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Military plane heading to India to pick up stranded Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

A military plane is on its way to Delhi to pick up Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after his plane broke down Sunday, leaving the Canadian delegation stranded in India.

It's adding another complication to an already rocky trip to the country. A spokesperson with the Department of National Defence told Global News in an email Monday that a problem with a component was discovered with the prime minister's Royal Canadian Air Force CC-150 Polaris. That part must be replaced before the plane is able to fly again, they said.



Trudeau was planning to return home after attending the G20 summit in New Delhi. "The Canadian Armed Forces continue their best efforts to get the Canadian delegation home. We will keep you updated regularly as the situation evolves," said Mohammad Hussain, press secretary to the prime minister, on Monday. "Their latest update shows an earliest possible departure of Tuesday late afternoon. The situation remains fluid."

An earlier update had suggested Tuesday morning could be a possible departure time. The aircraft departed from CFB Trenton on Sunday. This is the latest issue with the 1980s-era aircraft, which has had a host of mechanical problems over the years.

"Right now you're seeing that one of the most precious resources our political leaders have is time. They just bluntly don't have the time to waste waiting for the plane to get sorted out," said Dave Perry from the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, a Calgary-based think-tank. The defence spokesperson said replacement planes arrived in Ottawa on Aug. 31, but they were not ready in time for the G20 summit. They're expected to be in service this fall. They need to be modified to increase capabilities and crews are still undergoing training. Perry said the fleet should have been ordered a decade ago. "The governments, plural, waited too long to move," he said. The replacement planes are expected to be in service by fall. The extended stay in India caps off a tense visit to Delhi by Trudeau.

His relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is often described as strained, stemming from the Sikh separatist movement in Canada and Trudeau's support for a farmers protest against the Indian government. During the G20 summit, Trudeau's interactions with Modi appeared tense, including a curthandsshake. Trudeau also did not attend some events including a dinner gala hosted by Modi. The two leaders had a brief sit-down during the last day of the summit. When asked by reporters, Trudeau acknowledged he brought up the issue of foreign election interference by India in Canadian democracy. Meanwhile, a statement by the Indian government said Modi raised "anti-activities of extremist elements in Canada."

A comparison of prices at Dollarama and Loblaws in Toronto recently went viral online, showing a handful of food items cost double - or more - at the big box grocer.

While Loblaws and Dollarama are not direct competitors - one being a discount store, the other a grocery chain - CTV News Toronto visited Dollarama and Loblaws locations in downtown Toronto to compare and contextualize prices at the two stores.

In some cases, Loblaws prices were more than double Dollarama's, but as Mike von Massow, a food economist at the University of Guelph, explains, there is more than meets the eye.

PASTA
 The most staggering price difference between Dollarama and Loblaws was the cost of pasta. At Dollarama, a bag (450g) of ItalPasta spaghetti costs \$1 while the identical product at Loblaws is priced at \$4.49 - more than four times the cost. That being said, Loblaws also sells 2.27 kg of the same spaghetti for \$7.99. "You can look at that two ways. There's an advantage for people who buy larger quantities or you can say there's a disadvantage for people who can't afford to spend as much every time they go to the grocery store," von Massow said. Dollarama - \$1

Some Loblaws prices are double Dollarama's - here's why



BREAD
 A loaf of Wonder Bread (675 g) - white and whole wheat - costs \$2.50 at Dollarama. The identical product at Loblaws costs \$3.99 for a loaf or \$7 for two loaves. Evidently, Wonder Bread at Dollarama is cheaper, but Loblaws competes with their in-store brands. For example, original No Name bread costs \$2.79 for a loaf (675g), just a few cents more than the Wonder Bread at Dollarama. "Dollarama does not have a store brand, whereas Loblaws has President's Choice and those are often the brands that people use to compete on prices," von Massow explained. Dollarama - \$2.50
 Loblaws - \$3.99
CEREAL
 A box of Quaker Life cereal at Dollarama costs \$3.50, while the same-size (450g) box at Loblaws is priced at \$5.49. However, breakfast buyers looking to grab a carton of milk with their cereal will only have luck at Loblaws. In other words, it's a one-stop-shop, as von Massow puts it. "You essentially pay for that convenience," he said. He points out that produce would fall into this category too, which a Loblaws spokesperson

RICE
 The same ethos applies to the difference in pricing for rice. Ben's Original rice at Dollarama costs \$1.75, but only contains 132 g, slightly more than an average serving size. The same product at Loblaws costs \$4.49 for one bag, \$9.99 for three bags or \$10.49 for 2.2 kg. "There are really good opportunities if you put more in your basket, but it can create a barrier for people who are living paycheck to paycheck," von Massow said. Dollarama - \$1.75

echoed on Friday afternoon, stating, "unlike a dollar store, we offer customers a wider choice of products, including fresh meat and produce and have higher operating costs due to the size and make-up of our stores."

Dollarama - \$3.50
 Loblaws - \$5.49
OAT MILK
 Non-dairy milk drinkers at Dollarama will have better luck with oat milk. A carton of Earth's Own original oat milk costs \$2.50 at Dollarama. In the health section at Loblaws, shoppers will find the same product for just under 50 cents more, priced at \$2.99. Dollarama - \$2.50
 Loblaws - \$2.99
GRANOLABAR
 A Quaker Dippis chocolate chip granola bar costs \$2 for a pack of five at Dollarama and \$3.49 at Loblaws. Or, two boxes for \$5.50. Buying two boxes of the granola bars at Dollarama is cheaper, but von Massow said it's worth noting that customers factor in loyalty programs when making decisions about pricing, with more than one billion PC Optimum points given out last year. One of the major criteria in loyalty programs is "basket-size," as von Massow puts it. "They make money on selling you more things ... to get you to come back," he said. Dollarama - \$2
 Loblaws - \$3.49

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Mississauga restaurant to donate weekend profit to help victims of Morocco earthquake

A Moroccan restaurant in Mississauga is donating its weekend's profit to help the victims of a powerful earthquake in Morocco that left more than 1,000 people dead.

"It's gonna go straight to the people who are without homes and without water and light," Mona Ahmed, the owner of Morocco's Kitchen said in an interview with CP24 on Saturday.

Ahmed was up all night frightened and worried about her family back in the North African country. After learning about the magnitude-6.8 quake late Friday evening, she immediately contacted her sister.

"She was not answering. So I started panicking," Ahmed recalled. "I didn't know what to do. I'm far away. What to do? So I was just trying to call."



Ahmed said she was later able to reach her sister through neighbours.

When they spoke, her sister recounted how the walls began shaking while she was sitting on her sofa. "She tried to run away, but the door won't open. She said, 'That's it, I'm dead!'"

Fortunately, Ahmed said, the door

to 1,305. Most of those who died were in Marrakech and five provinces near the quake's epicentre. Another 1,832 people were injured - 1,220 critically - according to the country's officials.

"It's a disaster," Ahmed said. That's why she and other members of the Moroccan community in the Greater Toronto Area are urging people to donate to the victims of the quake.

GlobalMedic, a Toronto-based humanitarian organization, said it has authorized its drone team, and provide portable water purification units and family emergency kits to the Moroccan government.

Gerard Ruimy, one of the dozens of volunteers with GlobalMedic helping prepare kits for the victims on Saturday, said the disaster has directly affected him as he has family in Morocco.

"I haven't talked to any family members yet. But as far as I know, everything's okay so far," Ruimy said.

"I'm here to volunteer for whoever I can, whatever I can and do whatever I can for anybody. We try to provide the right aid at the right time for the right people."

budget, and her sister was able to get out of the house.

"Everybody was crying, everybody hugging everybody, and everybody's just praying," Ahmed said, sharing what her sister saw. "They stayed all night outside."

As of Saturday afternoon, the death toll from the earthquake has climbed

Premier Doug Ford's 2018 mandate letter promised to hold cabinet ministers accountable

After Ontario's Progressive Conservatives were swept into office in June 2018, ending 15 years of Liberal rule, newly minted Premier Doug Ford provided his cabinet ministers a new north star. He would run a government defined by ethics, accountability and a province that was strictly "for the people."

In a series of mandate letters given to newly appointed cabinet ministers in 2018, Ford laid out in painstaking detail exactly what he meant by "for the people" - words that would eventually clash with the premier's actions six years later with his government embroiled in the Greenbelt landswap scandal.

The content of Ford's mandate letters have been closely and fiercely guarded since CBC News attempted to obtain them using freedom of information laws in 2018. In an attempt to keep the letters confidential, the Ford government fought the CBC all the way to Canada's Supreme Court, arguing the letters should be considered cabinet records and therefore exempt from disclosure.

The Supreme Court has been deliberating since April whether the letters should be publicly released - a potentially precedent-setting decision for future governments across the country on whether private instructions to publicly paid ministers can be kept confidential.

In early September, however, Global News obtained the letters from a source not authorized to release them publicly, and then independently verified their authenticity.

For the first time since Premier Doug Ford's election in 2018, his secretive letters to cabinet ministers can be made public in full.

"This will not happen to us" Shortly after being sworn into their new roles, in 2018, Doug Ford's cabinet ministers would have received a letter that contained both ideological and practical instructions to be carried out during the government's first term.

The premier said he was "adamant" his government would follow through on its election promise of being "for the people" and putting voters and taxpayers at the centre of every decision they made.

"For far too long, too many people



example in fostering a culture of respect within your office and in your ministry," Ford advised his cabinet ministers.

"We must show Ontarians why they can believe in government again and why they can trust their publicly elected officials," the letter stated.

The first-term mandate letter stands in sharp contrast to the second-term Greenbelt scandal in which former Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Steve Clark was found to have violated the Members' Integrity Act for failing to properly oversee his staff properly during the land selection process.

Ontario's Integrity Commissioner suggested Clark was attempting to "hide from accountability" by naming a blind eye to important policy decisions being implemented by staff.

Clark, who had been the minister since Ford's first election in 2018, resigned from his post on Sept. 4.

"We will be accountable for our actions"

In the 2018 mandate letter, Ford also suggests he would be keeping a close watch on his cabinet ministers, ensuring they would be kept in line with the new cabinet philosophy.

"I expect the opposition to hold us to account - and rightfully so," Ford said. "But I will also personally be holding you accountable for your actions."

Both Ford and Clark declared the "back stops with me" as they defended their role in the land swap ordeal, with the premier repeatedly rebutting calls to fire the housing minister.

However, the scandal has cost Steve Clark and his then-chief of staff Ryan Amato their jobs after the auditor general and integrity commissioner uncovered deep flaws in the process of opening up the

Greenbelt.

Premier Doug Ford refused to fire Clark or call for a mandate to fire.

Following are portions of the mandate letter Ontario Premier Doug Ford provided his cabinet ministers in 2018. Some words are bolded for emphasis.

Dear Minister:
Welcome to your new role as Minister of ... Thank you for accepting this position.

As we embark on the recommitment of government I want to begin by emphasizing one point, we ran for election on a plan for the people. I am adamant that this will be a government for the people. Let me explain exactly what this means.

For far too long, too many people have been neglected or ignored by previous governments who become entrapped in a bubble of elite interests. I am determined that this will not happen to us.

As you assume the accountabilities of your portfolio you will be asked to make many important decisions. Before you take any action, be sure to ask yourself a simple question: "Is this good for the people?" and "is this course of action that, directly or indirectly, will make a positive difference for the kind of people who cannot afford expensive lobbyists or career in full-time activism. These people will only have one voice in government - and that voice will be yours."

Our plan for the people was rooted in five core commitments to Ontarians. They will touch on different Ministries in different ways. I expect every single member of my Cabinet will know all five commitments by heart.

We will put more money in your pocket by scrapping the carbon tax, reducing gas prices by 10 cents per litre and giving real tax relief to lower and middle class families.

We will clean up the hydro mess by firing the CEO of Hydro One and lowering Ontario hydro bills by 12%.

We will create good jobs by sending the message that "Ontario is open for business" and by bringing quality jobs back to Ontario by lowering taxes, stabilizing hydro bills and cutting job-killing red tape.

We will restore accountability and trust by ordering a line-by-line audit of government spending and by bringing an end to the culture of waste and mismanagement in government.

And, we will cut hospital wait times and end hallway health care by creating 15,000 new long-term care beds over the next five years and adding \$3.8 billion in support for mental health, addictions and supportive housing.

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Rescuers race to find survivors after Morocco quake

Rescuers raced against time on Monday to find survivors in the rubble more than 48 hours after Morocco's deadliest earthquake in more than six decades, with almost 2,700 killed in a disaster that devastated villages in the High Atlas Mountains.

Search teams from Spain, Britain and Qatar are joining efforts to find survivors of the 6.8-magnitude quake that struck late on Friday night 72 kilometres southwest of Marrakech.

Many survivors spent a third night outside, their homes destroyed or rendered unsafe. The death toll has climbed to 2,691 with 2,501 people injured, the state news agency reported on Monday.

Footage from the remote village of Imi N'Tala, filmed by Spanish rescuer Antonio Nogales of the aid group Bomberos Unidos Sin Fronteras (United Firefighters Without Borders), showed men and dogs clambering over steep slopes covered in rubble.

"The level of destruction is ... absolute," said Nogales, struggling to find the right word to describe what



was rescuing.

"Not a single house has stayed upright. We're going to start our search with dogs and see whether we can find anyone alive."

In Imgdal, a village about 75 kilometres south of Marrakech, women and children huddled early on Wednesday morning under makeshift tents set up along the road and next to damaged buildings. Some gathered around an open fire. Further south, a car stood crushed by boulders that had fallen from the cliff.

In the village of Tafeghaghte, Hamid ben Henna described how his eight-year-old son died under the rubble after he had gone to fetch a

knife from the kitchen as the family were having their evening meal. The rest of the family survived.

Damaged 12th-century mosque With much of the quake zone in hard-to-reach areas, the full impact has yet to emerge. The authorities have not issued any estimates for the number of people still missing.

Roads blocked or obstructed by dislodged rocks have made it harder to access the hardest-hit locations. On a road near the town of Adassil, not far from the epicentre, rescue worker Ayman Kaitit was trying to clear rockfalls that were blocking traffic.

"There are worse roads further up that are still blocked and we're trying

to open them, too," he said as vans loaded with aid squeezed along a narrow dirt track.

People have been salvaging possessions from the ruins of their homes and describing desperate scenes as they dug with their bare hands to find relatives.

Many structures crumbled easily, including traditional mud brick, stone and rough wood houses, one of the picturesque features that have made the High Atlas a magnet for tourists for generations.

"It's difficult to pull people out alive because most of the walls and ceilings turned to carbon rubble when they fell, burying whoever was inside without leaving air spaces," said military worker, asking not to be named because of army rules.

The heritage to Morocco's cultural heritage has been emerging gradually. Buildings in Marrakech old city, a United Nations World Heritage Site, were damaged. The quake also reportedly did major damage to the historically significant 12th-century Tamedj Mosque in a remote mountain area close to the epicentre.

It was the North African country's deadliest earthquake since 1960, when a tremor was estimated to have killed at least 12,000 people, and the most powerful since at least 1900, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Hodson said Canadian politics is beginning to resemble the American playbook.

"There's a long and storied history of political actors using vulnerable minorities in order to early on achieve power, raise money," she said in an interview. "It is like, they look over there, not over here at this other serious problem, that we're not fixing."

Hodson said she began distancing herself from the Conservative party after last year's "Freedom Convoy" protests in Ottawa, where she and her friends were subjected to harassment.

She finally withdrew her membership when New Brunswick instituted a policy in June requiring students under 18 who are questioning their gender identity to get their parents' consent before teachers can use their preferred first names or pronouns at school.

"Pierre Poilievre gave it tacit approval," Hodson said. "That really just was the last straw."

Poievre was asked about the province's decision earlier this summer, and he suggested Prime Minister Justin Trudeau should stay out of the issue, saying he believes the matter is one for the province and parents to decide.

As Yellowknife reopens, work is being done to bring back the city's homeless population

As the re-entry to Yellowknife continues, work has been underway to track down and arrange for the return of the city's homeless population.

The last homelessness count in the city found there were approximately 300 people who identified as homeless, of which roughly 100 stay in shelters every night, according to Tony Brubett, the executive director of the Yellowknife Salvation Army.

When the evacuation order came down mid-August for everyone to leave the city, some clients left with family or friends while others were flown to various cities, such as Calgary, Brubett said.

Now that the city has reopened, the agency said there have been challenges in tracking people down at hotels or shelters to organize a way home.

"It is much more challenging because, in some cases, there's individuals who may not have a cellphone or a cellphone that's



working," said Derek Pluchieski, program manager for the Yellowknife Salvation Army.

"When they were dispersed from Yellowknife, they got on a plane and went to various locations. And due to privacy and confidentiality laws and so forth, it's very difficult to find people or to even get confirmation of their whereabouts in certain cases."

Pluchieski said the clients he has talked to are anxious to get home. "They want to be in their familiar

"I could go see my friends again ... and see my cousins and my family there," he said.

"I can't wait to go back to Yellowknife."

Meanwhile, Brubett said staff have been working the last few days to clean and get facilities back up and running.

There is also an emphasis on making sure there are supports in place for clients when they return.

"For some, I've heard, I've enjoyed my vacation ... But for those who were put south, now they're put back up here again and they're probably, in their own mind, wondering, 'What just happened to me?'" Brubett said. "We're going to make sure that we have staff available to talk with them and, more importantly, listen to what their concerns are."

The evacuation, while difficult at times, has provided some valuable lessons to Home Base Youth Centre, the local youth shelter.

"We know our youth and they're so drawn to the street and so vulnerable that I'm not having that control in a bigger centre where we wouldn't know how to find them or support them or look for them, it would have been stressful," he said.

Brubett said that staff were packed with activities, such as swimming, arts and crafts and time with elders.

employees at all," Anand said. "This use of generative AI is as a tool to further the work of existing and future employees."

Jennifer Carr is president of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC), whose members include government computer experts. She said her union has not been consulted on the guidelines or decisions by departments to introduce new AI tools or systems.

Carr said the government's new generative AI guidelines need some work. "It only proposes that the government be careful on how they use AI," Carr said. "The careful" is a very subjective term. What we're really looking for is that there are strict regulations or guidelines, where there are go and no-go zones."

Carr said the government guidelines should indicate whether AI is the best tool for a given job. "AI has enormous potential when it comes to synthesizing scientific data. Things that we had to do by hand can be done in nanoseconds by computers using AI," she said. "But if somebody is out of a benefit because there's no human interface, that's where we get concerned."

"These guidelines that we have issued will make sure that employees are aware of not using private or secret information, making sure that content is factual, making sure that we are transparent about its use, and making sure that we're complying with laws and policies as well."

Anand said the government isn't adopting AI in a bid to eliminate jobs. "This is not about replacing

Federal government issues new rules for public servants using AI

The federal government has introduced new guidelines for employees who want to use artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT on the job to ensure the technology is being used responsibly, says Treasury Board President Anita Anand.

Anand said the government also will be monitoring the way AI is being used to guard against potential problems like bias or discrimination.

"As a racialized woman myself, I am very conscious about the potential for bias to creep into decision making," she told CBC News. "I will say that the purpose of these guidelines is to ensure responsible use of generative AI and we will be monitoring to ensure that bias does not creep in if employees go down the road to use generative AI."

Anand said the guidelines, which complement the existing directive to government departments on artificial intelligence, provide preliminary guidance to employees and will be updated as needed. While there are currently no penalties for violating the new guidelines, Anand said they are

based on existing legislation such as the Privacy Act that could trigger a penalty.

"The legal obligation continues to remain on all employees regardless of these guidelines," Anand said. "The guidelines are on top of those existing obligations."

While the Treasury Board's guidelines for generative AI recommend that federal institutions explore ways to use these tools, it also warns of risks - including cybersecurity threats, bias, violations of privacy and inaccurate information.

The guidelines define generative AI as technology that "produces content such as text, audio, code, videos and images" for things like chatbots, e-mails, briefing notes, research or programming. The guidelines recommend caution when using AI for things like public communications on social media or automating "assessments, recommendations or decisions about clients."

If a department uses generative AI to respond to a citizen, answer questions via a chatbot, create a

document or make a decision, it should be transparent about using the technology, the guidelines say.

Departments should "identify content that has been produced using generative AI, notify users that they are interacting with an AI tool, document decisions and be able to provide explanations if tools are used to support decision-making," the guidelines say.

Anand said the government is issuing the guidelines now because "the public service is at the initial stages recognizing the importance of AI."

"These guidelines that we have issued will make sure that employees are aware of not using private or secret information, making sure that content is factual, making sure that we are transparent about its use, and making sure that we're complying with laws and policies as well."

Anand said the government isn't adopting AI in a bid to eliminate jobs. "This is not about replacing

Transgender Tory candidate says vote against gender-affirming care could cost lives

The first openly transgender person to run for the federal Conservatives warns that a policy adopted by the party over the weekend could harm gender-diverse children if it ever becomes law.

However, Hannah Hodson said she feels it's unlikely the contentious policy would be a top priority for the Conservatives if the party is voted into power.

"If these policies (are) passed, people are going to die, children are going to die in this country without access to any gender-affirming care," said Hodson, who ran for the party in the 2021 federal election in Victoria, B.C.

Party delegates voted in favour of a future Conservative government prohibiting "medicinal or surgical interventions" for gender-diverse and transgender children on Saturday. The vote came during a three-day policy convention in Quebec City.



The proposal, which passed with assent from 69 per cent of the voting members, came from a riding in British Columbia.

However, like past leaders, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre has said he is not bound to include the policies adopted at party policy conventions into an eventual election platform.

After the proposal that any future Conservative government prohibit "life-altering medicinal or surgical interventions" for those under 18 was

accepted, Hodson posted online about the betrayal she felt.

"To all the (Conservative Party of Canada) people who have told me they love me, support me, and would fight for me, and who are now telling me to calm down and just go along with this," she wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"I see you and I will not forget."

The vote comes as the issue of children and gender identity is gaining traction among Conservatives in both Canada and the United States.

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