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How does India's visa office suspension affect Canadian travellers?

TORONTO - The suspension of Indian visa services for Canadians this week has prompted uncertainty among many who had hoped to travel to India in the near future.

The news came Thursday as India's visa processing centre in Canada halted services for Canadian citizens, with India saying it anticipates Ottawa will reduce its diplomatic presence in the country. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told Parliament earlier in the week there were "credible allegations" of Indian involvement in the June killing of Sikh independence activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

"Due to operational reasons, with effect from 21 Sept. Indian visa services have been suspended 1/8 until 5/8 further notices," stated the BLS Indian Visa Application Center in Canada on its website.

Here's what the visa centre closure could mean for India's sizable diaspora community in Canada, which is now caught in the middle of rising diplomatic tensions between the two countries.

What services does the centre offer? With offices in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Brampton, Ont., Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Surrey, B.C., BLS is the agency that processes visa requests for India, including for entry, tourist, student and employment visas.

Its services are divided into three main categories: passports, temporary visas and Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards. Those eligible for OCI cards are persons of Indian origin who formerly held an Indian passport, along with their children and spouses.

It's essentially a "lifetime visa for India," the office states online. Cardholders are "granted multiple entry, multi-purpose, lifelong visa for visiting" the country.

But it cautions that OCI status is "not to be misconstrued as 'dual citizenship,'" as India forbids its citizens from holding citizenship of a foreign country simultaneously.

Under normal circumstances, it usually takes about two to three months for the office to process OCI applications, while single entry visas would only take about a week to approve, said immigration consultant Pragati Sharma.

It is not clear how many Canadians hold OCI status, but Indian media reports suggest there were roughly six million cardholders worldwide as of 2020.

Are current OCI or visa holders affected by the office's closure?

The suspension won't affect Canadian citizens who already hold OCI cards, or those whose single entry visas have already been processed, said Sharma, who operates Westlink Immigration in Winnipeg.

However, any Canadian who planned on travelling to India but had not yet been granted an OCI or visa is out of luck for now, she said. That includes those who already applied but had not yet seen their submission processed.

"There are lots of calls I was getting this week because of the situation. People are worried how this is going to impact their applications, those who have already submitted those applications," Sharma said.

"There is a rift between two countries and obviously they have taken some steps, so this is definitely going to impact Canadians."

How impactful could this be?

1.4 million residents of Indian descent, according to the 2021 census, travel between the countries is common.

In 2021, 80,000 Canadian tourists visited India, making them the fourth-largest group, according to India's Bureau of Immigration. Meanwhile, Canada remains an attractive destination for Indians, especially students. In 2022, nearly 300,000 Indians were pursuing higher education in Canada.

"This, of course, is going to affect those who are travelling in the next few months," Vinay Kanekar, director of the University of Guelph's Canada India Research Centre for Learning and Engagement, said in an email.

The restrictions come at a time when many Indian expats often make the trip back home. Sharma noted that there are a series of Indian festivals which begin in October, including Diwali the following month.

Unpacking India-Canada tensions amid Trudeau's bombshell allegations

Montreal, Canada - When Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced last week that his government was investigating possibilities between India and the June killing of a Canadian Sikh leader, Moninder Singh says one of his initial feelings was "validation."

"For 40 years, our community has been working to bring foreign interference from India to light," said Singh, spokesman for the British Columbia Gurdwaras Council, a coalition of Sikh temples, including the one where Hardeep Singh Nijjar was killed.

His sense of validation was "not only at the fact that foreign interference by India was being recognised", Singh told Al Jazeera, but also that Nijjar's death "wasn't some localised matter; that there was a foreign hand in it."

"But on the other side of it, there was also - amongst myself and the whole community - a sense of frustration, as well, as it [took] an assassination of a Sikh leader in a gurdwara for this acknowledgement to happen."

Nijjar was fatally shot outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, a city southeast of Vancouver, on June 18. His death immediately fuelled concerns and outrage within the local community, but it was Trudeau's allegations, made in the House of Commons, that set off a diplomatic crisis between Canada and India.

"Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty," the prime minister said on September 18.

India has forcefully denied Canada's claims - calling them "absurd" and politically motivated. It has also accused Canada of not doing enough to stem anti-India activism and what it dubs "Sikh extremism."

The ongoing row has highlighted long-simmering tensions between the two countries over a Sikh campaign for a sovereign state in India's Punjab region known as the Khalistan movement that has supporters in parts of Canada.

It also has raised questions about the future of their relationship, as both have expelled each other's diplomats. India has announced the suspension of visa processing for Canadians, as well.

"Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistan terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the Indian government said on September 19.

Sikh diaspora in Canada

Nijjar, a prominent Canadian Sikh leader who served as president of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara where he was killed, advocated for Khalistan. Dating back decades but now largely dormant inside India itself, the movement retains some support in the Sikh diaspora, including in Canada, which is home to a Sikh community of more than 770,000 people - the largest outside of India.

In 2020, India accused Nijjar of making "hateful speeches" and "seditionary and insurrectionary imputations" and designated him as being "involved in terrorism" - allegations (DIP) rejected by Singh, who was a close associate of the slain leader. "There's no evidence behind any claims they've made," Singh said.

Nijjar's killing, he added, aimed "to silence a very prominent Sikh leader that was advocating for Sikh sovereignty in Khalistan."

That was echoed by Prabjit Singh, the Canada-based editor of the Panth-Punjab Project digital platform and a supporter of the Khalistan movement, who told Al Jazeera he was 13 or 14 years old when he was first told to be careful about being too vocal about his political views.

"Don't voice your opinions too loud," the 32-year-old recalled relatives and friends telling him.

"Pretty much anybody calling for a separate state or even [anybody who has] politics that are critical of human rights violations ... India interprets [that] as extremism," Prabjit Singh said.

"That strategy of labelling political activism and human rights advocacy as extremism is its attempt to delegitimise any critique of India and to hopefully inspire a security-based response against political speech."

For him, the issue centres around the question of Sikh sovereignty; he says that since the end of British rule nearly 80 years ago, when Punjab was split between India and its neighbour Pakistan, the Indian authorities have rejected "any kind of discussion" of what that could mean.

"The root of this is that unresolved transfer of power in 1947 and really grappling with this question of Sikh self-determination and what it's going to look like today," he said. "And for us, it's unequivocally Khalistan."

Doves vs. eagles

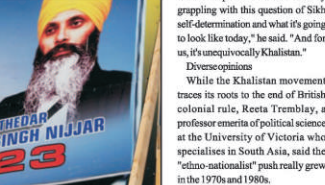
While the Khalistan movement traces its roots to the end of British colonial rule, Reeta Tremblay, a professor emerita of political science at the University of Victoria who specialises in South Asia, said the "ethno-nationalist" push really grew in the 1970s and 1980s.

That's when there was a rise in what Tremblay described as a "very strong, violent political insurgency" among Sikhs in India, who today make up about two percent of the population, demanding their own state.

That campaign culminated in a June 1984 military raid ordered by then-Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the holiest site in Sikhism - the Golden Temple - to root out separatist leaders. Hundreds of people were killed in India's Operation Blue Star, and months later, Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards, setting off a new wave of anti-Sikh riots, arrests and deadly violence.

Tremblay told Al Jazeera that many members of the Sikh diaspora whose families sought refuge in countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia amid the violence in Punjab still carry unresolved memories of what happened there.

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The Art of Realty

Ford's PCs rolled back rent control to spur new rental construction. Here's what happened next

Renting in the Greater Toronto Area is becoming increasingly perilous for many tenants.

The average cost of rents in Toronto hit \$2,898 in August, while throughout the region prices have generally skyrocketed by over 30 per cent in the last two years alone.

It's not a mystery why. Demand is far outpacing supply, particularly when it comes to purpose-built rentals. That is, housing built specifically for stable, long-term rental accommodation that is usually professionally managed.

The shortage has been decades in the making. And now a "perfect storm" of factors has made the impact on the rental market and rent prices especially acute, says Shaan Hildebrand, president of real estate consulting and data firm Urbanation.

"There's an intense level of competition among renters. Demand is growing on a number of fronts and there's extremely limited amounts of supply," he said.

In 2018, Ontario's Progressive Conservative government took a controversial step to try to address the dearth of purpose-built rentals.

Fresh off his election win, Premier Doug Ford rolled back rent controls on all units built or occupied after Nov. 15 that year, saying the move would provide "market-based incentives for supply growth."

The government wagered that scrapping rent controls on newer units would encourage developers to build more purpose-built rentals, since the absence of rent controls, at least in theory, makes these projects more financially attractive.

Given the current circumstances for renters in the GTA, it may seem obvious the government's rent control revisions did little to create more supply. But the reality is more complicated.

A February report by industry groups and Urbanation found the changes did initially generate more developer interest in purpose-built

rental projects. Between late 2018 and the end of 2022, the number of proposed rental units throughout the GTA nearly tripled from about 40,000 to more than 112,000, though less than that were approved.

In the City of Toronto specifically, applications for purpose-built rentals more than doubled in 2019 from the previous year, according to a staff report.

Meanwhile, GTA rental starts (the number of units included in projects with shovels in the ground) hit a three-decade high of 5,958 in 2020, according to the industry report. That's about triple the average pace of rental construction starts of the preceding two decades, it said.

But then the momentum stalled, and progress has remained largely stagnant since.

The COVID pandemic hit and along with it supply chain constraints. That coincided with an ongoing skilled labour shortage. Then came progressively higher

interest rates. Since 2020, average construction costs have increased four times faster than rents, according to Urbanation.

Many proposed rental projects became commercially unfeasible very quickly, Hildebrand said.

Unfortunately for renters, this all corresponded with intensifying demand-side pressures.

High interest rates and astronomical house prices have kept would-be homebuyers in the rental market. Those who do live in rent-controlled units are reluctant to leave, fearing huge increases in rent if they move into a new place. Landlords in Ontario can charge new tenants whatever the market may bear for a previously vacated unit, a practice known as vacancy decontrol.

The GTA continues to be a primary destination for new Canadians and has also seen a post-pandemic influx of international students, two demographics that typically rent.

High demand over next decade A significant majority of purpose-built rentals in the GTA went up more than 40 years ago, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Construction slowed significantly in the intervening years, with investor-owned condos becoming the dominant source of rental supply in the region by far.

The bad economic times have only just started

The Canadian economy is headed for a rough patch. Growth has already slowed considerably. Job growth has moderated. Inflation remains stubbornly high. But the pain households are feeling today is only going to get worse.

"The path forward looks bleak," Tiago Figueiredo, a macro strategy associate with Desjardins, said in a note.

For a while there, the economy proved more resilient than expected. The Bank of Canada's interest rate hikes piled up one after another. Even so, the jobs market boomed, GDP continued to expand.

But economic pain was inevitable. Soaring inflation has eroded purchasing power, and climbing interest rates have clobbered households. Now, cracks have begun to appear in the data, and economists expect those cracks to grow. GDP contracted in the second quarter of this year.

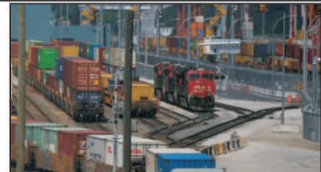
Next week, new data is expected to show economic growth flat-lined in July and perhaps contracted again in August. Some of that can be chalked up to specific factors, including labour actions like the port strike in B.C. or wildfires.

But before any of that, momentum was clearing being sapped out of the Canadian economy.

That would put Canada on track for two consecutive quarters of negative growth, which would meet the technical definition of a recession.

Frances Donald, the global chief economist and strategist at Manulife Investment Management, says we should spend less time debating what to call this downturn and focus more on how it will impact people.

"Even if there are technical factors that avert two quarters of negative GDP, this economy will feel like a recession to most Canadians, for the next year," she told CBC News.



How bad are things, really?

Experts say there are several factors masking just how bad the economy really is. The first is that it usually takes about a year and a half for the full impact of interest rate changes to get absorbed into the economy.

The Bank of Canada began its rate-hike cycle 17 months ago. That means the impact of the fastest, most aggressive interest rate hiking cycle in Canadian history is still to come.

Second, consumption patterns changed during the pandemic and haven't fully reverted to normal, predictable ways that make economic modelling easier. During pandemic lockdowns, Canadians bought a lot of "stuff." We snatched up electronics, gym equipment, household wares. Now, those same households are primarily spending on experiences.

So, retail sales figures just released show an uptick in July but a slowdown in August. How much of that is seasonal or cyclical isn't as easy to determine when all of these other factors are pushing and pulling consumers in different directions.

"Discretionary consumer spending is getting held back by inflation and surging borrowing costs. Another sign of sluggish growth for the Canadian economy while the Bank of Canada, at the same time, grapples with above-target inflation," Robert Kavcic, senior economist at BMO, wrote in a note to clients.

Hovering above all of the numbers and all of the changes is

than three per cent.

He says the recent data challenges the most basic assumptions people have been making about the economy.

"Inflation's cooling, they say. It's only gasoline and mortgage interest costs that are driving it, they say. The government's (rather unclear) plan is working, they say. The Bank of Canada is obviously done raising rates, they say. All of which is complete, utter, rubbish," he said in a note to clients.

Holt says the re-acceleration in last month's inflation data "definitely ups the odds of a rate hike" when the central bank meets again in October.

In a speech this week, Bank of Canada deputy governor Sharon Koziak highlighted the dilemma the central bank is facing.

"We are a long way from rate cuts."

"We know that if we don't do enough now, we will likely have to do even more later. And that if we tighten too much, we risk unnecessarily hurting the economy," she told a luncheon in Regina.

She said some volatility in inflation was "not uncommon," that past rate hikes "will continue to weigh" on economic activity.

None of that is new. The central bank has spent much of the last year and a half talking about balancing the risk between doing too much and causing more pain than was necessary and doing too little and letting inflation get entrenched.

But economists such as Donald say there's been a shift as the bank begins to think about when and how it will have to start looking at bringing rates back down to ease the burden on households.

"We are a long way from rate cuts," she said. "But you could see the off-ramp in the very far distance. And the Bank of Canada is trying to widen that off ramp to give them some optionality" should they need it.

She's forecasting rates will start to come down again during the first half of next year.

"But for a lot of Canadians, there's ... a lot of pain to get through," Donald said.

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Katrina Kaif Pregnant? Here's What We KNOW About The Actress' Absence From Attending Events With Hubby Vicky Kaushal

Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif has made a name for herself in the Hindi entertainment industry with her hard work and determination. Having tied the knot with actor Vicky Kaushal in 2019, their fans have been eagerly waiting for the couple to embrace parenthood soon. Over the past few years, many rumours and speculations surrounding her pregnancy have been doing the rounds on the internet.

It seems like the rumours have surfaced again owing to her absence from the public eye, during the Ganapati festivals. It was even rumoured that she is avoiding the spotlight because of her pregnancy. Well, if a recent report by Hindustan Times is to be believed, Kaif has been busy with her work commitments and is not expecting her first baby.

One of the media publications'



sources dismissed the rumours and expressed that she is not avoiding the public spotlight because of her pregnancy. The source explained that she had been really busy with work and is currently "shuffling between cities for her work commitments."

HT quoted its source saying,

Alia Bhatt DISRESPECTS Thai Actress Davika Hoorne At The Gucci Show? Faces Criticism For Chewing Gum While Talking

Alia Bhatt carved a niche for herself in Bollywood with her impeccable performances. Now, she has been making waves for her trendy outfits and bold fashion choices in India, and it has ultimately helped her secure a position in fashion events. However, the actress has been facing a lot of heat for her recent appearance at the popular Milan Fashion Week. A new viral video of Alia from the Milan Fashion Week has made its way on social media and she can be seen having an engaging conversation with the famous Thai actress, Davika Hoorne. However, netizens were left upset with Alia as she kept chewing while talking to the Thai actress.

A section of netizens opined that Alia lacked basic etiquettes and looked underconfident in her skin. While one user commented, "Those Gucci sunglasses aren't doing her any favours. She's also adopted the chewing gum to look cool schtick made popular by celebs such as Salma."

One user wrote, "Ok but why chewing and talking? How disrespectful Alia!!" A third user commented, "Maybe she has horrible table manners."

A fourth wrote, "Whenever she goes abroad, I feel like she overcompensates by acting like she doesn't give a damn during interviews, chewing gum here, etc. Usually it's the other way around, acting very confident at home and going outside on your best behavior. This attitude is making her look like she's trying too hard and is lacking confidence"

Pakistan's visa issues sorted, cleared to travel for the World Cup

The vexing visa issues for the Pakistan team has been sorted. Cricbuzz can confirm that visas for the Pakistan contingent for the World Cup has been resolved and Babar Azam & Co can now travel to India.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed the development to Cricbuzz on Monday (September 25) evening that the India government has approved the visas for the Pakistan team.

This confirmation comes hours after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) expressed their concerns citing 'extraordinary delay' in securing the visas and also revealed that they had taken up the matter with the ICC. However, ICC sources told normal administrative procedure.

Cricbuzz understands that delay resulted because PCB submitted their applications late. Sources say the delay was for a short just 1-2 days before the festivities started. And she was not spotted at the airport because she took a really early flight, which is why she was not papped." The source further added that she has been very busy with her shoots which is why she has been away from the public eye for so long.



are involved in the clearance of visas. The same procedure is adopted for all applications from Pakistan and there was no specific delay in this case. A case in point is the delay in visa issue for Usman Khawaja ahead of this year's Border-Gavaskar Test series. Although he is now Australian, Khawaja's application had to go through different stages resulting in his late travel.

Pakistan - New Zealand warm up game to be played behind closed doors

Najmul hopes to emulate Shakib in captaincy bow

Bangladesh stand-in ODI skipper Najmul Hossain said on Monday that he is aiming to follow Shakib Al Hasan's leadership mantra as he readies himself to lead the national side against New Zealand at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Tuesday (September 26).

The PCB appointed Najmul as their 16th ODI captain after another make-shift skipper Litton Kumar Das, who was handed the responsibility after regular skipper Shakib was rested from the whole series, wanted him to look to his batting. Najmul broke to work to take up the challenge despite the fact that the hosts could lose their first series against New Zealand at their own backyard since 2010.

"It is not a challenge but a matter to enjoy," he said on the responsibility. "I am really feeling good for the opportunity and now the way our team is at the moment with the World Cup ahead. To be honest if we can end the game on a good note our team will be in a good shape and if I can end the game on a good note it will be helpful for me as well."

Najmul told reporters ahead of the third ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Monday. "We cannot think what happened in 2008 (their last ODI series loss to New Zealand at home) and it is important to end the game on a good note tomorrow. I think as a player this is a proud moment for me and for my family members. The board gave this opportunity and I am very excited about it. Hopefully I will enjoy tomorrow," he said.

"Shakib has always been my favourite cricketer. As a captain we have seen MS Dhoni and everyone likes him a lot. Personally I like the way Shakib had led the team and handles the players. I had the opportunity to play with him in the BPL and learnt a lot of things from him. The experience I have and what I have learnt from my senior brothers I will try to use it."

Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha are now married, details from bidaai revealed

Parineeti Chopra and AAP leader Raghav Chadha have now become husband and wife. On Sunday in Udaipur, the couple wed in a private ceremony. The Leela Palace hosted the wedding ceremony. The pair hasn't made an official social media statement yet. According to sources, bride Parineeti Chopra donned a wedding dress created by renowned designer Manish Malhotra. Raghav and Parineeti's debut appearance as husband and wife is anticipated by fans.

In a video that was recorded at the wedding venue the bidaai song Kabira from Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani can be heard playing. According to a source, Parineeti was nervous, bride emotion and couldn't stop crying while the bidaai was being performed. The entire Chopra family was also crying and applauding the gorgeous couple the loudest, the source said.

The baratis arrived earlier in the day in a boat decorated in lights and decorations that offered hints of



Mewar custom. Arvind Kejriwal, the chief minister of Delhi, and Bhagwat Mann, the chief minister of Punjab, were seen travelling to the wedding. Santa Mira, Harbhajan Singh, Sanjay Singh, Aditya Thackeray, and Manish Malhotra all made an appearance at the spectacular wedding. Priyanka Chopra, Parineeti's cousin, skipped Parineeti and Raghav's wedding. However Priyanka's mother Madhu Chopra was present at the ceremony.

Parineeti and Raghav held a '90s-themed sangeet in Udaipur before the wedding. Navraj Hans, a Punjabi singer, gave a performance during the event. Guests reportedly received cassanets with personalised greetings. On the significant event, the couple displayed their individual personal flair. Parineeti wore a dazzling, embroidered dress with a beaded cape placed over it, while Raghav wore a black, Indo-western ethnic attire. Parineeti and Raghav wore a suit night in Delhi for their close friends and family members before travelling to Udaipur for their main wedding festivities.

BCCI revenue bounces back from Covid slump

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reported a substantial increase in income for the current financial year, totalling INR 2,198.23 crore, as announced to the board members on Monday (September 25).

Treasurer Abhishek Shekar announced at the BCCI AGM in Goa on Monday that compared to the income of INR 4,360.57 crore generated in the financial year 2021-22, the current year has witnessed revenue of INR 6,558.80 crore, marking a significant upswing in BCCI earnings.

The revenue slump in the previous year was primarily attributed to the outbreak of Covid-19. Shekar stated, "This is in line with your notice that due to Covid-19, the cricketing season in 21-22 was cut down to only three tournaments. The domestic season of 2020-21 was at all strength except a few junior tournaments, like Under 16, etc. However, the year 2022-23 brought back all the hopes and confidence to conduct entire domestic season with enthusiasm (sic)," Shekar told the members of the state associations.



"The band handed over to me by my predecessors in a very healthy financial position and I will make sure that it grows stronger as time passes to see in a position and where the BCCI stands today is a result of collective effort by all the ex and present officials. The broad horizon of vision in the form of leadership along with strong commitment of all members of the BCCI has taken the sport of cricket to such a respectable height in a span of 75 years. The dedication and determination put in by the BCCI has made sure that the BCCI remains ethically and financially strong at all times. The BCCI has proved to the sports world how standard can be maintained in all situations (sic)," Shekar further said in his report.

Meanwhile, the BCCI members have been further informed that the income of the board is expected to multiply significantly. By 2027, the board's annual income is projected to exceed INR 80,000 crore. This increase is attributed to the BCCI's share of revenue from the International Cricket Council (ICC), which was previously about 18 percent and has now increased to 38.5 percent.

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Winnipeg homicide victim was wanted by authorities in India

A man killed in Winnipeg's Inkster Industrial area earlier this week was wanted by authorities in India, according to a specialized counter-terrorism law enforcement agency in that country.

Officers were called to a home on Hazleton Drive in northwest Winnipeg around 10 a.m. Wednesday and found a man dead inside, police said Thursday.

They later identified the man as Sukhdeep Singh Gill, 39, and said his family has been notified.

Police in India's Punjab state told CBC News Gill was an Indian citizen and had been accused of multiple crimes in India.

"According to our records, there are 18 cases against him," J Elanchezian, senior superintendent of police in Moga district in the state of Punjab, told CBC in India. The interview was translated from Hindi to English.

Court records show the status of nine of the cases as "not arrested" and "under investigation or under trial."

Another five are recorded as acquittals, one case was quashed and



There was one conviction. Gill, also known as Sukha Duneke, appeared on a wanted list released via the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) this week by India's National Investigation Agency - a specialized counter-terrorism law enforcement agency.

Elanchezian confirmed the man killed in Winnipeg is the same man on the wanted list.

Detectives in Winnipeg aren't revealing how Gill was killed and say an autopsy is pending. No arrests have been made in his death.

CBC News spoke to a person in the area where Gill was killed who

said they heard 11 gunshots Wednesday morning, right before police discovered the man's body.

"Criminal, not terrorist": police The wanted list Gill's name appeared on included a total of 43 individuals the NIA said are associated with "terror-gangster networks."

Elanchezian described Gill as "a criminal, not a terrorist," but said he "might be linked to some gangster activities or some associated gangster."

The senior superintendent of police said Gill was an Indian citizen who left the country in 2017, allegedly

with an illegally obtained passport. Gulneet Singh Khurana, former senior superintendent of police in the Punjab city of Moga, told CBC he investigated the passport case.

"Sukhdeep Singh Gill has been in Canada for quite some time now," Khurana said in an interview in Hindi.

According to a Moga district police document filed in an Indian court, the alleged passport case stems from September 2017, but the report was only filed on June 24, 2022.

The report alleges Gill "illegally ... managed to obtain an Indian passport ... due to negligence of the police officials in reporting the criminal history of Sukhdeep Singh Gill."

Two police officials from India are also accused in the case, the report says.

Strained Canada-India relations Gill's death comes amid increased diplomatic tension between Canada and India over the killing of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a temple in Surrey, B.C., on June 18.

Nijjar had been wanted by India for years and was accused by the Indian government of leading a militant separatist group.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said there was "credible intelligence" linking agents of the Indian government to Nijjar's killing.

This, she said, is owing to the fact that physicians in the Dutch country are required to put in at least 50 hours of after-hours care each year to maintain their licenses.

Germany, on the other hand, reported the highest health status among seniors.

"Because they're actually better at maintaining the health of their population and doing better prevention, so they are healthier to begin with. So they require less care and that helps with that access and waitlist issue," Wynoch explained.

CANADA SHOULD NOT BE "COMPLACENT": STUDY AUTHOR The federal government projects that the population of seniors, or people aged 65 and above, will increase and reach close to one-fourth of the overall population of Canada by 2040 (opens in a new tab).

Wynoch said this will likely put extra pressure on Canada's health-care system, further underlining the need for the country to prioritize seniors' care.

"The need for care is only going to increase over the coming, at least over the next couple of years, before the demographic curve might shift back the other way," she said.

Russia's violence 'must not go unpunished,' Zelenskyy tells Canadian parliamentarians

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivered an impassioned speech to parliamentarians Friday calling on Canada and other western allies to stick by his country through the long, bloody road to victory.

He addressed a joint meeting of the Canadian Parliament Friday following meetings in the United States, where he appealed for more weapons and rebuked Russia before the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

"Life and justice must prevail," Zelenskyy told the House of Commons in a speech that received at least 10 standing ovations.

"When we call on the world to support us, it is not just about an ordinary conflict. It is about saving the lives of millions of people. Literally physical salvation, ordinary women and men, children, our families, whole communities, entire cities. Russia's destruction of Mariupol or Bakhmut or any other city must not go unpunished."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau used the visit to announce Friday another \$650 million in military aid for Ukraine, spread over three years, to acquire 50 armoured vehicles. The fleet will include medical evacuation vehicles to be built in London, Ont., he said.

The new aid package is in addition to the \$500 million announced by Trudeau in June during a visit to Kyiv. It represents a fundamental shift in the way Canada delivers war materiel. Instead of answering specific, individual requests for equipment from Ukraine, the Canadian government is anticipating its needs and planning to deliver on a sustained basis.

"History will judge us on how we defied democratic values and Ukraine is at the tip of the spear in this great challenge of the 21st century," Trudeau told the House before introducing Zelenskyy.

"Russian President Vladimir Putin governs with deception, violence and repression ... But his imperial delusions in Ukraine have been met with a fierce defence. A defence that's just strong because of the support from friends around the world, but because those who fight for their freedom will always fight with their freedom."

As Ukrainian refugees looked on from the gallery, Zelenskyy thanked Canada for its military aid so far, which has included air defence systems, armoured vehicles and artillery shells.

"Canada's support for Ukraine with weapons and equipment has allowed us to save thousands of lives," he said.

He said it's a tradition of sustained support that dates back to 1983, when the first monument in the world to honour the victims of the Holodomor - the Soviet-engineered famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in the 1930s - was unveiled in the city of Edmonton.

"Moscow now, as always, is bent on controlling Ukraine and makes use of all available means to do that, including genocide," Zelenskyy said. "Ukraine, not genocide, will be victorious in this war. People will be the winners, not the Kremlin."

Zelenskyy met earlier in the day with Gov. Gen. Mary Simon. He said she taught him an Inuktitut word - "ajumana" - "She said the meaning of this word is, 'Don't give up ... stay strong against all odds,'" he said, ending his address to Parliament.

"And so it shall be. Ajumana Canada. Ajumana Ukraine."

New sanctions announced After the speeches, the two countries signed a modernized trade deal meant to strengthen economic ties.

Trudeau offered more information about that \$500 million aid package announced months ago. About \$76 million of that package is going to supply 35 high-resolution drone cameras, while another \$30 million has been earmarked for a new repair facility in Poland for Ukraine's Leopard tanks.

Canada will also send trainers for Ukrainian pilots and more small arms



ammunition and has set aside more than \$4 million to strengthen nuclear security measures at the Chernobyl exclusion zone.

Friday's announcement brings Canada's total committed support to Ukraine to more than \$9.3 billion since the beginning of 2022, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

The government unveiled new sanctions today against 63 Russian individuals and entities Trudeau said are complicit in the kidnapping of Ukrainian children and the spread of disinformation and propaganda. The sanctions also will apply to entities in Russia's nuclear sector already sanctioned by Canada's international partners.

The NDP has called Canada's sanctions regime "political theatre." RCMP data suggests few funds have been frozen so far.

As part of Friday's announcement, Canada and Ukraine agreed to work with international partners to establish a working group "to provide advice to decision makers on the seizure and forfeiture of Russian assets, including Russian central bank assets," according to a readout from PMO.

Chillier reception in the U.S. Zelenskyy's visit is part of his campaign to get aid down long-term support frontlines.

Earlier this week, Poland's prime minister announced a halt in military donations following a trade dispute between the neighbouring countries.

And while the U.S. administration in the United States remains firmly behind Ukraine, the notion of continued, open-ended support for the embattled Eastern European country is dividing the Republican Party. U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy chose not to greet the Ukrainian leader before the cameras Thursday.

"Canada should be an ethical, clean energy superpower that energizes the free world with our resources."

Saskatchewan Sen. Denise Bates, who is of Ukrainian descent, attended the event wearing a vyshyvanka, a traditional Ukrainian embroidered blouse. She told Zelenskyy her grandmother stitched the garment more than 100 years ago before coming to Canada.

Separately, Ukraine's new Defence Minister Rustem Umerov met with his Canadian counterpart, Bill Blair, at National Defence headquarters. Blair said the government has had "outstanding" discussions with Ukraine about how Canada can help with its "valiant and courageous struggle" against Russia.

"We believe it is our responsibility and we are absolutely resolved to providing all of the assistance and support that we can for Ukraine," Blair said.

Umerov thanked Blair. "Visit comes as Ukraine reports battlefield progress."

The visit happened just as reports emerged that Ukrainian forces operating near Orkiviv have penetrated the third line of Russian defences in the south of the country.

The U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War, which has been following the invasion with daily reports and analysis, hesitated to call it a breakthrough. It noted that geolocated footage posted online Thursday "indicates that Ukrainian armoured vehicles advanced south of the Russian anti-tank ditches and dragon's teeth obstacles" that form part of Russia's three-defensive lines.

"The Ukrainian ability to bring armoured vehicles to and through the most formidable Russian defences intended to stop them, and to operate these vehicles near prepared Russian defensive positions, are important signs of progress in the Ukrainian counteroffensive," the institute said in its daily analysis.

Canada ranked 8th among 11 developed countries in seniors' care

As Canada's population ages at a rapid rate, a new study from the C.D. Howe Institute (opens in a new tab) suggests the country can do more to improve access to seniors' care and overall equity in the health system.

Released Thursday, the study compares the performance of seniors' care in Canada and its provinces to that of other wealthy nations using data from the Commonwealth Fund, a U.S.-based foundation dedicated to improving health-care systems, and identifies areas for improvement.

The foundation's 2021 International Health Policy Survey of Older Adults Survey (opens in a new tab) focused on a random sample of seniors aged 65 and older in 11 developed countries and asked about their experiences, interactions and perceptions of the health-care system and health providers.

Among the countries surveyed, Canada ranked eighth in seniors' care - ahead only of France, the U.K. and Sweden.

AREAS OF STRENGTH, WEAKNESS Drawing from the survey's data, the

C.D. Howe Institute study applies a magnifying lens to seniors' care in Canada's provinces, because, as study co-author Rosalie Wynoch explained in an interview with CTV News, "we're really 13 health-care systems, not one."

The study found that most provinces exceed the international average in care process, which includes factors such as co-ordination across health providers and patient engagement, but fall below average on equity and access to care, which includes factors such as wait times.

It also notes that access to medical care is an obstacle for low-income seniors, noting in the study that 15 per cent of seniors in Canada are not visiting a dentist and eight percent are not receiving the home care they need because they can't afford it.

Four provinces - P.E.I., Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta - were found to score above the international average overall, while some provinces - particularly Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec - scored below most international comparators.

Among their policy recommendations, Wynoch and her co-author Tingting Zhang suggest improving overall access to care for seniors, timeliness of care and reducing cost barriers to prescriptions, dentistry and home care services across the country.

"Part of the analysis is how we push ourselves to be the best of the best?" said Wynoch, who is also a senior policy analyst at the C.D. Howe Institute and leads its Health Policy Council and Research Initiative.

"And so we would do better by reducing wait times and ensuring care is particularly those that are on the lower end of the income distribution can access care."

INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES The study also analyzed countries like Germany and the Netherlands that rank higher than Canada in seniors' care in order to draw inspiration for domestic solutions.

Wynoch notes the Netherlands stands out as being "significantly better" for access to care after regular business hours than the other countries and Canadian provinces.

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