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Economy hit 'sharp reversal' in June. What this means for the Bank of Canada

Canada's economy kept growing in May, but early signs of a long-awaited slowdown started to appear in June, according to Statistics Canada.

The federal agency said Friday that real gross domestic product was up 0.3 per cent in May, with growth in services-producing sectors offsetting declines in goods.

A return to work among striking federal service workers helped lift GDP, in May, StatCan said. An easing in supply chain kinks, especially among semiconductor, boosted automotive manufacturing in the month.

Rebounding housing markets in some of Canada's largest cities drove real estate activity up 7.6 per cent, StatCan said. Construction activity contracted 0.8 per cent, however, amid a slowdown in residential building and renovations.

Forest fires in Alberta dragged down growth in the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction industries in May, according to the agency.

The energy sector was "severely impacted" by forest fires, StatCan said, contracting 2.1 per cent in May - the largest decline in the industry since August 2020.

The month's GDP figures are down slightly from StatCan's flash estimates suggesting growth of 0.4 per cent in the month. April's reading showed the economy was virtually unchanged, while it grew a slight 0.1 per cent in March.



Early readings for June show the economy contracted 0.2 per cent in June, though those figures could be revised.

Those same early estimates from StatCan show economy grew at rate of 1.0 per cent annualized in the second quarter of the year. In its most recent monetary policy report released in July, the Bank of Canada said it expected growth of 1.5 per cent, revised up from earlier expectations of 1.0 per cent.

What does a slowing economy mean for the Bank of Canada?
The central bank has been working to slow the economy by raising interest rates in an effort to bring inflation to its target of two per cent.

It most recently raised its key rate on July 12 by a quarter of a percentage point to five per cent, the highest it's been since 2001.
The Bank of Canada has said that future rate decisions, including its next one on Sept. 6, will be dependent on what economic data shows.
"The sharp reversal in June

These Canadian companies switched to a 4-day work week. Here's why

Ayeelha Khan says the isn't sure she could return to traditional work after shifting to a four-day work week.

Her company adopted the new scheme in March. And since then, every Friday, the Milton, Ont., resident has the time for something as simple as getting her nails done - something she says, as a mother of two, used to take months to plan.

"How would I go back to that five-day life? It would be very difficult," said Khan, who works in client services for Sensei Labs, a Toronto-based software company.

"Being able to focus on both my physical and mental health, and just having the time to do that... it's been invaluable."
Khan is one of hundreds of employees in North America who now work four days a week after participating in a pilot project organized by the non-profit advocacy group 4 Day Work Week Global and researchers at Boston College.

According to their findings released last week, of the 41 companies that participated and were surveyed, 35 said they are keeping, planning to, or leaning toward keeping the new working scheme.

Joe O'Connor, the former CEO of 4 Day Work Week Global who helped lead the study, says it's the largest trial of its kind in North America to date and the first that involves a "relatively strong participation" from hundreds of Canadians from a total of nine companies.

"We're seeing that shorter working weeks lead to happier, healthier employees," said O'Connor, who's also the director and co-founder of the Work Time Reduction Centre of Excellence in Toronto.
"They lead to organizations that are



better positioned to attract and retain talent, and actually, very surprisingly for people, they're also leading to organizations which are more productive."

The study had companies, most having between 11 to 25 employees, voluntarily try a four-day work week for six months between February 2022 and April 2023. Researchers let companies choose the best way to reduce hours as long as they maintained pay at 100 per cent.

For the 15 employees at Montreal-based firm L'Abri, it means working 35 hours between Monday and Thursday. Architectural designer Fin Hochreiter says the change has made her and her colleagues more focused during work hours, and actually encouraged work gatherings after hours to make up for any lost social contact throughout the day.

"It's a quality of life that you're gaining," said Hochreiter.
Maureen Juniper, the co-founder and partner of public relations firm Praxis, says after a series of workshops and webinars with 4 Day Work Week Global about the transition, the company took a split approach: half of its 27 employees get Monday off, while the other half gets Friday off to make sure there's always somebody to serve clients throughout the week.

while the study's positive results are consistent with previous literature, they're limited in that they mostly come from companies with relatively few employees.

"That can be, perhaps, more difficult to scale up in a larger company with lots more people, lots more complexity," said Shen.

More study is needed among randomized companies and those with more blue-collar workers, she said.

And for those companies who do try a four-day week, she says there's always a risk employees could push back if it's not made permanent, pointing to a similar movement in workplaces trying to mandate a post-pandemic return to the office.

"I think there's a lot of potential here, but think before we kind of say that this is beneficial across all circumstances, I think we have to do more work and investigate that," said Shen.

Tom Collier, a co-founder of pilot participant and remote ecommerce company AdPBj, says while the shift to a reduced work week comes with a different set of "friction points" for each company, it's worth the time exploring a way it can work for them given the potential benefits.

"You don't have to go whole hog right away, but I think it's something really, really valuable to explore because you never know."

Canada wildfires: Border town evacuated as blazes cross into US

Thousands of people have been ordered to leave a Canadian border town due to an "out-of-control" wildfire.

The fire, known as Eagle Bluff, has triggered evacuation orders in Osoyoos, British Columbia, with officials estimating it is around 2,200 acres (3.44 square miles) in size on the Canadian side of the border.

It is believed to be around 2,000 acres (3.13 square miles) big on the US side of the border in Washington state.

"There are Initial Attack crew personnel, several single resources, two helicopters, structure protection personnel and heavy equipment responding to the incident" in Osoyoos, the British Columbia Wildfire Service said.

"A total of 732 properties have been under evacuation order and 2,094 are under evacuation alerts. 132 people have sought emergency support," regional district information officer Erick Thompson told a news briefing. Around 6,700 people live in the evacuated town.

Temperatures in the town are expected to hit 33C (91F), with the average high for July around 30C (86F).

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Indian citizen pleads guilty in American court to smuggling people into U.S. across Canadian border

An Indian citizen who had been living in Ontario pleaded guilty in an American court on Friday to smuggling foreign nationals from India into the U.S. in 2020 and 2021. Simranjit Singh, 40, had been arrested in Ontario in June 2022 and was extradited from Canada to the U.S. in March.

"In pleading guilty, Singh admitted that from at least March of 2020 through March of 2021, he facilitated the smuggling of numerous Indian nationals from Canada into the United States, via Cornwall Island and the Akwesasne Mohawk Indian Reservation in the St. Lawrence River region, for profit," the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of New York stated in a press release Friday.

Singh, who was a resident of Brampton, Ont., is facing at least five years in prison, but could also receive up to 15 years in prison, a fine of up

to US\$250,000, and three years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty to "alien smuggling and conspiracy to commit alien smuggling," according to the press release.

He will also be facing deportation from the U.S. after his sentence is served, based on the decision of an immigration judge.

U.S. authorities say Singh "facilitated the smuggling of numerous Indian nationals" across the border through Cornwall Island and Akwesasne Mohawk Territory, which is between Quebec, Ontario and New York state.

According to documents released in April, some migrants who say their entry into the U.S. was facilitated by Singh told American law enforcement



that he charged them between \$5,000 and \$35,000.

These documents detailed conversations between Singh and contacts, including one referred to as CW-1 who, on one occasion, dropped off three Indian citizens at a motel in New York and then travelled to Cornwall to meet Singh and collect \$4,000 in pay.

CW-1 then became nervous that the motel room was in her name, according to the documents, and returned to the motel to pick up the three people. U.S. Border Patrol agents chased her car after all four left the hotel and arrested them.

On another occasion, Singh allegedly bragged to a contact that he had smuggled more than 1,000 people into the U.S. or Canada.

According to the press release, Singh is scheduled to appear before a judge at the end of December.

Authorities say Akwesasne's geography makes it a popular but dangerous route for smugglers. Back in March, the bodies of four Indian and four Romanian migrants were pulled from the St. Lawrence River in Akwesasne. The body of 30-year-old Casey Oakes was also found in the water earlier this month, and police say Oakes was "connected to the eight deceased victims."

U.K. to grant hundreds of new oil and gas licences, ignoring calls from environmentalists

LONDON—Britain said on Monday it will grant hundreds of new oil and gas licences in the North Sea in a bid for energy independence, ignoring calls from the environmental campaigners and the United Nations to stop the development of new fossil fuel projects.

The plans announced by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak include a pledge to invest 20 billion pounds (US\$26 billion) in carbon capture and storage projects as Sunak maintained his government's commitment to eliminate net carbon emissions by 2050.

Sunak, who is traveling to Scotland to formally unveil the package, said Britain will still need fossil fuels even after the country reaches its net zero target. He said it is better to produce oil and natural gas at home rather than rely on foreign leaders like Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine sent global energy prices soaring around the globe.

"We have all witnessed how Putin has manipulated and weaponized energy - disrupting supply and stalling growth in countries around the world," Sunak said in a statement. "Now more than ever, it's vital that we bolster our energy security and capitalize on that independence to deliver more affordable, clean energy to British households and businesses."

The plan comes as Sunak faces pressure to roll back expensive environmental commitments as his Conservative Party scrambles to attract voters amid opinion polls showing that the party is likely toward a crushing defeat in the next general election.

But UN scientists and environmental campaigners are calling on government's around the world to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels after a summer of record high temperatures, drought and floods linked to man-made climate change.

Burning oil and gas to power vehicles, factories and electricity generating stations releases huge amounts of carbon dioxide, the main driver of global warming.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has raised concerns that governments were backtracking on their commitments to cut greenhouse



gas emissions at a time when they should be cutting them.

"The problem is not simply fossil fuel emissions, it's fossil fuels -- period," Guterres told reporters last month in New York.

"The solution is clear: The world must phase out fossil fuels in a just and equitable way -- moving to leave oil, coal and gas in the ground where they belong -- and massively boosting renewable investment in a just transition."

Britain began pumping oil and gas from the North Sea in the mid-1970s, a major source of jobs and tax revenue, particularly in Scotland. But production has been declining since around 2000, making support for the industry a major political issue.

British authorities have pledged to reduce net carbon emissions by 68% by the end of the decade, on the way to reaching net-zero by 2050. Achieving net-zero means releasing only as much greenhouse gases as can be pulled out of the atmosphere through natural or technological means.

But the government's climate advisers say the pace of progress is "worryingly slow." In a report last month, an advisory panel that tracks the U.K.'s decarbonization efforts slammed officials for backtracking on commitments and said Britain had "lost its clear global leadership position on climate action."

The Climate Change Committee said backing for a new coal mine and new domestic oil and gas production undermined Britain's "international messaging" on the need to stop developing fossil fuel projects.

The carbon capture and storage projects backed by Sunak aim to remove carbon dioxide from industrial emissions and pump it into old gas fields for permanent storage underground.

Environmental campaigners say the risk of focusing on this technology is that it may distract the government from other programs needed to accelerate the drive to net-zero, and deceive consumers into thinking that continued use of fossil fuels is compatible with such goal.

"It's a bit difficult to take seriously the idea that this should be prioritized for prime ministerial attention when so much else needs it instead," Doug Parr, the chief scientific officer for Greenpeace UK, told the BBC.

Stuart Hazeldine, a professor of carbon capture and storage at the University of Edinburgh, said Sunak's cash injection could be "transformative" in expanding carbon capture and storage, but there is reason to be skeptical about the motives of the energy industry, which has traditionally been more focused on making money for shareholders than pursuing environmental targets.

"Unless the governments make carbon capture and storage profitable, oil companies tend not to be very interested," Hazeldine told the BBC. "Their money can talk very loudly, but it doesn't listen very well."

"What governments are often subjected to is intense lobbying by oil and gas companies to continue extracting oil and gas and to go slow on carbon capture and storage," he added.

Canada's Prime Minister Trudeau shuffles cabinet in major overhaul

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made a major overhaul to his cabinet ahead of the country's next election. This is the first ministerial shake-up since Mr. Trudeau was re-elected with a minority government in 2021.

Of the 38 cabinet members sworn-in on Wednesday, only eight remain in their previous roles. Many of the changes put an emphasis on affordability as Canada grapples with an ongoing housing crisis.

Mr. Trudeau, who has been in power for eight years, said that the shake-up was about making sure Canada is prepared to meet "a consequential moment" domestically and globally.

He referenced issues like the impact of climate change on Canada, the ongoing war in Ukraine and a potential global economic downturn.

"People realise that we are involved in challenging times not only in this country but around the world, and bringing in fresh energy was important," Mr. Trudeau said at a news conference. One major change is Mr. Trudeau's combining of the housing and infrastructure files. Sean Fraser, the former immigration minister, will take over those portfolios. The shift is seen as a response to the increasing unaffordability and limited housing supply in Canada, at a time when immigration has grown Canada's population at a historic rate.

The average home price in Canada is C\$716,083 (\$528,000; 426,000), according to the Canada Real Estate Association, though homes in Canada's most populous city Toronto average about C\$1.5m. Household debt in Canada - mostly driven by mortgages - is the highest of any G7 country. Mr. Trudeau has also swapped Canada's defence minister.

Anita Anand, who held the post for nearly two years, will be replaced with Bill Blair while she takes over as President of the Treasury Board.

Mr. Blair has been a member of parliament since 2015 and was formerly the chief of the Toronto Police Service for a decade.

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Kangana Ranaut Claims Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt's Daughter Raha Was A 'Trick' To Promote Their Movie! - SHOCKING Details

Filmaker and actor Kangana Ranaut enjoys a huge fanbase on social media. While she often leaves the audience mesmerized with her versatile performances, she is often on the receiving end of criticism for slandering certain people of Bollywood.

Kangana recalled being allegedly scammed by a 'superstar who I dated later claimed that I was dating his impostor.' She yet again took a dig at her alleged ex-boyfriend Hrithik Roshan. She claimed that he used various means to contact her like using different phone numbers and hacking her devices, even keeping an eye on her WhatsApp.

On the work front, Kangana Ranaut will be next seen in Emergency. Not only is the movie her first solo directorial, but she will also be essaying the role of India's late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Apart from that, she has projects like Tejas, Chandramukhi 2 and Manikarnika Returns: The Legend Of Didda in her pipeline.

BREAKING: Abhishek Bachchan-Saiyami Kher starrer Ghoomer to release in cinemas on August 18

The month of August is going to be a period of sequels when it comes to Bollywood films. August 11 will see the release of Gadar 2, starring Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel. It's a sequel to the 2001 film Gadar: A Soldier's Story. The film was a major success and is expected to do well again.

Prithvi Shaw arrives in the UK, set for county debut on Friday

After some logistical delays, Prithvi Shaw is finally ready for his maiden county stint. The Mumbai opener managed to arrive in the UK well in time after apparent hassles over travel documents. His county stint will kick-start with a one-day cup game on Friday (August 4).



Shaw (23) enjoyed a dream debut in international cricket, scoring a century against West Indies as an 18-year-old. But he has lost his way since and managed to play only four more Tests besides seven white ball games (six ODIs and one T20I) for India.

ICC team in India on a recce of World Cup venues

As the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) strives to finalise the World Cup schedule, a reconnaissance team from the International Cricket Council (ICC) is currently visiting the stadiums that will host the matches. This team, comprising security, events, and broadcast experts, has started their assessment at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai and is currently in Ahmedabad. It intends to visit all 12 venues, including those hosting the warm-up games.

Fardeen Khan To DIVORCE Wife Natasha Madhvani, 18 Years After Being Married

Fardeen Khan was one of the biggest heartthrobs of Bollywood in the late 90s and 2000s. He had garnered a huge fanbase because of his chocolate boy looks and versatile performances. While he went on to take a sabbatical, so that he could focus on his family, in the past few years news about his return has been doing rounds on the internet.



Fardeen Khan and Natasha Madhvani are heading for a split after spending around 18 years together. According to the report by News18, the couple has decided to part ways amicably. If the reports are to be believed, they have been living separately for over a year now.

is yet to react to the news of the separation. For the unversed, Fardeen is the son of veteran actor Feroz Khan and Natasha is the daughter of veteran actress Mumtaz. The couple tied the knot in 2005, in a lavish wedding ceremony. They welcomed their daughter Diani in 2013 and son Azarius in 2017.

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Canada's first Filipina federal minister arrives carrying a lot of expectations

The tears Rechie Valdez shed as she took the oath as minister of small business in this week's federal cabinet shuffle marked a breakthrough for her and for the Filipino community she represents.

"It was a profound moment for me to know that I was representing the close to one million Filipinos now here in Canada," she told CBC News on Friday.

Filipinos are arguably the most politically underrepresented group in Canadian federal politics.

A community that, according to the latest census, has 960,000 members has not had a single Filipino-Canadian representative in Parliament since 2004 other than Valdez, who was elected in 2021. Key Tagalog became the first Filipino-born Canadian to be elected to the House of Commons in 1988 and served in the Liberal government's cabinet.

By comparison, Canada's 770,000 Sikhs were represented by four out of

40 ministers in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's first cabinet. Prominent Sikhs outside the government include NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and Conservative finance critic Jaaraj Singh-Hallan.

Rechie Valdez has experience in small business, having run her own bakery. She said she takes seriously her opportunity to serve as a voice for a community that is underrepresented.

"I can tell the community across Canada I'll definitely be advocating on your behalf and I will continue to listen to your needs and bring it up to cabinet," she said.

Census data shows Filipino-Canadians have a unique demographic profile, said analyst André Bernard of Statistics Canada.

"The Filipino population have historically shown a willingness to move to where the jobs are, creating communities such as those that serve the meatpacking industry on the Prairies. The way that Filipinos have entered Canada also has shaped the

over eight per cent of the general population.

"But they also have lower wages," said Bernard. "They have lower employment income."

Filipino wage-earners average \$26.59 per hour, as opposed to a national average of \$33.22 per hour and \$31.23 per hour for all racialized groups.

Filipinos "tend to be over-represented in certain industries and occupations," Bernard said. "For example, over a quarter of women are working in health occupations. That's much more than for the general population."

Entrepreneurs are by definition self-employed, and any self-employed person making revenue over about \$30,000 a year typically has to register a business.

Jackie Wild owns Tito Boy restaurant in Winnipeg's south end. She said Filipino don't lack the entrepreneurial bug.

"Back home, entrepreneurship, being a business owner, is very, very commonplace," she said. "Whether you're a small business owner, maybe you're a farmer, maybe you are like a side hustler doing things on top of your day job."

community, said Bernard.

"Over a third of Filipino immigrants who arrived since 1980 were admitted under the caregiving program in Canada... compared to three or four per cent for all immigrants," he said.

Low representation in the business world.

The 2016 and 2021 census revealed that Filipinos ranked lower than any other Canadian ethnic group in rates of self-employment in both the male and female rankings.

In June of this year, just 4.9 per cent of Filipino workers were self-employed, compared to 13 per cent of the general population.

(Self-employment does not map precisely onto business ownership but it does overlap fairly closely.

Entrepreneurs are by definition self-employed, and any self-employed person making revenue over about \$30,000 a year typically has to register a business.)

Jackie Wild owns Tito Boy restaurant in Winnipeg's south end. She said Filipino don't lack the entrepreneurial bug.

"Back home, entrepreneurship, being a business owner, is very, very commonplace," she said. "Whether you're a small business owner, maybe you're a farmer, maybe you are like a side hustler doing things on top of your day job."

KATIET creates a roadmap to eliminate Hepatitis C in Ontario



primary care providers to treat hepatitis C without referral to a specialist, including mentorship or co-visit.

Improved Access to Testing: Access to hepatitis C testing is vital for early diagnosis and treatment



initiation. However, newcomers and immigrants face barriers such as language, cultural differences, and lack of knowledge about healthcare services. The Roadmap recommends implementing targeted testing initiatives by establishing partnerships with community organizations, and utilizing culturally competent healthcare providers to ensure testing services are easily accessible.

Mobile testing units and community clinics can also play a significant role in reaching marginalized populations. The Roadmap recommends developing partnerships with local community groups and providing funds for outreach testing and linkage to care, including partnerships with faith-based or cultural organizations or local businesses that are trusted by community members.

Culturally Appropriate Care: The Roadmap also recommends incorporating cultural safety and anti-stigma training as part of hepatitis C education for healthcare providers. To effectively eliminate hepatitis C in immigrants and newcomers, healthcare services must provide culturally sensitive and responsive care. The Roadmap recommends training healthcare providers in cultural competency to ensure they can address the unique needs of immigrant and newcomer communities.

This includes understanding cultural beliefs, language preferences, and patient trust. By offering patient-centred care, which should also include interpretation and hepatitis C information in their own languages, healthcare providers can create a supportive environment that encourages testing, treatment, and adherence to care plans.

TORONTO: The CATIE, Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information, has created a roadmap to eliminate Hepatitis C in Ontario. This was disclosed by Feza Tanweer, Manager, Immigrant and Newcomer Hepatitis C Community Health Programming at CATIE, Toronto, while speaking at the 8th South Asian Media Editors' Dialogue in Mississauga on July 27, 2023. The Committee of Progressive Pakistani Canadians (CPPC) hosted the event.

Fozia pointed out that the World Hepatitis Day is observed on July 28 every year; this year, Ontarians have a reason to be hopeful with the launch of the Roadmap to Eliminate Hepatitis C that charts the path to hepatitis C elimination in Ontario by 2030.

The Roadmap, she added, takes a population-specific approach and offers a comprehensive framework to eliminate hepatitis C in all priority populations. The prevalence rate among immigrants and newcomers is twice as high as that observed in the general population. Ontario aims to tackle the challenges faced by immigrants and newcomers in testing, treatment, and linkage to care.

"Ontario aims to tackle the challenges faced by immigrants and newcomers in testing, treatment, and linkage to care by increasing awareness, improving access to testing, providing culturally appropriate care, simplifying treatment pathways, and fostering collaborative partnerships," she said while explaining the recommendations related to eliminating hepatitis C in the immigrants and newcomers in Ontario.

Educating and Engaging

Federal government struggling to get rid of millions of extra COVID-19 rapid tests

The federal government is sitting on a stockpile of 39 million extra rapid tests for COVID-19 and is struggling to get rid of them without chucking them in the trash, an internal Health Canada memo shows.

As the Omicron variant of the virus began to tear across Canada at the end of 2021, the government rapidly bought up rapid antigen tests, distributing most of them to the provinces so people could swab themselves for the virus at home.

Now that far fewer people are subjecting themselves to the brain-rickling sensation of a COVID-19 test outside of hospitals and other health-care settings, the government appears to have more than it knows what to do with.

"Acknowledging the volumes of tests in play and the challenge of divesting such quantity over a time-bound period, it is expected that disposal of expired tests would be required," staff wrote to Health

Canada's deputy minister in a memo signed March 25.

The memo was obtained through federal access-to-information laws.

Rapid tests were considered both important and valuable in early 2022, as regular test capacity was reserved only for certain cases in most provinces. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Canada has spent roughly \$5 billion on rapid tests.

Even after the initial rise in Omicron infections settled down, the government continued to accumulate tests in case the country was hit with another large wave of infections.

That wave never came, and as public health restrictions were gradually lifted, the government found itself with a stockpile of some 93 million tests as of March 21.

By July 25, the store of tests was still sitting at over 90 million, Health Canada said in a statement.

Provinces and territories now have enough supply of their own to give

eight tests to each Canadian. The federal health department plans to keep up to 55 million in reserve to prepare for the next emergency, which leaves 39 million extra as of the end of March.

Staff suggested several means of off-loading the tests, but each comes with its own challenges. The largest obstacle is their short shelf life - they usually only last one or two years.

"In practice, offering tests with less than eight to 12 months of shelf life may present challenges," the memo says, though the specific reasons for that are redacted.

So far no tests have been binned, though the department says 2.1 million tests are either damaged, expired or considered "non-compliant" and can't be distributed.

Another 38,722 are expected to perish in August and September, the memo shows. Most tests will expire in 2024.

Government looking at a variety of options.

The department recommended shipping the tests abroad to countries that need them, or even potentially paying the manufacturers to take the tests back.

To date, neither of those things has happened.

In a written statement, Health Canada said some tests are being donated to non-profit, public institutions and charities through GCDonate, a part of the government's online surplus.

They're also being shared among government departments for employee testing programs.

"The Government of Canada has also been actively engaging with the World Health Organization, the Canadian Red Cross, other non-governmental organizations and private foundations to better understand global demand and explore the feasibility of international donation opportunities," the department said in the statement.

"Financially and environmentally sound disposal will be considered only when all deployment and divestment options have been exhausted, and tests are ineligible for distribution."

In the memo, staff said they plan to come up for a plan to start disposing of unused tests for the deputy minister's approval.

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