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**Trudeau government unveils plans to cut \$500 million in spending**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government unveiled details of its plan to cut \$500 million from government spending Thursday - and not all departments are going to be feeling the same impacts.

While some agencies like the Canadian Space Agency and the Invest in Canada Hub will see more than one per cent of their spending frozen and returned to government coffers, 61 departments and agencies don't appear on the list of government budget-cutting initiatives.

The government said the cost-cutting initiative excluded agencies of Parliament and small organizations with budgets under \$25 million a year. But many of those not included on the list of organizations affected - such as the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the National Capital Commission - have budgets much higher than \$25 million.

While the government is freezing roughly 0.2 per cent of the budget for some national museums - like the Canadian Museum of Nature and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights - the National Museum of Science and Technology, which spends \$59.5 million a year, doesn't appear on the list of affected institutions.

Of the government departments that do appear on the list, the Department of Finance is taking the smallest hit, with only \$827,000 of its \$1.18 billion budget cut - about 0.007 percent of its estimates.

In the 2023 budget, released in April, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland said promised reductions in government spending would represent savings of \$15.4 billion

over the next five years.

In dollar terms, the Department of National Defence (DND) is losing the most money - \$211.1 million of the total \$500 million cut. That works out to roughly 0.76 per cent of its \$27.5 billion spending estimate.

The government's supplementary estimates, meanwhile, give DND an additional one-time transfer of \$1.3 billion - \$500 million of it for military aid to Ukraine.

The Treasury Board acknowledged in documents that the impact of the cut could vary from one department to another.

"Ministers and their departments were given the flexibility to reduce spending on professional services and travel drop by \$7.1 billion, and spending on operations and transfer payments drop by \$7 billion, over the next five years."

Treasury Board said it worked with departments to identify sustainable spending reductions. "Departments were asked to review their spending and to identify ways in which they could reduce their spending, such as by consolidating services, or by using external contractors. The government has promised to reduce spending on operations and transfer payments."

On Thursday, Anand tabled supplementary estimates in the House of Commons which include a cut of \$500 million to the government's \$443 billion spending estimates.

In the documents made public, the government said the affected departments and organizations would not be able to spend the frozen portions of their budgets, which make up the \$500 million that will lapse back to general government revenue at the end of the fiscal year in March.

Anand told reporters that \$350 million of the spending cuts will affect outsourcing and contractors. Travel costs are to drop by \$150 million.

The government says it wants to see spending on professional services and travel drop by \$7.1 billion, and spending on operations and transfer payments drop by \$7 billion, over the next five years.

Treasury Board said it worked with departments to identify sustainable spending reductions. "Departments were asked to review their spending and to identify ways in which they could reduce their spending, such as by consolidating services, or by using external contractors. The government has promised to reduce spending on operations and transfer payments."

On Thursday, Anand tabled

**Once a leader, Canada's peacekeeping efforts dwindling for decades, experts say**

In 2016, at a United Nations conference in London, then-minister of defence Stephen Desjarlais made a pledge (opens in a new tab) to follow representatives from 70 countries, that Canada was prepared to deploy as many as 600 members of the armed forces to support future international peacekeeping operations.

Combined with the existing 133 military and police personnel already in the field by December of that year, Canada's peacekeeping contribution was poised to reach a 20-year high, not seen since the drawdown of deployments to the Balkans in the mid-1990s.

"Canada is committed to leading international efforts in peace support operations," Sajjan said in a 2016 statement about the conference.

"I'm confident that our unique whole-of-government approach will make tangible contributions to peace support operations around the world."

Data from the UN shows that in the seven years since the London conference, Canadian peacekeeping has not met Sajjan's pledge.

And according to personnel totals from July of this year, there were just 57 Canadian peacekeepers active globally, split between missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, South Sudan, Haiti, Cyprus, Kosovo, Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

UN totals for peacekeeping personnel may vary from those counted by the contributing nation, as they typically reflect the number of individuals whose expenses were reimbursed by the UN.

For example, the most recent UN numbers list 29 members of the Canadian Armed Forces active in peacekeeping operations, but in



response to a CTV News inquiry, Canada's Department of National Defence tallied 28 service members in that role, with an additional 57 personnel engaged in non-UN peace missions.

In a written statement to CTV News, Defence Minister Bill Blair underscored Canada's contribution of "personal, military capabilities and funds," as well as training, to the UN's efforts abroad.

Blair highlighted the December 2021 announcement of \$85 million in contributions and related projects "to continue responding to the needs of UN peace operations and peacekeeping."

"For decades, Canada has played a key role in supporting United Nations Peace Operations - and that will continue," the statement read.

"But retired lieutenant general former senator Romeo Dallaire, who served as force-commander for UN peace operations preceding and amid the Rwandan genocide, Canadian peacekeeping has changed greatly.

"This country is falling miserably in taking the lead," said Lt. Gen. Dallaire in an interview with CTV News. "We used to; we're not doing it now."

Walter Dorn, a professor of defence studies at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) and the Canadian Forces College, says the country lags behind not just its own past peace

keeping in a source of national pride.

"For so many decades, Canada was the go-to source. We were the only country to have provided peacekeepers to every single UN mission of the Cold War," he said in an interview. "Now, the UN can't depend on us to provide anywhere near those kind of numbers."

More recent comments from the prime minister and cabinet officials have underscored Canada's financial and policy supports for peacekeeping, including inclusivity efforts for women and a set of guiding principles raised at 2017's UN conference in Vancouver.

"The Government of Canada continues to support efforts to make peacekeeping more effective and more inclusive," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement this August. "Canada's leadership in

Ethiopia and Eritrea, and in the mid-2000s, as part of political stabilization efforts in Haiti.

But in 2006, amid withdrawals of peacekeepers from the Golan Heights, personnel counts fell below 200, where they would plateau for the next decade.

In a 2019 review for the Canadian Foreign Policy Journal, Graeme Young of the University of Glasgow described "politics of disengagement" through the Harper years, as Conservative governments pursued a "Canada First" approach that saw increased militarism amid the American-led "War on Terror" after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, but the disappearance of peacekeeping from party platforms.

"[Harper's] government's turn away from liberal internationalism and concerted efforts to reorient Canadian foreign policy around the use of force ... embodied fundamental lack of commitment to peacekeeping as a public good in the international system," Young wrote.

The Liberal government that followed campaigned on the promise to "recommit to supporting international peace operations with the United Nations," but by Dorn notes, declines in peacekeeping continued.

"Before his election in October 2015, Trudeau criticized the Conservative government of Stephen Harper for a decline in [the] number of uniformed personnel [and] 66th on the list of contributors," Dorn's analysis reads. "Surprisingly, under the Trudeau government, the contribution [would] fall further for over two years until Canada reached its lowest rank in history: 81st."

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## Police investigating shots fired overnight at 2 Jewish schools in Montreal

Montreal police are investigating after shots were fired at two Jewish schools. Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) spokesperson, Jean-Pierre Brabant, said police received two 911 calls, one at around 8:20 a.m., and the second just before 8:50 a.m. In both cases, the callers reported the schools' front doors had been struck by bullets, but police cannot yet confirm if there is a link between the incidents, he said. It is not clear when the shots were fired. One of the schools, Talmud Torah Elementary School, is located on Saint-Kevin Avenue in the city's Côte-des-Neiges neighborhood. At least one bullet casing was found at the scene, according to Brabant. The other, Yeshiva Gedola of Montreal, is located on Dawson Road, Brabant said both schools were empty at the time of the shooting and



nobody was injured. David Oliei, an adult who studies at Yeshiva Gedola, says the incident will not deter him from openly observing his faith. "I'm going to keep wearing my kippah proud and not be afraid to live in my home, where I was born," he said, adding that people have been right to protest against the actions of the Israeli government but not to target Jewish people in the city with violence. The shots fired come at a time of rising tensions in Montreal related to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Middle East. Earlier this week, Molotov cocktails were thrown at a synagogue in the Montreal suburb of Dorval. A fight broke out at Concordia University resulting in several injuries and one arrest. "The Jewish community, with close to 300 years of history in Quebec, is under attack, and antisemitism is not a problem that the Jews can solve," Yair Sliak, president and CEO of Federation CJA - a Jewish advocacy organization - told reporters Thursday.

## Immigrants explain why they're leaving Canada

Immigrants to Canada are increasingly leaving this country for opportunities elsewhere, according to a study (opens in a new tab) conducted by the Institute for Canadian Citizenship and the Conference Board of Canada. In fact, the number of immigrants who left Canada rose by 31 per cent above the national average (opens in a new tab) in 2017 and 2019. Factors that influence onward migration include economic integration, a sense of belonging, racism, homeownership, or a lack thereof, and economic opportunities in other countries, the report revealed. Amid a crunch on affordable housing and other services, Immigration Minister Marc Miller announced on Nov. 1 that the federal government intends to maintain its target of admitting 500,000 new permanent residents in 2026. In the days since the announcement, dozens of people who came to Canada as immigrants have reached out to CTVNews.ca to explain why they've abandoned their efforts to build a life here, or are close to doing so. The emailed responses have not all been independently verified. Most respondents said the high cost of living and competition for jobs and affordable housing have driven them to look beyond Canada's borders for better prospects. Julian Cristancho immigrated to Canada from Colombia in 2019, after briefly considering the U.S., and started an entry-level human resources job after completing a human resources degree in Ontario. The job paid \$17 per hour - not a living wage in most Ontario cities at the time, according to the Ontario Living Wage Network (opens in a new tab) - and he quit after two years to apply for something better. "It took around 50 applications and countless hours tailoring resumes and cover letters just to get three initial interviews and not hearing back from those companies," he wrote in an email to CTVNews.ca. In Cristancho's experience, Canada's immigration system works well at getting people into the country, but not at setting them up for success after they've invested some time here, he



incredibly difficult to make ends meet." Other readers who contacted CTVNews.ca cited health-care costs and a hostile political landscape among their reasons for leaving Canada, though affordability was still a concern. Bianca Miz and her partner moved to Canada from Europe when she was 29 and both secured well-paying jobs in Vancouver. Miz came armed with a master's degree and a PhD in engineering. Despite their professional success, the two found it hard to cover the expenses of their small family. "We found ourselves merely scraping by, unable to afford a home to raise our child," Miz said in an email to CTVNews.ca. Meanwhile, although they had chosen Canada over the United States for its health-care system, they were unable to secure a family doctor. Composing these issues, Miz said, were daily headlines about political scandals, policy failures and pervasive social inequality in Canada. It was enough to convince Miz and her partner to return to Europe. "Confronted with a society where hard work did not seem to correlate with fair rewards, where health care and educational systems were compromised, and where government corruption was not an anomaly but a recurrent headline, our longing for Europe's more accountable and equitable social systems intensified," Miz said. "We are thus compelled to return to a society where taxes lead to tangible public services, healthcare is a given right, not a privilege and where schools are havens of learning, unmarred by the pervasive reach of politics."

## U.K. says terror attack 'very likely' to strike Canada as Ottawa labels threat 'medium'

The U.K. and Canadian governments are currently showing very different levels of terror threat assessments for Canada. On the British government's travel advisory page for Canada, an update from Nov. 3 reads: "There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting U.K. interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the U.K. and British nationals as targets. You should remain vigilant at all times." This is followed by a boldface warning: "Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Canada." It adds: "Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners. You should remain aware of your surroundings, keep up to date with local media reports and follow the advice of local authorities." It then lists recent attacks, including a stabbing this year in Surrey, B.C., and the 2021 van attack that killed four members of the

same family in London, Ont. The website includes a link to the government of Canada's web page for rational terrorism threat levels. But that page indicates that the current level is medium, defined as "a violent act/terrorism could occur." "Medium" is the middle of five levels. The next highest, "high," says that a violent act of terrorism "is likely," while the highest level, "critical," warns that an act "is highly likely and could occur imminently." The British warning of "very likely" attacks would seem to fall between these two highest levels. The Canadian website notes that the terror threat has been at "medium" continuously for almost 10 years, since October of 2014. The issue was raised Wednesday during Question Period in the House of Commons, when opposition leader Pierre Poilievre asked the Prime Minister if he agreed with the U.K. foreign office's assessment. "We are continuing to make sure that we are doing everything we possibly can to keep Canadians safe," Justin Trudeau answered. "We understand that there are rising times around the world right now, but the best thing we can do as Canadians is stay true to our values, be respectful of one another, feel each other's pain, and be there to support others through these very difficult times of a rise in hatred, including Islamophobia and antisemitism." Poilievre then pushed the point, noting that "terrorists are not interested in feeling other people's pain; they are interested in causing other people pain," and asking Trudeau to explain the difference in their threat assessments. "I cannot speak to how other countries make their determinations on travel advisories," the Prime Minister answered, "but I can say that the work is done daily in Canada to assess the threat level to

Canadians and what can be communicated to keep them safe. We elevated the threat level to medium in 2014, and it has remained at that level since. Every single day, we re-evaluate and ensure that we are doing everything we can, privately and publicly, to keep Canadians safe." He added: "We have top security agencies and officials who work daily to reassess the threat levels to Canadians. They are working every single day to keep Canadians safe, and they will continue to keep Canadians informed on the best ways to keep safe." In a statement to the National Post, a spokesman for the British High Commission in Canada said he could not elaborate on the change in threat level. "The FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) constantly reviews the threat to British nationals from international terrorism using all of the resources and information available," he said. "We cannot disclose details of our threat assessments." He added: "In regards to Canada, it's not for the U.K. government to comment upon the Canadian government's assessment of the threat from terrorism." 00000

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# Madhu Chopra reveals Priyanka Chopra Jonas may have experienced childhood PTSD: says, "There were few people who taunted her about her complexion"

While Priyanka Chopra Jonas has always championed for women's rights, the actress has always maintained about how her mother, Dr. Madhu Chopra has been an inspiration to her. The proud mother could not stop gushing about her beloved daughter, a global superstar and even explained about the immense strength Chopra has showcased during the most challenging times. In the same breath, she also candidly revealed about the actress' childhood wherein she might have experienced a few distasteful memories.

Whether it is asking for equal pay

or bullying, there isn't a subject that Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been afraid of addressing. Similarly, her own mother Dr. Madhu Chopra decided to speak her heart out wherein she gave us a sneak peek into the few formative moments that Priyanka may have experienced as a child and the kind of impact it left on her. "I think she might have had childhood PTSD trauma because when she was very young, everyone in the Chopra family was 'gonn-chitna' (fair) except her father. And she proud about her father! However, the stunt mother also maintained that her daughter was beautiful. "She was not at all that

bad, she was very good-looking. She was a stunner. She had a 'gelu' (wheatish) complexion. But there were few people who taunted her about her complexion and maybe that remained in her head. Apart from that, she has always been a stunner," added Madhu. Dr. Madhu Chopra, who has always been the strength and support of Priyanka Chopra Jonas, also helps her daughter handle the multiple ventures as the latter shuttles between India and the US, where she resides with Nick Jonas and their daughter Mali Marie Chopra Jonas.

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# The Archies trailer: This Netflix original would have been an urban multiplex SUPER-HIT and generated a craze like Barbie among the youth

The much-awaited trailer of The Archies is finally here. The film has been making waves ever since it was announced. It'll be out directly on Netflix on December 7 and the platform has gone all out to make sure the film makes noise. Two songs from the film have already been revealed. The star cast of the film - Agastya Nanda, Dot, Khushi Kapoor, Mihir Ahuja, Sabana Khan, Vedang Raina and Yuvra Mendis - made their presence felt at the Bollywood Hungama OTT India Fest Day 2. As a result, the excitement for the film was already there and with the unveiling of the trailer, the hype went many notches higher. The trailer starts with the introduction of the characters and the picturesque, fictional town of Riverdale. The newcomers, some new faces are shown like Vinay Pathak, Aay Khan etc. The conflict in the plot - the characters trying to save the beloved park - also gets highlighted.

All the action look retro-stylish and seem to have got their performance right, which is a fact since they are all debuting in this film. Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana seems to be the show as Veronica. Two of her dialogues - "Riverdale should be a good time that I am back" and "I also had a good time with me" - are savage and equally funny.

# Henry a big miss, but Southee brings lot of experience - Ferguson

The last semifinal between India and New Zealand in a World Cup was in Manchester in 2019, and Louis Ferguson still recalls the event. It was an incredible game, not only because the Kiwis emerged victorious, but also due to the unique circumstance that led to it being played over two days. The Kiwi pace still finds it hard to get over the significance of this memorable match. "Over two days," remembered Ferguson, "was a significant factor in the 2019 semifinal. The pace made vital breakthroughs when India began their chase on Day Two, claiming the wicket of Rohit Sharma and his opening partner KL Rahul in back-to-back overs. This time around, Henry won't be present, because of an injury, but Ferguson says Tim Southee has filled the void left by Henry's absence.

"Matt Henry is obviously a big hole in our side and we're still a couple of days and obviously to play at this ground - I've had a few games here and I'd a pretty spectacular crowd. So, from our point of view, I'm not sure I can comment on that. But at the same time, look, four years ago was a pretty spectacular game." Matt Henry was a significant factor in the 2019 semifinal. The pace made vital breakthroughs when India began their chase on Day Two, claiming the wicket of Rohit Sharma and his opening partner KL Rahul in back-to-back overs. This time around, Henry won't be present, because of an injury, but Ferguson says Tim Southee has filled the void left by Henry's absence.

# Sehwag, Aravinda de Silva, Diana Edulji inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

Aravinda de Silva, Diana Edulji and Virender Sehwag are the latest cricketers to be inducted into ICC's Hall of Fame. They will be honored during the World Cup semi-final between India and New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium, the ICC said. Edulji, the third highest wicket-taker in Tests, is the first Indian female cricketer inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. She played international cricket for 17 years, featuring in 20 Tests and 34 ODIs, and captained India at the 1998 and 1993 World Cups. "It's not only a proud moment for me, my family and friends but also for BCCI and Indian Women's Cricket," Edulji said on the honor.

De Silva, a stylish batter who played 97 Tests and 308 ODIs, was a key member of the World Cup-winning side for Sri Lanka in 1996. Against Australia in the final, de Silva struck three key wickets before being an unbeaten 107. "My family, my parents, my sister, my wife and children are my anchor,

and deserve the deepest thanks for their unwavering support and sacrifice, which have propelled me towards success. My friends, steadfast companions throughout my highs and lows, have been my pillars of strength," de Silva said. "To my coaches, teachers, fans and supporters, your relentless belief in me has fuelled my drive to succeed. My mentors and captains have guided and inspired me, and my teammates have been my extended family on this incredible journey. To the ones I have played against, thank you for enriching my game."



Sehwag, a generational opening batter with two triple Test hundreds and an ODI double hundred, was one of the architects of India's World Cup win in 2011, and played 104 Tests, 251 ODIs and 104 T20Is. "I feel extremely grateful for having spent a great part of my life doing what I loved most, 'batting the cricket ball,'" said Sehwag. There are now 112 cricketers in the ICC's Hall of Fame, all picked through a voting process conducted among existing Hall of Famers, media representatives and senior executives from FICA and the ICC.

# Bavuma moves with freedom in training ahead of semifinal

Temba Bavuma trained without significant evidence of discomfort during South Africa's optional practice session at the Eden Gardens on Monday ahead of Thursday's men's World Cup semifinal against Australia in Kolkata.

The South Africa captain's movements were noticeably affected after his strained his right hamstring after five balls into the match against Afghanistan in Ahmedabad on Friday, putting his participation in the semifinal in doubt. Team management said on Saturday Bavuma had "showed improvement overnight" and on Sunday that he "did not go for a scan". Reporters at Monday's training session saw Bavuma, wearing stepping pads on his right thigh, jog a lap of the ground and then spend around 15 minutes running in several bursts - forwards and backwards, and at various speeds - between plastic baselines placed on the outfield. Strength and conditioning expert Reenushan Moodley and physiotherapist Sivee Habibe kept a close watch. On Monday evening, management quoted the team's medical team as saying: "Temba's right hamstring strain has shown good objective signs of improvement over the last 72 hours. We will continuously assess his progress through the management plan over the next few days towards giving him the best chance to play on Thursday." Bavuma's activity with Moodley and Habibe was described as "not a fitness test... these were part of the rehabilitation strategies of the recovery plan". As Bavuma rested between runs he put a hand to his right buttock and then punched it lightly. He walked with a slightly stiff gait, but high-fived Moodley and Habibe as his interaction with them ended. Bavuma returned into the dressing room after that, re-emerging some minutes later. He was padded up and ready to take guard, which he did at first without a stump before reaching for his bat. He was in the nets for more than an hour, and seemed to move with freedom.

# Akshay Kumar starrer Housefull 5 to kick off shoot on January 15, 2024

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, in July this year, announced the fifth installment of his hit comedy franchise Housefull. The film is headed by Tarun Manohar and is scheduled to hit the theatres on the occasion of Diwali 2024. It is the first film franchise in India to have a fifth installment. While it is reported to be made on a massive budget, the casting for the same is underway. Meanwhile, the makers plan to take the film on floors in January 2024.

"Housefull is a franchise close to both Akshay and Sajid. They both have cracked a subject that doesn't just do justice to the world of this madcap comedy, but also raises the stakes. The core plot is locked and the pre-production is in progress to take the film on floors with the first schedule from January 15, revealed as a source close to the development, as per a report in Pinkvilla. Sajid Nadiadwala and Akshay had

approached Abhishek Bachchan and John Abraham to sign the film. However, both Abhishek and John had to say no based on date issues. "While they were more than willing to come on board for Housefull 5, they were not able to align their dates for Housefull 5," the source added. Meanwhile, Akshay Kumar is currently shooting for the Muddasari Anji comic super Khel Khel Mein in London. His next is Udaan followed by Bade Miyan Chote Miyan and Sky Force.

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دو بیٹیاں عمر 31 اور 24 سال دونوں کی تعلیم کینیڈا سے اور دونوں نو درآمدی ہیں جاگیر رہی ہیں، ہم پھر لڑکوں کے والدین رہیں گے۔  
Kayan186@hotmail.com  
416-531-3317

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Whatsapp Naecem Suleri +92 312- 410- 8485

**ضرورت رشتہ**  
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مزید معلومات کیلئے ہم سے رابطہ کر سکتے ہیں۔  
437-770-4404

**MATRIMONIAL**  
My brother 31, 5'8, Canadian citizen, Sunni Muslim BSc from Pakistan working in Toronto. My sister 32, 5'4, Canadian citizen, Bsc from Manitoba University, medical student Caribbean School.  
**Contact #204-963-9830**

**ضرورت رشتہ**  
ہمیں اپنی بیٹی کی بہترین عمر کی مصافحہ گفٹ کیلئے کیلئے ہیں، صاحبزادہ اور صاحبزادے کے ساتھ رہیں گے۔  
45 سال سے زیادہ عمر، عقیدہ و عہدہ رکھتے ہیں۔  
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## Ottawa man under investigation, in custody for alleged hate crime



An Ottawa man is under investigation by Toronto police for an alleged hate crime. Muhammad Asadi appeared in an Ottawa courtroom Sunday after being arrested for violating bail conditions for outstanding charges that include assault and breaking and entering. A bail hearing has not yet been scheduled and he is currently in custody, likely until at least his next expected appearance on Nov. 14. Toronto Police Service said in a

statement it is working with outside agencies and law enforcement partners on hate-related cases. "What I can confirm is that Toronto Police are currently investigating a number of hate-related incidents in Toronto," the statement said. Asadi appears in multiple photos and videos posted to social media wearing an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp (IRGC) jacket. An arm of the Iranian government

that operates independently from the country's conventional military, the IRGC is not currently listed as a terrorist group in Canada even though its Quds Force branch is designated as such. Canada has not had diplomatic relations with Iran since 2012, when the Harper government expelled Iranian diplomats from Canada and closed the Canadian embassy in Tehran. Asadi appears to have organized an

online fundraising campaign for a controversial pro-Palestinian activist, and his social media appears to offer support for Hamas.

Across the country, police forces are warning the Israel-Hamas war is inciting a rise in hate-motivated crimes.

Earlier this month, Ottawa Police said it had "several concerning hate-motivated criminal incidents" targeting Jewish and Muslim communities reported to police.

"Hate speech, symbols and other hate-motivated incidents are unacceptable. Those incidents can have a lasting impact not only on those who have been targeted, but throughout the neighbourhoods and communities where they occur," OPS said.

"The Ottawa Police has zero tolerance for hate-motivated incidents. The Hate and Bias Crime Unit fully investigates all reported incidents. We will prosecute those who commit hate crimes to the full extent of the law."

In July, prior to the latest Israel-Hamas war, Ottawa police reported hate-motivated incidents in the city had jumped nearly 24 per cent in the first half of 2023 compared to the same time last year.

Jewish residents were among the most affected residents from these incidents, according to police statistics.

## Why do Canadians struggle to talk about war?

We have a problem with talking about war in this country. That might be a strange sentiment to convey on Remembrance Day, but it is informed by so much history - recent and distant, on and off the battlefield.

That's not to say that we should in any way grow accustomed to talking about war, or eagerly embrace such occasions.

But there's a line in the recently published three-volume history of Canada's war in Afghanistan that

nicely captures this reluctance at the heart of our institutions and society.

"As a mature nation, we must take responsibility for our history," wrote Sean Maloney, whose detailed, blunt, clear-eyed account of the Canadian Army in Afghanistan during the country's longest war ruffled enough establishment feathers that it faced a decade of obstacles on the way to publication.

One volume of Canada's official history of the First World War wasn't completed until 1938 (20 years after the war) and wasn't put into a final form until 1962 (44 years following the armistice). Compared to that,



Maloney's Afghan war history was delivered at light speed. The two volumes that made up Canada's official Second World War history and its one-volume Korean War history also struggled to find their way to the printer.

Even with a limited print run (1,600 copies, English and French in total), Canada's Afghan war history is largely shielded from public view, with only hazy aspirations of making it more widely available. There are no deals with Amazon or other mass distributors in the works.

Contrast that with the Department of Veterans Affairs-sponsored Canada Remembers Times, a publication aimed at schoolchildren aged 12 to 18 (the ideal demographic for Remembrance Day, or at least the audience you want to get) and in schools throughout the country.

While the publication runs plenty of articles on very long past and the important contributions made by women and 2SLGBTQ+ Canadians to peace and security, the latest edition is mostly a tribute to United

and Canada still has much to learn from its Afghan experience.

"Canadians deserve nothing less than an unvarnished presentation of the operation's balance sheet, even if the bottom line is written in red, not black."

Avoiding painful truths seems to be at the heart of the roadblocks thrown up ahead of the publication of Maloney's Afghan history, and also a wider reluctance - political and social - to remember Canada's wars as they were: ugly, messy, divisive, heartbreaking and tragic.

For decades before Afghanistan and the chaotic peacekeeping missions of the 1990s, Canadians were able to retreat into the safe, comfortable mythology of victory in two world wars, with well-worn ceremonies and rituals for the conflicts that were far enough in the past to not strike any nerves.

History (like journalism), is supposed to challenge our perceptions of events and force us to look at ourselves, our decisions as a society and our values.

"I think history must be bold," military historian Tim Cook told CBC Radio's The House on Saturday. "History must tell the truth."

"There's bravery, I think, from Sean Maloney in publishing this history," Cook said.

For the soldiers who fought in the arid deserts half a world away, there's a hope that Maloney's comprehensive history will open the door for Canadians to actually talk about the war, what Canada was doing there, and how it acquitted itself.

A number of soldiers argued in online forums on Friday said that conversation is vitally important now, given how the world outside of our peaceful borders is in fire with multiple wars and the threat of even greater conflict.

"We need to talk about why we were there," said retired master corporal Nathan Kehler. "We need to talk about whatever we did, the good or the bad. And we need to talk about the repercussions of sending soldiers to war."

Which is, after all, what Remembrance Day is all about.

## Protesters demonstrate across Canada as Israel-Hamas war rages

As the latest war between Israel and Hamas intensified half a world away, demonstrators in cities across Canada chanted, marched and called for justice in rallies supporting opposing sides of the conflict Sunday.

Pro-Palestinian protesters in dozens of cities demanded a halt to hostilities, while a rally in Toronto drew thousands calling for the release of Israeli hostages seized by Hamas during the attack that sparked the war.

At a pro-Palestine rally at Nathan Phillips Square organized by the group ceasefire Now, Holocaust survivor Suzanne Weiss denounced Israel's ongoing invasion of Gaza City, which the Israeli military says it has now encircled.

"It's a violent assault against the solidarity between Muslims, Christians and Jews," Weiss told the crowd in front of City Hall.

"Palestinian freedom is our freedom too." Families said attending the pro-Palestinian rallies has become a weekly occurrence. Attendees chanted end the siege of Gaza" and held signs reading, ceasefire now, stop

genocide." Yassin Hafiz, 17, said crowds have grown in the last two weeks "as things have gotten more dire." "I feel it's the least that I can do when you know that people are suffering and dying."

A protest organized by the group Ceasefire Now voiced solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023. CITYNEWS/Rafiq/Abdika

"We want to see the Prime Minister of this country, the government of this country come out strong to make sure that the war stops, that children stop dying and we return to a peaceful world," said Stephen Brown, the CEO of the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM).

"The NCCM has said the organization has been inundated with reports of racism, hate and violence against community members since Oct. 7."

"As soon as Oct. 7 happened we condemned the killing of the Israeli civilians immediately, all of us," said Mohammad Fakih, philanthropist and CEO of Paramount Fine Foods. "But

then, five and six days after, Palestinian civilians were being killed."

Similar afternoon demonstrations unfolded in Montreal and cities ranging from Antigonish, N.S., to Yellowknife.

"I don't feel like Western countries see the value of kids in Gaza the same as any other country in the world," said Salma Ghersi, a 34-year-old Montrealer who said her husband is Palestinian.

"I feel like there's injustice." Meanwhile, thousands turned up at a rally at Toronto's Christie Pits Park, organized by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights. The Jewish community and allies from the Ukrainian and Iranian-Canadian communities gathered for what organizers describe as a solidarity rally in support of Israeli hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza.

The park holds historical significance for Jewish Canadians, marking the spot where violence erupted between Jews and

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