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## Stabilizing Canada's immigration targets to support sustainable growth

Ottawa: Immigration drives Canada's economy and feeds its future growth. As we continue to face an aging population and critical labour shortages in key sectors like health care, transportation and home building, newcomers are critical to help spur innovation, grow the economy, and support local businesses and communities.

The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, today tabled the 2024-2026 Immigration Levels Plan. This plan is tailored to support economic growth while balancing with the pressures in areas like housing, healthcare and infrastructure. It charts a responsible course for sustainable and stable population growth.

With this Levels Plan, the Government of Canada is maintaining its target of 485,000 permanent residents for 2024 and completing the final step to reach 500,000 in 2025. Starting in 2026, the government will stabilize permanent resident levels at 500,000, allowing time for successful integration, while continuing to augment Canada's labour market. The government also plans to take action over the next year to recalibrate the number of temporary resident admissions to ensure this aspect of our immigration system also remains sustainable.

The Government of Canada will continue to work closely with the provinces and territories,

employers, stakeholders and Indigenous peoples to help Canada adapt to the realities of immigration-driven population growth. This approach is also guided by an Immigration System for Canada's Future report that lays out a pathway to strengthen our immigration system for newcomers, businesses, and communities. Together, these measures will continue to put people at the heart of our immigration policy and ensure that newcomers have the resources they need, including settlement support and access to housing, to succeed in their new lives.

Highlights of the 2024-2026 Immigration Levels Plan include:

- A continued long-term focus on economic growth, with over 60% of permanent resident admissions dedicated to the economic class by 2025.
- A commitment to uphold the Government of Canada's humanitarian support effort by responding to humanitarian and geopolitical crises around the world.
- New ambitious Francophone immigration targets to support Francophone communities outside of Quebec. The targets represent 0% of total immigration in 2024, 7% in 2025, and 8% in 2026. This is to strengthen Francophone communities outside of Quebec and ensure the economic prosperity of Francophone minority communities across Canada.

As the federal government prepares to unveil its immigration targets for the next three years, new research finds immigrants to Canada are increasingly leaving this country for opportunities elsewhere.

The number of immigrants who left Canada surged in 2017 and 2019, according to a study (opens in a new tab) conducted by the Institute for Canadian Citizenship and the Conference Board of Canada. These spikes represent an increase of 31 per cent above the historical average.

Even excluding those two years, however, the study found onward migration, or the process whereby someone moves on from a country they immigrated to and settles again elsewhere, has steadily increased since the 1980s. Among people who arrived in the '80s, the average cumulative onward migration rate was 18 per cent. That number rose to 21 per cent among people granted permanent residence in the first half of the 1990s.

"Canada's future prosperity depends on immigration," the study reads, citing past research by the Conference Board of Canada that has shown immigration leads to GDP growth, improves the worker-to-retiree ratio and eases labour shortages that add to inflation. Welcoming newcomers also helps fulfill Canada's humanitarian goals.

"The benefits of immigration are realized over the time that immigrants spend in Canada—the longer they stay, the more they benefit and contribute. Immigrants who thrive are more likely to stay."

The study found immigrants to Canada are most likely to migrate again four to seven years after arriving here, suggesting that positive early

experiences may be key to enticing immigrants to stay here. For these reasons, the authors urge the federal government to make retaining newcomers a top priority.

"For Canada to meet its immigration goals, the country must not only attract newcomers but also retain them. Yet few attempts have been made to evaluate Canada's immigrant retention rate," the study reads.

"Retention should be a key performance indicator for Canada's immigration strategy, given the central role that immigration is meant to play in supporting population and economic growth."

**WHY STAY?**

In order to chart the best course forward, the authors said policymakers need to understand the factors that influence onward migration.

These can include economic integration; a sense of belonging; racism; homeownership, or lack thereof; and immigration and economic opportunities in other countries. The study also points out that many people who immigrate to Canada are likely to face significant career setbacks if they can't find work that matches their qualifications and professional expertise. It can take years to recover from these setbacks, if they ever do recover.

In order to improve the quality of

## High numbers of immigrants choosing to leave Canada for greener pastures: study

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life and prospects for immigrants in Canada, the authors suggested multiple levels of government work together to monitor the onward migration rate among immigrants, invest in settlement services and other programs that ease the process of immigrating to Canada, help employers hire and retain immigrant workers and invest in infrastructure improvements that improve communities in general.

"Investments in early positive experiences may help reduce overall levels of onward migration," the study reads.

"Initiatives that foster a sense of belonging and attachment to Canada, together with policies that ensure immigrants and their families have

admit 500,000 permanent residents annually by 2025. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister Marc Miller is expected to reveal whether Canada plans to maintain that target when he releases the federal government's updated immigration levels plan on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Miller laid out the federal government's priorities for improving Canada's immigration system (opens in a new tab) with the newly released Strategic Immigration Review report.

The report outlines key measures intended to strengthen the immigration system, including plans to take housing, health care, infrastructure and other services into account when planning immigration levels.

Public opinion around immigration has also begun to shift after decades of steady support for immigrants.

According to the latest Focus Canada public research survey conducted by the Toronto-based Environics Institute, a growing proportion of Canadians is sharing the belief that the current rate of immigration to Canada is too high, (opens in a new tab) citing concerns about how newcomers might impact the availability of affordable housing.

The finding reflects a dramatic shift since last year, when public support for immigration numbers stood at an all-time high.

"Canadians are still more likely to disagree than agree that immigration levels are too high, but the gap between these two opposing views has shrunk over the past 12 months, from 42 percentage points to just seven," the report reads.

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## Trudeau resignation 'prudent course of action,' says senator from P.E.I.

Senator Percy Downe, who was chief of staff to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, says it is time for the Liberal Party of Canada to have a discussion about who will lead them into the next election.

In an opinion piece published in National Newswatch, the senator from Prince Edward Island said Liberals owed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau a debt of gratitude for leading the party from third party status to government, but given declining support in each successive election and poor polling numbers, it may be time for someone else to lead.

"The prudent course of action is for another Liberal leader to rise from the impressive Liberal caucus and safeguard those policies he was actually able to accomplish," wrote Downe.

"If the new Liberal leader is able to bring the party back to the centre of the political spectrum, Liberals have a chance of being re-elected."

He went on to list possible successors: Sean Fraser, Anita Anand, Melanie Joly, François-Philippe Champagne and Jonathan Wilkinson.



Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre took note of the op-ed, quoting from it during question period Wednesday. Asked about it during a serum, Trudeau was dismissive. "Oh well," Trudeau said. "I wish

In an interview on CBC's Power and Politics Thursday, Downe took a softer approach to the question of whether Trudeau should step aside.

"I just think we should have a discussion about it," he said. "If the decision is yes, then we're on a new course. Certainly the prime minister has earned the right to make his own decision."

Downe said there's still time before the next election to move the Liberal Party forward with a new leader, and that's why it's important to have this discussion now.

It is a discussion, he added, that is already underway among some Liberal MPs, and that is one of the reasons he chose to bring it up.

"It's just easier for me to do it than for people who have to leave their nomination papers signed by the leader of the party," he said.

Downe said he is not working with any potential leadership candidate, and added he is likely would not support one.

"Other people in my party can participate, but I've had my day in that regard," he said.

Downe said about Trudeau decision to contest another election, he still has time to address the concerns Canadians have about his government, adding that he believes Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives are better able.

hate crimes, particularly against Jewish and Muslim communities, are on the rise in Canada.

Ontario police issued a statement Sunday saying they were aware of the image circulating on social media and it was under investigation. They called for members of the public with relevant information to contact police.

The rally in Ottawa was just one of several protests held in cities across Canada Saturday, including Toronto and Montreal. Protesters generally called for Canada to push for a ceasefire to stop the escalating conflict.

"There's nowhere that's safe in Palestine right now," Dalia Awad, a member of the Palestinian Youth Movement in Toronto (which also organized the Ottawa protest), told CBC News Saturday.

"Our politicians need to represent our voice, which is [why] there needs to be an immediate ceasefire."

The protests Saturday see the latest rallies in support of Palestinians, as the war between Israel and Hamas continues. Around 1,400 were killed in Hamas's attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, with over 200 taken hostage.

Israel's government says Israeli airstrikes and ground attacks have killed more than 9,700 Palestinians since the war began, according to the Human Rights Watch's tally. Ministry.

## Poilievre motion calling on Trudeau to extend carbon tax pause to all forms of home heating fails

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre's non-binding motion calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to extend the carbon tax pause on home heating oil to all forms of home heating failed to pass Monday.

In the afternoon vote, Bloc Québécois and Green MPs sided with the Liberal caucus in voting to defeat the Conservative proposal, which had the statistical backing of the NDP.

Ultimately the motion was defeated 186 to 135 (opens in a new tab). Trudeau's "no" vote was 135.

While the motion would not have forced the federal government to do anything, had Poilievre secured the backing of the Bloc, it could have become a political pressure point by allowing the opposition parties to note that the majority of the House wanted the Liberals to act.

However, that wasn't in the cards. As Bloc MPs noted, the motion would have "no impact on Quebec" given the federal carbon tax is not in effect in the province.

That's because this temporary break, as well as the Canada-wide doubling of the rural top-up to the carbon price rebate, only apply to the jurisdictions where the federal carbon tax is in effect: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, the Yukon, and Nunavut.

Speaking ahead of the vote, Bloc Leader Yves-Francois Blanchet said his caucus would "not do so on the NDP and vote strangely, with the Conservatives."

"The environment is not a fancy thing that you caterain between crises," Blanchet said. "It is and by itself a very important issue, and we have to be constant and patient and determined in those matters."

Defending his decision to back the proposal this time, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh—who also voted virtually sold reporters that while he would not support the "yes" to reject the Liberals' "ridiculous" approach.

"We reject absolutely the Liberals' divisive plan. We think it's unfair. It pits regions against each other, and so



we're voting to reject the Liberals' divisive plan," Singh said. "We do believe in fighting the climate crisis, unlike the Conservatives."

Reacting to the news that he would not have the votes, Poilievre accused the Bloc during question period of wanting to increase taxes, whereas the Conservatives are pushing to "axe the tax" entirely (opens in a new tab).

The Conservative leader also suggested the Quebec-based party had forged its own "coalition" with the government, a reference to the supply-and-confidence arrangement that remains in place between the minority Liberals and the NDP.

Taking aim at Trudeau's absence from the Commons on Monday, Poilievre was critical of the prime minister for implementing the pause "for three per cent of Canadians in ridings where his polls are plummeting and his MPs are revolting."

The last time the Conservatives advanced a similar motion seeking a tax exemption on home heating fuel, the Bloc and NDP rejected the proposal, and there was one Liberal dissenter, MP Ken McDonald.

This time, the Liberal caucus was united in rejecting the motion, as Trudeau and his lead ministers on the file have already asserted there will be no more carve-outs (opens in a new tab) in their marquee climate policy.

But McDonald's decision Monday didn't come without acrimony. Immediately following the vote, points of order were raised alleging that during the vote, the Atlantic MP had given "the finger" to his opposition colleagues across the aisle.

McDonald dispensed this, and House Speaker Greg Fergus has taken the matter under review, the latest in a

Unemployment rate inches up to 5.7% despite Canada adding 18,000 jobs last month

Canada's economy added 17,500 new jobs last month, slightly lower than what economists were expecting, and not enough to stop the jobs rate from inching up to 5.7 per cent, because more people joined the work force.

Statistics Canada reported Friday that the construction sector added 23,000 jobs, while the information, culture and recreation sector added 21,000.

On the other side of the ledger, retail trade lost 22,000 workers, while manufacturing shrank by 19,000.

The jobs gain was not enough to stop the unemployment rate from moving up two ticks to 5.7 per cent, because 57,800 people also joined the Canadian work force in October. The jobs rate has moved higher in four of the last six months.

It's also 0.8 percentage points above the five-decade low of 4.9 it hit in the summer of 2022, and perhaps more importantly, it's back to the same level it was at before the pandemic in March 2020.

The comparatively weak jobs number comes after two fairly strong months in a row, as 64,000 jobs were added in September and 40,000 in August.

## Politicians condemn display of swastika at Parliament Hill rally

Canadian politicians across the political spectrum are condemning the display of a Nazi swastika symbol on Parliament Hill Saturday, during a pro-Palestinian march and rally in the capital.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre and others were reacting to an image posted by Ottawa resident Howard Fremeth, which appears to show a man holding a sign portraying the Nazi symbol next to the flag of Israel, with the text "Zionism = Nazism."

"The display of a swastika by an individual on Parliament Hill is unacceptable. Canadians have the right to assemble peacefully - but we cannot tolerate antisemitism, Islamophobia, or hate of any kind," Trudeau said in a post on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

"All Canadians should condemn the displays of hate and antisemitism that we continue to see at demonstrations across the country, including the targeting of Jewish businesses and the open display of a



swastika on Parliament Hill," said Poilievre.

Fremeth told CBC News he was "surprised" to see the image, and the hardest part was explaining to his own children why it was there.

"For me that was a challenge. Eighty-five years after Kristallnacht, the experience of the Holocaust ... explaining why this antisemitic imagery exists and why it was in front of the Parliament of Canada."

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# Salman Khan Fans Will Get A Huge Treat With Tiger 3 The Superstar Ensures The Action Sequences Of The Film Appear Real On The Big Screens

Salman Khan is undoubtedly one of the biggest action superstars in Indian cinema. The adeptness of the nation in the last few decades has given some of the hard-core mass masala action films, which have been widely accepted and loved by everyone. Known for the desi action films, Salman boomed the stylized action genre with his sole holding 'Tik Tak Tiger'. The film presented him as the OG SPY of Bollywood, Tiger of the SPY Universe, and in both parts, including Tiger Zinda Hai, he has given the blockbuster. Following the massive success of both films, he is returning as the Tiger in next Sunday's Dharma release, Tiger 3. The actioner has caught the eyes of the masses for various reasons, but what got their attention is his lively nomination sequences, which are almost similar to the Hollywood biggies.



By keeping in mind his massive fan following across the nation, Salman Khan has made sure the masses get a never-before-seen action spectacle on the big screens when they watch Tiger 3. The much-awaited Tiger 3 features a car chase sequence, a hand-to-hand combat sequence, stunts, bike action, and some gun sequences. He has shot almost each and every action sequence

in the film by himself and has ensured that they look raw and real on the big screens to the audiences. The Tiger franchise and SPY Universe are mainly known for their high-octane action sequences, and to continue the trend, the makers have left no stone unturned in making Tiger 3 the biggest event film in Indian cinema. The trailer, the promos, and the assets that have come out have given a taste of the craft and scale of the film. Salman always prioritizes his fans and audience over everything, and he has done the same with Tiger 3. In the promotional arrangement with the film is showing a solid trend in the booking. The hugely anticipated Tiger 3 features Salman Khan in the lead alongside Karika Kaur, Kinan Khattar, and Riddha Dogra. The film, helmed by Manoj Sharma, will be released in cinemas on November 12th, 2023, in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

# Kangana Ranaut To Contest Next Lok Sabha Elections? Tejas Actor Says, 'If Lord Krishna Blesses, I Will Contest Lok Sabha Elections'

Kangana Ranaut has finally broken her silence on the long-standing questions about her future plans and career options. The actress on Friday hinted at entering electoral politics, stating that if Lord Krishna blesses her, she would contest the next Lok Sabha elections.



"With the efforts of the BJP government, we Indians get to see this day after 600 years of struggle. We will establish the temple with great celebration. The flag of Swatantra Dharma should be hoisted all over the world," she added. During the media interaction, Kangana Ranaut also urged the government to create a facility to allow pilgrims to visit the remains of

the lost city of Dwarka which was submerged under the sea. "I always say that Dwarka is a divine city. Everything here is amazing. Dwarkaadhish is present in every particle. The ocean blessed when we see Him. I always try to come here as much as possible to have the darshan of the Lord. But whenever I get a moment from work, I come," she elaborated. "The city of Dwarka which is submerged in water can also be seen from above. I would like the government to have such a facility that one can go underwater and see the remains. For me, the city of Krishna is like heaven," she said. Meanwhile, on the professional front, Kangana Ranaut was last seen playing the role of an Indian Air Force pilot in her recently released film Tejas.

# Revealed! Akshay Kumar's glimpse as Sooryavanshi in Singham Again

One of the highlights of Rohit Shetty's Singham Again is that it will feature cameo of the cops of his other two cop films, Sooryavanshi and Simba. There is keen excitement for the Ajay Devgn starrer not only because it promises to be much bigger than the other cop movies of Shetty but also because of the appearances of the other two stars.

Amidst this, Shetty has given an exciting glimpse of Akshay's cameo from Singham Again on social media as his last cop film Sooryavanshi completes two years. It features a still of the actor as the cop Sooryavanshi while doing a deadly stunt of jumping from a helicopter way above the ground. Akshay is dressed in a black T-shirt and brown pants and, most importantly, he is holding a gun in his right hand. One can hear the signature Sooryavanshi tune in the background. Shetty captioned the post, "In Singham Again, we are just doing what our fans want us to do! So here it is... Akshay Kumar and a helicopter! As we complete 2 years of SOORYAVANSHI, VEEER SOORYAVANSHI joins the battle with Singham." Singham Again is the third film in the Singham franchise after Singham (2011) and Singham Returns (2014). The film also stars Karena Kapoor Khan, Deepika Padukone and Tiger Shroff. The last two actors are the new entrants in the Singham franchise and Shetty's cop universe. Singham Again will be released on August 15, 2024.

# Santner, Rachin Ravindra picked for Bangladesh Tests

Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra are part of a strong spin contingent in New Zealand's squad for the two-Test series against Bangladesh scheduled to be played later this month. Santner played the last of his 24 Tests in 2021 while Ravindra, one of the stars of the ongoing World Cup, hasn't donned the New Zealand whites since the home series against Bangladesh in January 2022.



Santner, who enjoyed a strong Plunkett Shield season taking 15 wickets at an average of 26.00, joins a spin unit that also comprises Ajaz Patel and Ish Sodhi. Glenn Phillips and Ravindra are the all-rounders who provide further spin options for captain Tim Southee. "We've selected a squad we think can compete and succeed in Bangladesh," selection Sam Wellis said. "With Ajees, Ilic, Mitch, Glenn and Rachin, we have a strong spin group that we think can give us a different depth to the pace group." It's great to be able to call upon the services of Kyle again after a period out of the team and he will bring a different dimension to the pace group." New Zealand would seem sufficiently stocked in the seam-bowling department too with Kyle Jamieson returning to the Test squad after undergoing back-surgery in February. He will join Southee and Matt Henry as the three pace options, with Trent Boult making himself available for the tour. The Black Cap's first assignment in the 2023-25 cycle of the World Test Championship will feature a coaching team led by Luke Ronchi with regular coach Gary Stead returning home after the World Cup to prepare for the home summer. Ronchi will be assisted by Jacob Oram (pace bowling coach), Seaglan Mustafiz (spin bowling coach) and Daniel Flynn (batting coach). The squad will fly to Bangladesh on November 21.

# Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka at World Cup after Mathews 'timed out' row

Sri Lanka's batsman Angelo Mathews became the first player to be given "timed out" in the 146-year history of international cricket on Monday in a fiery World Cup clash won by Bangladesh. Chasing 280 for victory, Bangladesh rode on a 169-run stand between Najmul Hossain Shanto (90) and skipper Shakib Al Hasan (82) to reach their target with three wickets and 53 balls to spare. The result sealed Sri Lanka's exit from the semi-final race but Mathews' dismissal overshadowed the result after he was adjudged "timed out" for taking longer than the regulation two minutes to take strike when he arrived at the crease to bat. The dismissal contributed to a tense atmosphere. Shanto and Sri Lanka's Saadeera Samarawickrama were involved in a verbal exchange and had to be separated by the umpires. Later, Sri Lankan players surrounded the umpires demanding a ball change as the game got away from them. Mathews had come into bat after the fall of Samarawickrama in the 25th over but was unable to secure his helmet strap tightly enough, an action which delayed the resumption of play. As a result, Shakib appealed for the wicket. The 36-year-old Mathews eventually trudged off with most spectators appalled by the decision. "Sri Lanka Cricket has been besieged with complaints of player disciplinary issues, management corruption, financial misconduct and match-fixing allegations," Ramage said in the letters, released to Sri Lanka media.

# Sri Lanka sacks cricket board days after World Cup thrashing by India

Sri Lanka's sports minister Rohan Ranaasinghe sacked the national cricket board on Monday, days after a humiliating defeat by India at the World Cup. Ranaasinghe has been at loggerheads with Sri Lanka Cricket - the richest sports organisation in the financially stricken island - for months over allegations of widespread corruption. The country's 1996 World Cup-winning skipper Arjuna Ranasingha has been appointed chairman of a new interim board, Ranaasinghe's office said in a statement. Sports minister Rohan Ranaasinghe has formed an interim committee for Sri Lanka Cricket, the statement said. A new seven-member panel also includes a retired supreme court judge and a former board president. The move came a day after the board's second-highest officer, secretary Mohan Silva, quit. Ranaasinghe publicly demanded the entire board's resignations after Sri Lanka's 302-run World Cup thrashing by hosts India last week. Sri Lanka were at one point 14-6 and were all out for 55, the fourth-lowest World Cup total in history, while chasing India's 358 in Mumbai on Thursday. The defeat prompted a public outcry and police have been deployed outside the board office in Colombo since angry protests on Saturday. Ranaasinghe had said that Sri Lanka Cricket officials had no moral or ethical right to remain in office. "They should voluntarily resign," he said. He had previously accused the board of being "traitorous and corrupt".



Sri Lanka play Bangladesh later Monday and need a mathematical miracle if they are to squeeze into the last four of the World Cup. On Saturday Ranaasinghe wrote to full members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) - which has rules against political interference in the sport - asking for understanding and support. "Sri Lanka Cricket has been besieged with complaints of player disciplinary issues, management corruption, financial misconduct and match-fixing allegations," Ramage said in the letters, released to Sri Lanka media.

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**MATRIMONIAL**  
My brother 31, 58, Canadian citizen, Sunni Muslim, BSc from Pakistan working in Toronto, My sister 32, 54, Canadian citizen, Bsc from Manitoba University, medical student Caribbean School. Contact #204-963-9830

**ضرورت رشتہ**  
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SUNNI MATCH SERVICES-Please call Mr. Qadri @ 647-556-4200 for a free consultation and registration. We also provide marriage consultation, Islamic mediation, and marriage preparation services, for additional fees upon request. Our office is conveniently located in Oakville, Ontario GTA in Canada only, we do not provide services outside Ontario on overseas. Please provide profile in WHATSAPP @ 647-556-4200, or email QADRI@SMAATCH.CA or visit us on the web: SMAATCH.CA. Sunni Muslims and serious inquires only please

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**MATRIMONIAL**  
Sunni Muslim, 38 years old Pakistani/Canadian Citizen single male seeking a suitable match for marriage. Only from Canada or USA. Female should be permanent resident or citizen of Canada or USA. Please contact for more info 416 984 5771



## Transforming our immigration system to build a stronger Canada

Ottawa-Canada is a top choice for people looking for a new place to work, study and build their lives with their families. Newcomers and visitors fuel our economy and add vibrancy to our communities. That is why an effective, innovative, and resilient immigration system is critical to position Canada for success, and to provide a transparent and fair experience for newcomers.

The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, today released an Immigration System for Canada's Future report that lays out a pathway to strengthen our immigration system for people, ensure immigration continues to contribute to Canada's economic growth, and help businesses and communities thrive.

In order to maintain our status as a strong multicultural country and as a destination of choice, our immigration system of the future must be nimble and better meet the needs of our country and of

newcomers. The report identifies actions to transform Canada's immigration system, informed by engagement with a broad range of partners and stakeholders. Some changes are already underway, while others are in development.

"Positioning the immigration system to adapt quickly and to respond equitably and sustainably to growing global humanitarian crises

"Developing a new Francophone Immigration Policy to enhance the vitality of Francophone minority communities, while maintaining and increasing the demographic weight of French linguistic minority communities in Canada"

"Improving the International Student Program by working with provinces and territories on a Recognized Institutions Framework so that post-secondary institutions with high standards in key areas such as integrity and student supports can benefit from faster processing of study permits

"Integrating housing, health care and infrastructure planning, along with other important services, into Canada's immigration levels plan, in close collaboration with provinces, territories and municipalities

"Building an advisory body of newcomers with experience in immigration to inform program and policy improvements, as well as service delivery

"Creating a Chief International Talent Officer position to more effectively align immigration programs and pathways with the labour market, including industry and sector strategies

"Making our website more user-friendly, so that applicants can easily find the information they need

These actions can help shape a system that meets the needs of Canada's economy and labour market. As we move forward, the people who come to Canada will continue to be at the heart of our work, whether they wish to work, study, or call this place their home."

"I was very hysterical," said Pande. "My mind was gone at this point."

Her father was officially pronounced dead at a Montreal hospital from a "pronounced infarction" - dead heart tissue.

Two months later, Pande says the piercing grief has given way to anger. "He was at the mercy of the pilot and Air Canada people," she told Go Public. "They were inhumane and callous."

Air Canada declined an on-camera interview request.

In an email to Go Public, spokesperson Peter Fitzpatrick wrote that Air Canada extends its deepest sympathies to Pande's family, but also "categorically rejects any assertions that it was responsible for the customer's death."

The airline's crew "properly followed the procedures" for dealing with onboard medical emergencies, wrote Fitzpatrick. When asked, he declined to explain the procedures.

Fitzpatrick also said reports from the crew differed "in several important respects" from that of his family, regarding the timing of events and how the situation was handled.

Trying to figure out how often in-flight medical emergencies occur on Canadian flights - and what determines whether an airline will divert a plane - can be like flying

future, while maintaining the safety, security and integrity of the system.

The Government of Canada has already made significant progress in modernizing our immigration system, such as introducing automation and advanced analytics across a number of business lines to accelerate and streamline our work. As of this spring, clients can also use the application status tracker to find information about their applications for the sponsorship of a spouse, partner or child, for Express Entry, study permits, work permits, visitor visas, citizenship and passports through Service Canada.

For more details on all of the measures, see A Plan to get us there.

Quotes:

"Hearing from stakeholders and newcomers provided important insight into how we can develop a stronger and more integrated immigration system in Canada. With these measures, we aim to build a system that is easier to navigate, with an inclusive and coordinated plan that aligns our immigration programs and policies with the needs of the country. As we move forward, the people who come to Canada will continue to be at the heart of our work, whether they wish to work, study, or call this place their home."

announced changes to the express entry system that would prioritize newcomers for permanent residency. Miller said those changes have attracted roughly 1,500 tradespeople from abroad.

But Phil Triadafilopoulos, a political science professor who specializes in immigration at the University of Toronto, said high levels of immigration will still put pressure on the housing market.

"I don't know whether pointing at a historically high level of immigration is really going to do much to ease affordability issues around housing," he told CBC News. "Those pressures are going to persist, I think."

The government's target for economic immigrants is holding steady at 60 per cent of total immigration, according to the new plan.

Colby Hyder, president and CEO of the Business Council of Canada, said the government should boost that portion to 65 per cent.

"Unfilled job openings for highly skilled and educated professionals remain stubbornly high. If not addressed with urgency and ambition, this shortage of leading talent will have a large and lasting impact on Canadian technological innovation, labour productivity and capital investment," he said in a media statement.

Miller admitted the housing shortage was a factor in the decision to level off immigration targets. He said it was not the main factor. "If that were the sole reason, it would totally be misrepresenting the challenges I think we're facing as a country," he said.

Many experts have said that the root causes of this housing shortage are not related to immigration. Red tape and anti-development sentiment at the municipal level, for example, can lead to major delays in housing projects.

The federal government is pushing municipalities to adjust their zoning bylaws through its housing accountability program.

Miller maintained that Canada will need to maintain immigration levels in order to provide the workers who can build houses.

Earlier this year, the government

## Grieving daughter says father might still be alive if Air Canada had diverted long-haul flight

Shanu Pande says she had been looking forward to the trip for years - a flight that would bring her father to Canada from India after he finally obtained permanent residency status.

But the September trip took a sharp turn when Hareesh Pant, 83, developed severe medical symptoms: chest pain, back pain, vomiting, loss of bowel control and the inability to stand up.

"He was deteriorating in front of my eyes," said Pande, who was accompanying her father.

Flight AC051 had left Delhi shortly after midnight local time. When Pant's symptoms started seven hours later, it was over Europe, Pande says she pleaded with the cabin crew to divert the plane and land in order to get her father to a hospital.

Instead, the flight stopped over in Rome for nine hours, travelling over Ireland, across the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Canada before touching ground in Montreal. Paramedics were waiting - but Pant died as they worked on him.

"I was very hysterical," said Pande. "My mind was gone at this point."

Her father was officially pronounced dead at a Montreal hospital from a "pronounced infarction" - dead heart tissue.

Two months later, Pande says the piercing grief has given way to anger. "He was at the mercy of the pilot and Air Canada people," she told Go Public. "They were inhumane and callous."

Air Canada declined an on-camera interview request.

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Fitzpatrick also said reports from the crew differed "in several important respects" from that of his family, regarding the timing of events and how the situation was handled.

Trying to figure out how often in-flight medical emergencies occur on Canadian flights - and what determines whether an airline will divert a plane - can be like flying

one side, he had lost control of his bowels and felt extremely weak.

As they took him to the washroom in the wheelchair, Pande asked the chief flight attendant to return the plane to a nearby city so Pant could get medical attention.

When they emerged from the washroom 40 minutes later, there was still no decision to divert.

Pant and his daughter were moved to business class so he could fly flat.

"Not life-threatening," Fitzpatrick says the crew made "impaired pages" for a passenger with medical training to come forward - but no one did.

Pande says a crew member only made those announcements after her mother-in-law insisted.

Meanwhile, the pilot was speaking with Phoenix-based MedAire, a third-party medical provider used by over 180 airlines, according to the company.

Fitzpatrick says MedAire lets the crew to talk with doctors familiar with the challenges of practising medicine on a plane "to evaluate the passenger and devise care plan."

Go Public has learned that in the case of an in-flight medical emergency on Air Canada, the chief flight attendant fills out a checklist that is given to the pilot, who then discusses the case with a MedAire physician.

The airline would not tell Go Public what the checklist says or Pant's case. His daughter says she doesn't remember seeing anyone fill out a form about her father.

"He's saying, 'I'm having severe chest pain,'" Pande recounted, demonstrating how her father was clutching his chest over his heart.

Pande says she immediately rushed to get the attention of crew members. When they came back to his seat, Pande says Pant's face had dropped on



through thick fog without radar.

No consensus exists among airlines regarding what defines an in-flight emergency. There is no mandatory reporting when a plane diverts for a medical emergency, nor any requirement to make public why decisions were made.

"Theoretically, too many people keeping information close to their chests," said Dr. Shabbir Syed, an emergency physician at Ottawa Hospital and senior editor of a blog and podcast for the University of Ottawa's department of emergency medicine.

"The data we have available to us is quite limited."

Experts say in-flight medical emergencies are expected to increase as airline passenger traffic rebounds from the pandemic, long-haul flights become more common and the passenger population ages. Airlines don't share the cost of diverting a plane, though an article in the Canadian Medical Association Journal said the price tag could climb to almost \$900,000. Today, that stat appears to be almost three decades old.

"I'm having severe chest pain" Pande says, as part of getting his permanent residency, her father had been deemed to be in good health just a few months earlier. He was in good spirits before he, Pande and her mother-in-law boarded the plane at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Seven hours later, Pant jolted awake, says his daughter.

"He's saying, 'I'm having severe chest pain,'" Pande recounted, demonstrating how her father was clutching his chest over his heart.

Pande says she immediately rushed to get the attention of crew members. When they came back to his seat, Pande says Pant's face had dropped on

condition was deemed "not life-threatening."

"I was shocked," said Pande. "I said, 'Why are you not diverting the plane? Do you see his condition?'"

Pande says she became frantic. She asked to speak with the pilot herself, but was denied.

Go Public asked Air Canada how the decision to stay on course was made.

Fitzpatrick, the spokesman, said he was unable to provide that information. He said the crew "provided continuous care," including offering him Aspirin. But Pande says her father was allergic, so she gave him a dose of her mother-in-law's Sorbitrate - a drug used to manage severe chest pain.

Fitzpatrick said when medical experts recommend an aircraft be diverted, Air Canada will do so "without hesitation" and that diversions happen approximately 40 times a year. This year, the airline will operate about 178,000 flights.

MedAire spokesperson Chris Potter said he couldn't comment on the case due to client privacy reasons. In a statement to Go Public, Potter wrote that his company handles 60,000 in-flight emergencies globally each year and that of those cases, fewer than two per cent result in a diversion.

Major emergency

Go Public contacted five physicians - two family doctors, two emergency room physicians and a cardiologist.

All five said Pant's symptoms indicated a serious cardiac event.

"This is a major medical emergency," said Vancouver cardiologist Dr. Vicki Bernstein, who practiced for 40 years before retiring two years ago. "I can't believe that [MedAire] wouldn't have suggested that they divert."

The others also said they would have suggested a diversion.

"It's very important to get them [to a hospital] as quickly as possible," said Bernstein. "Open the chest, stop the bleeding or whatever is happening."

Pande says she understands her father might still not have survived if he had gotten earlier medical attention on the ground, but says he was robbed of that chance.

"I should have banged on the cockpit"

Pande says once the decision had been made that the flight would not be diverted, she was pretty much left alone to care for her dad.

Syed, a doctor who has been pressed into service on a plane, said it's critical to keep passengers apprised of what decisions are being made in the cockpit, and why.

## Canada looking to stabilize immigration levels at 500,000 per year in 2026

After increasing its immigration targets several times in recent years, the federal government announced Wednesday it's aiming to maintain its target of welcoming 500,000 new permanent residents in 2026.

Immigration Minister Marc Miller said the target is meant to support the labour supply while easing pressures on housing and health care.

"What Canadians are telling us, what economists are telling us, is that we have to dive into the micro-economic impacts of immigration," Miller told a press conference.

The government has steadily increased its immigration targets in recent years to boost the workforce and support an aging population.

Last year, the government released a plan to grant permanent residency to 465,000 people in 2023, a figure that's set to rise to 500,000 by 2025. The immigration target for 2015 was under 300,000.

Miller said Wednesday the

government is now leveling off its planned immigration intake to see what sorts of adjustments can be made to Canada's immigration program.

"Those numbers were needed but now we have to take a look at them, where we feel they're reasonable and planning in a space where we think it makes sense," he said.

"We have a lot of complex calculations that we need to make and measures we need to adjust. I think it's sometimes politically convenient to come out with a hammer-type approach... It's more on the level of finer surgery that we need to adjust."

Canada's population grew by a record 1 million people in 2022. The population also surpassed the 40 million mark earlier this year.

The population growth is coming at a time when the country is also facing a housing shortage. Almost 5.8 million new units will have to be built by the end of the decade in order to fix the housing supply, said a

report from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation released in September.

Miller admitted the housing shortage was a factor in the decision to level off immigration targets. He said it was not the main factor. "If that were the sole reason, it would totally be misrepresenting the challenges I think we're facing as a country," he said.

Many experts have said that the root causes of this housing shortage are not related to immigration. Red tape and anti-development sentiment at the municipal level, for example, can lead to major delays in housing projects.

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Happy Diwali & Bandi Chhor Divas!

from Ruby Sahota MP for Brampton North

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