year.

## U.S. report claims Trudeau told NATO Canada will never meet its military spending target

A massive leak of U.S. national security documents has now spilled over into Canada.

The Washington Post says it has seen a Pentagon document criticizing Canada's military readiness among materials allegedly posted online by a Massachusetts Air National Guard member arrested last week.

The purported document, which CBC has not seen, makes two broad claims, according to the Post.

First, it says that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has told NATO officials privately that Canada will never reach the military spending target agreed to by members of the alliance.

Second, the document claims wide-ranging deficiencies in Canada's military capabilities are a source of tension with allies and defence partners.

"Widespread defence shortfalls hinder Canadian capabilities," the document says, according to the Post.



about whether Canada can keep helping Ukraine while meeting its NATO pledges.

Other NATO countries, according to the Post's report, have complained that Canada has not made good on a promise to increase its presence in Latvia, while the U.S. is seeking a faster modernization of Arctic defence technology.

Turkey reportedly is disappointed in Canada's refusal to assist in

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