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Historic new deal: Ontario agrees to take over Gardiner Expressway and DVP

The Doug Ford government will take responsibility for the Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway from Toronto, potentially saving the city billions of dollars.

In exchange, the city has agreed to stand in the province's way as it moves forward with the planning approvals necessary to overhaul Ontario Place.

The trade is part of a new deal between the provincial and municipal government meant to address Toronto's financial woes. In total, the agreement will provide the city with up to \$1.2 billion in financial relief over three years. The city is facing a \$1.3 billion shortfall in its 2024 budget.

A large part of the agreement will see the cost of maintaining and repairing two of Toronto's major roadways shift back to the provincial government. Speaking at a news conference on Monday, Premier Doug Ford said that upgrading the Gardiner Expressway and the DVP could provide Toronto with \$7.6 billion in capital relief.

"These two highways are vital to the success of the province's economy," Ford said. "This deal will ensure that these critical transportation assets remain in good condition to keep people and goods living for generations to come."

Ford also pledged not to toll either roadway. The City of Toronto attempted to introduce tolls on the highways back in 2016 but the move was blocked by the then Liberal government.

Earlier this year, city staff said that \$500 million in contracts had already been awarded to rebuild the 1.7-kilometre eastern portion of the Gardiner and an additional \$650 million in contracts will be included in capital plans.

The portion of the Gardiner Expressway from Highway 427 to the Humber River used to be operated by the province as part of the Queen Elizabeth Way until the Mike Harris government offloaded the costs to the city in 1997 as a cost-saving measure for Ontario.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH ONTARIO PLACE
 The deal also gives the Ford government a win in their fight to transform Toronto's waterfront.

The city has agreed to give the province authority to advance project approvals for Ontario Place. Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow confirmed during the news conference that council will be ceding city-owned land to the province for the redevelopment and will stand out of Ford's way on plans for the area.

The trade represents a backstab for Chow, who suggested during her 2023 election campaign that she would withhold the parcel of land to prevent the province from moving ahead with the building of a large private park there.

At the same time, the Ford government made it clear they were prepared to expropriate the land if the city didn't concede it.

Toronto's mayor said on Monday that while she would like to see the space used for a public park, the area is "called Ontario Place" and she won't fight Ford on it.

"The land belongs to the provincial government and we do not have the authority to stop the development," she told reporters. "The future of

Federal, provincial and territorial immigration ministers commit to work together to maximize the benefits of immigration for Canada

Toronto, Ontario-The Forum of Ministers Responsible for Immigration (FMR) met today in Toronto to continue discussions on the future of immigration in Canada. Ministers expressed support for a coordinated approach to address immigration opportunities and challenges, including collaborating on economic immigration to meet labour needs, while addressing pressures on social infrastructure, housing and settlement services. This approach is based on the principle of shared jurisdiction and mutual respect for both federal and provincial-territorial roles and responsibilities for immigration in Canada. Ministers agreed that immigration is a key component of the country's fabric, as it contributes to its diversity, economy, and meeting labour market needs. Ministers also concurred on the importance of supporting Canada's response to humanitarian crises and the needs of vulnerable newcomers.

The results of immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) recently released report, An Immigration System for Canada's Future, were presented to the ministers. Key themes in the report include creating a more welcoming experience for newcomers, continuing to align immigration with labour market needs, and developing a comprehensive and coordinated growth plan, including among federal and provincial-territorial (PPT) partners, to best support immigrants and communities across the country. Provinces and territories shared perspectives on the future of Canada's immigration system, as well as challenges and opportunities facing their jurisdictions.

Ministers discussed the 2024-2026 Immigration Levels Plan in the context of PPT immigration priorities and responsibilities. These include emphasizing economic immigration, including through provincial nominee

Federal, provincial and territorial immigration ministers commit to work together to maximize the benefits of immigration for Canada

programs, continuing to reunite families, and meeting Canada's humanitarian commitments. Provincial and Territorial Ministers recognized the recent increases to the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) and called for a greater share of PNP in immigration levels planning. Ministers discussed the importance of PPT programming in advancing economic immigration, and in attracting and retaining immigrants outside of large urban centres. They also discussed the importance of reducing duplication and processing times and supporting Francophone immigration outside Quebec. Ministers affirmed that levels planning must consider the country's capacity, which varies across provinces and territories, to settle, integrate and retain selected newcomers, while monitoring system-wide pressures across critical sectors, such as housing and infrastructure. Immigration continues to play an important role in addressing labour shortages across the country, supporting social services and infrastructure by recruiting health care and skilled trade workers. Ministers also agreed that Canada's ability to welcome, support and integrate newcomers will require close collaboration between all orders of government and all immigration partners.

Ministers continued their discussion from March 2023 on ways to deliver a more responsive, client-centred economic immigration system and to coordinate efforts to select economic immigrants. Specifically, ministers discussed solutions to promote complementary federal and provincial-territorial economic selection programs, recognizing the importance of both federal economic streams and provincial nominee programs to address labour market needs and further support communities currently underserved by economic immigration.

Ministers committed to working together, including with the Forum of Labour Market Ministers, on initiatives to reduce barriers and streamline foreign credential recognition (FCR) processes, particularly in regulated occupations, such as the skilled trades and health care. They discussed how to strengthen the connection between selection and licensing, and how to make it easier for professionals to work in their occupations when they land in Canada. These initiatives could include the selection of candidates who are practice-ready or on a clear pathway to becoming licensed, and efforts to increase the knowledge of licensing requirements so that newcomers can start their FCR process before arriving in Canada. Ministers also considered lessons learned from jurisdictions that are aligning FCR with newcomer selection through provincial nominee programs or the Atlantic Immigration Program.

Ministers engaged on Canada's response to humanitarian crises, including efforts to resettle refugees from Afghanistan and measures to provide Ukrainians a temporary safe haven. They discussed the efforts made by provinces and territories to support Ukrainians and pathways to permanent residence for those seeking to remain in Canada. Ministers also discussed the importance of collaborating on a crisis response framework to inform a consistent approach to helping foreign nationals in need of protection. Conversations centred on strategies, such as improved data collection and collaboration to adequately support vulnerable arrivals in the future, including asylum seekers. They also discussed the need for early engagement and communication when changes to program requirements are being contemplated.

Ministers shared views on how settlement services can better support successful newcomer outcomes and retention in their chosen destination of landing, and how governments can work together to address pressures on housing, infrastructure and social services. Ministers considered how innovative and client-centred approaches to settlement services could improve labour market outcomes and support the integration of newcomers to Canada, including temporary residents. They discussed the importance of considering expanding eligibility and services to meet the growing needs of certain arrivals, particularly asylum claimants and temporary residents on a clear path to permanent residence.

Ministers agreed on the need to address issues associated with the International Student Program, including unprecedented growth, student vulnerability and program integrity, housing and the role that learning institutions play in supporting their students. Ministers also agreed on the importance of aligning work permit programs with provincial-territorial labour market needs, and on continued discussions about potential changes to eligibility requirements to target and retain students. Ministers committed to continued engagement on this file, together with provincial-territorial education officials. They recognized the ongoing contribution of international students to communities and the labour force.

Ministers considered progress in attracting francophone newcomers to Canada and discussed IRCC's Francophone immigration policy. Ministers tasked officials to review the 2018 FPT Action Plan for Increasing Francophone Immigration Outside of Quebec to ensure the plan continues to improve the promotion, selection, settlement, integration and retention of French-speaking immigrants in Canada's Francophone minority communities, in coordination with Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie.

*Note: As requested by the Government of Quebec, the Quebec minister responsible for immigration holds observer status at the federal and provincial-territorial ministers' table. Under the Canada-Quebec Accord, Quebec assumes sole responsibility for establishing immigration levels and for the selection, francization and integration of immigrants. In areas under its responsibility, Quebec develops its policies and programs, and legislates, regulates and sets its own standards.

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286K sign e-petition urging Trudeau to demand immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas

Liberal government has 45 days to respond to the NDP-sponsored petition

An online petition urging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to demand an immediate ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas closed Thursday with a record-setting 286,719 signatures - the most of any parliamentary e-petition since they began in 2015.

Initiated by Montreal resident Matva Gaudrault and sponsored by Quebec NDP MP Alexandre Bouterique, the petition also calls on the prime minister to ask Israel to lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip and to urge Israel to meet its commitments under the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law.

The Liberal government has 45 calendar days to respond after an



e-petition is tabled in the House of Commons. Trudeau has to date stopped short of explicitly calling for a ceasefire, and instead has opted to push for temporary pauses to the fighting to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Canada's inflation rate cools to 3.1% but the cost of living keeps going up

Canada's consumer price index rose by 3.1 per cent in the year up to October, down from 3.8 per cent the previous month but in line with what economists were expecting.

Statistics Canada reported Tuesday that the biggest reason for the deceleration in the cost of living was a drop in the cost of gasoline, which declined by 6.4 per cent during the month of October alone, and is down by 7.8 per cent compared to where prices were a year ago.

If gasoline is stripped out of the numbers, the inflation rate would have been 3.6 per cent in October. That's slightly lower than the 3.7 per cent non-gasoline inflation rate clocked the month before.

Food prices increased at a 5.4 per cent pace over the past year. While that's still higher than the overall inflation rate, it's down from the 5.8 per cent annual pace seen in September.

Core prices have now decelerated



for four months in a row, but as TD Bank economist Leslie Preston noted, consumers can be forgiven for not really feeling any tangible relief at the checkout line.

"Slower growth in prices may be imperceptible to consumers who are still paying more than 30 per cent more for a basket of groceries relative to three years ago - the biggest such increase in 40 years," she said.

While the pain at the cash register for staples like food and gasoline is getting comparatively better, plenty of other aspects that contribute to the

costs in a social media post tagging Trudeau, saying that it is Hamas, a designated terrorist group in Canada, that deliberately targets civilians.

The Conservatives have joined the Liberal government in calling for humanitarian pauses, while the Bloc Québécois and the NDP are both calling for an immediate ceasefire and want the Liberal government to do the same.

Twenty-three Liberal MPs signed a letter to Trudeau last month calling on him to advocate for a ceasefire.

Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on Israel killed around 1,200 people and wounded thousands more. Hamas also kidnapped more than 200 hostages, some of whom were released Friday.

Israel declared war on Hamas in response, laying siege to Gaza, dropping thousands of bombs and launching a ground operation in the heart of Gaza City. The Hamas-run Gaza health authority said Thursday that more than 13,000 Palestinians have been killed since the start of Israel's current military campaign in Gaza.

A 4-day pause in fighting began early Friday to allow for the release of some hostages held by Hamas in exchange for the release of some Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons.

Trudeau urged Israel last week to "exercise maximum restraint" in its war on Hamas, noting that the world is witnessing the "killing of women and children, of babies."

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pushed back on those

cents in the past year. And property taxes increased by 4.9 per cent in the past year. That's up from 3.6 per cent this time last year, and it's also the biggest one-year increase in property taxes on records dating back to 1992.

If one were to strip mortgage costs out of the numbers, the inflation rate would be 2.2 per cent and if one were to strip out shelter entirely, it would be 1.9 per cent.

Economist Tu Nguyen with consultancy RSM Canada Inc. says the shelter costs are eating a larger and larger chunk of household budgets, leaving less money for everything else and bringing down inflation in the process.

"On a per capita basis, consumer spending has actually dropped," she said. "Households who get hit with higher mortgage payments find themselves cutting back on discretionary spending."

She says the data give the Bank of Canada more than enough of an excuse to tighten further rate hikes.

"The CPI report is the latest sign of a cooling economy that should make the Bank of Canada feel comfortable keeping the policy rate unchanged at the December announcement. At this point, the Bank can sit back and let the forces of monetary policy work its way through the economy."

2 dead after blast at Rainbow Bridge linking Ontario-N.Y., governor says 'no sign' of terrorism

There's no indication that a vehicle crash and explosion Wednesday that killed two people on the American side of the Rainbow Bridge - which connects Ontario and New York - is linked to terrorism, says New York Gov. Kathy Hochul.

"Based on what we know at this moment, there is no sign of terrorist activity in this crash," Hochul said in a news conference.

She said an individual from Western New York was "involved" in the crash, but she did not clarify if the person was a driver.

"We're going to ensure the public is safe before they go back on the Rainbow Bridge."

Late Wednesday evening, the FBI in Buffalo confirmed a statement posted on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, that it had concluded its investigation of the scene of the incident. The post said that a search "revealed no explosive materials" and that investigators found no connections to terrorism.

It said the investigation is now in the hands of the Niagara Falls Police Department in New York state.

Hochul said events began at 11:27 a.m. ET. The explosion led to the closure of four area bridge border crossings ahead of the U.S. Thanksgiving weekend.

Information about the second person who died was not available.

Shortly after 5 p.m., Ontario Provincial Police said the Peace, Queenston-Leviston and Whirlpool Rapids bridges had reopened. The Rainbow Bridge remained closed.

"Naturally, at a time of heightened alert, everybody springs into action," Hochul said. "We're not aware of any threats to this area, but I state the caveat that the investigation is ongoing."

Canadian government sources told CBC News on Wednesday afternoon that answers about what happened may take some time as the vehicle involved was badly burned. Ottawa is "highly confident" the car originated in the United States, they said.

Vehicle basically "incinerated" Hochul said a video shows how the



vehicle basically "incinerated" and nothing was left but the engine.

"It's going to take a lot of time for our federal law enforcement partners... to be able to piece together the real story."

Earlier Wednesday, the FBI Buffalo Field Office posted on X that it was investigating a vehicle explosion.

"The FBI is coordinating with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners in this investigation. As this situation is very fluid, that's all we can say at this time."

The Buffalo Niagara International airport said on X that it was open and "fully operational."

PMO in contact with U.S. officials. The Rainbow Bridge connects the tourism sectors of Niagara Falls, Ont., and Niagara Falls, N.Y. It has 16 car inspection lanes into the U.S. and 15 into Canada's border crossings.

The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel said it was operating at a "heightened level of security" in the wake of the explosion at the Rainbow Bridge. In a statement, the tunnel's chief executive officer said the crossing remained open but some delays were expected. Officials are monitoring the situation at other Windsor-Detroit border crossings as well.

In northwestern Ontario, border crossings at the Fort Frances Bridge, International Falls, Minn., the Pigeon River crossing near Thunder Bay remain open. The CBSA also lists the bridge crossing between Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., as open.

The Niagara Regional Police Service wrote on X there was "no known threat on the Canadian side" of the border. The service added the public should

expect to see more police out, as well as road closures near the bridge and "significant traffic congestion on Niagara roadways, including highways."

Also on X, Toronto police wrote that while they are unaware of any threats to the city, they would be increasing officer patrols "out of an abundance of caution."

"One city divided by a border" Jim Diodati, the mayor of Niagara Falls, Ont., told CBC Hamilton he was getting out of a dentist appointment around lunchtime when he learned about the explosion.

"As soon as I saw [the] border closed, the hair on my back stands up," Diodati told CBC.

"We often say Niagara Falls is one city divided by a border."

As a border town, he said, the crossings are important to Niagara Falls. They facilitate trade and tourism, and many locals have loved ones on the American side.

"It's cause for alarm," he said, especially given people tend to cross this time of year for the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday and Black Friday shopping.

In a situation such as this, the mayor said officials prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

Witness accounts Ontario real estate agent Forrest Willett was waiting to cross into the U.S. over the Peace Bridge for work on Wednesday when border officers began approaching cars.

He said an officer told him they were evacuating the bridge as there had been an explosion at the nearby Rainbow Bridge.

Willett said he felt like the "elevator floor" had dropped out from under him and he was counting down the seconds until he could get off the bridge.

"If you can imagine, the bridge was packed with cars that had to turn around and be sent back to Canada," Willett said. "It was nerve-racking."

He said the officers directed traffic and all personal vehicles drove off the bridge within 20 minutes. They're now crisscrossed on streets and parking lots and people wait for the bridge to reopen, he said mid-afternoon.

Joe Ventura Jr. was visiting Niagara Falls, N.Y., with his family on Wednesday. They had just stopped at a nearby park and were heading toward the Rainbow Bridge when they heard a loud bang and saw thick smoke.

He told CBC Hamilton his 10-year-old daughter was "really scared and screaming out."

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Shah Rukh Khan was not the first choice for Baazigar, reveals Deepak Tijori

The 1992 thriller Baazigar, directed by Abbas-Mustan, marked a significant turn in Shah Rukh Khan's career, introducing him as an anti-hero. His portrayal of Ajay Sharma, also known as Vicky Malhotra, seeking vengeance for his family's downfall remains a memorable cinematic portrayal. However, it might surprise many to learn that actor Deepak Tijori was originally slated for this role.



Pahlaj Nihalani, who showed interest in the project, things appeared to fall into place. However, a sudden turn of events arose when Pahlaj informed Deepak that Abbas-Mustan were negotiating with Venus for the same film. Despite this unexpected development, Baazigar went on to become a milestone in Indian cinema, achieving both commercial success and critical acclaim. The movie garnered numerous awards, including the Filmfare Awards for Best Actor for Shah Rukh Khan and Best Supporting Actress for Shilpa Shetty. Kajol also played a pivotal role as the female lead in the film.

Mahesh Bhatt calls Ranbir Kapoor "the best father in the world"

During a recent episode of a reality show, Ranbir Kapoor, joined by Rashmika Mandanna to promote their movie Annil, received an unexpected and heartfelt message from Mahesh Bhatt that left him visibly touched. In a surprise video, Bhatt, Ranbir's father-in-law, lauded him as an exceptional father, calling him "the best father in the world" while praising his deep affection for Rakas, Ranbir and Alia's daughter.

Tamim Iqbal to make competitive return at Bangladesh Premier League

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal is planning to return to competitive cricket at the forthcoming Bangladesh Premier League. The decision implies that the veteran batsman, who is unavailable for the two-match Test series against New Zealand starting tomorrow, will not be part of the touring party that will visit New Zealand for a white-ball series following the Test series.

Hardik returns to MI, Cameron Green moves to RCB

The much-anticipated transfer of Hardik Pandya to Mumbai Indians has been successfully completed. In a noteworthy one-way, all-cash transaction, the 30-year-old all-rounder has officially returned to the franchise he won four titles with. Simultaneously, Mumbai Indians have bolstered their financial position to afford the Pandya acquisition by trading Cameron Green to Royal Challengers Bangalore in another all-cash transaction to the tune of INR 17.5 crore, the league value of the Australian cricketer.

Salman Khan's niece, Alizeh Agnihotri reveals she was inspired by THIS Alia Bhatt film

Salman Khan's niece, Alizeh Agnihotri, embarked on her acting journey with the film Farrey, helmed by Soumendra Padhi. The movie hit theatres last Friday, receiving accolades from critics and audiences alike. Despite her family's ties to the film industry, Alizeh credited her inspiration to pursue acting after watching Intizar Ali's Highway.



Alizeh Agnihotri, inspired by the film Farrey, helmed by Soumendra Padhi, expressed admiration for Soumendra Padhi's directorial prowess, deeming her experience akin to being trained in an acting school. Farrey, written by Abhishek Yadav, delves into the world of academic deceit, weaving the story of Niyati, a sharp-witted individual entangled in a high-stakes cheating network. The trailer resonated with audiences, offering a glimpse into the compelling narrative. The film boasts a talented ensemble cast featuring Alizeh Agnihotri, Zeyn Pransha, and Anil Kapoor.

Karnataka extend winning start with easy win over Delhi

Jay Gokul Bisht's unbeaten 144 set up Mumbai's second win of the campaign, this one by 26 runs over Railways. Bisht's ton aided by a half-century from Soveel Prasad and a 17-ball 41 from Prasad Pawar powered Mumbai to 324. Railways' response was led by a thrilling 70-ball 102 from Upendra Yadav while Vivek Singh added 95 off 91. But with the next highest score of 15, they fell short of the target. Mohit Avashti's 39 was the only other notable score.

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With millions of mortgages coming due, finance minister expects banks 'to work with' Canadians

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland expects banks will follow a new series of rules and guidelines designed to protect Canadian homeowners, millions of whom are set to renegotiate loans at potentially higher rates.

"The thing that I hear the most right now is people are concerned about interest rates, especially people who have mortgages and are concerned about the renewal of their mortgages," Freeland said in an interview being Sunday on Rosemary Barton live.

"And I think that is very understandable," she told CBC's chief political correspondent Rosemary Barton.

A report released by Royal LePage suggests over three million Canadians are facing mortgage renewals in the next 18 months. Many can expect

significantly higher monthly payments as a result.

"That's causing anxiety among homeowners, some of whom told CBC News they expect to make significant lifestyle changes to accommodate the higher cost."

Bikramdeep Singh told CBC News in Vancouver that he expects his mortgage payments to rise by 30 to 40 per cent when it is renewed next year.

"That's going to be a significant chunk of money I'm spending every month," the homeowner said earlier this week. "That's going to affect definitely my lifestyle. I'm going to make adjustments."

In Surrey, B.C., Kevin Larkins is facing renewal in January.

"I've been running the numbers, and I don't see how I'm going to be able to renew and afford this," he said.

"And it's unfortunate. I'm a professional. I work. I'm trying to support a family."

As part of the fall economic statement released on Tuesday, Freeland introduced a Canadian Mortgage Charter, a non-binding set of guidance and expectations Ottawa has laid out for the banks in relation to mortgages.

The charter - which does not have the force of law - includes measures including the ability to temporarily extend amortization periods, ending a stress test when switching lenders at the time of renewal, and waiving some fees.

Asked whether banks could be trusted to follow the guidelines without a clear enforcement mechanism, Freeland said she believed the interests of the government, banks and everyday

Canadians are aligned in this issue.

"It is my hope - but also really my belief - that the banks are going to work with us, the government, and work with Canadians to act on these recommendations."

"It's a serious thing for the finance minister to publish - in black-and-white, in both official languages - our expectations for how the banks will be supporting their customers. That in and of itself is a big deal," she said.

Freeland noted that it was important for Canadian homeowners to be aware of the rules and know what to expect when they speak to their banks.

"Canadians need to know about it, that's why I emphasize it so much," she said.

Focus on interest rates

Freeland also didn't rule out additional measures in a spring budget.

"We're going to watch it like a hawk - like a bunch of hawks, at finance - and definitely, we're prepared to do more as needed."

Freeland, who is also deputy prime minister, said her other focus is for broad improvement of the state of the economy, such that the Bank of Canada feels comfortable lowering rates without fear of renewed inflation.

This commonly prescribed cancer drug was supposed to help save his life. Instead, it killed him

When Dr. Anil Kapoor was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer in January his prognosis was positive, and his family was hopeful treatment would buy him several more years.

But weeks later, the 58-year-old Burlington, Ont., resident was dead - killed not by the cancer, say doctors, but by the commonly prescribed cancer drug Fluorouracil (5-FU) that was supposed to help save his life.

"It was honestly a cruel rollercoaster of emotions," Anil's son, Akshay Kapoor, told Go Public. "I just feel like we were robbed of time together."



5-FU, used since the 1970s to treat many cancers including colorectal, stomach, breast and cervical cancer, can be toxic to certain patients.

Some provinces now pre-screen for genetic variants - differences in people's DNA - that can lead to serious illness and even death.

But those tests may be giving some cancer patients and their families a false sense of security, failing to flag some of the people who could get sick or die from 5-FU, say experts.

Anil was pre-screened and got the all clear to receive the drug. Just a few days after his first and only dose, he went from being well enough to work to being bedridden.

"He started vomiting and feeling extremely nauseated. And then within 24 hours, he had inflammation in the mouth and throat. He could not eat or drink anything and he was also having profound diarrhea," brother Scott Kapoor told Go Public.

Three weeks later, on Feb. 28, Anil died. More testing later revealed he had a genetic variant that wasn't included in the pre-screening.

Anil's family says they were stunned to learn that current pre-screening guidelines are based on studies that largely leave out populations that aren't white, a known problem based on medical studies they found from North America and other parts of the world.

"We're shocked that this is allowed to happen in Canada," said Scott.

Patients dying from treatment, researchers are now aware of.

Anil was a doctor - a urologist and head of transplants at St. Joseph's Healthcare, a hospital in Hamilton. His younger brothers are also doctors.

Scott is an emergency room physician and the other surviving brother, Dr. Sunil Kapoor, is an anesthesiologist.

Even with all their medical knowledge, Scott says they'd never heard about the risks of 5-FU because cancer treatment is very specialized.

So, since Anil's death, his brothers have been scouring medical journals and speaking with researchers across Canada and around the world to find out why the medical system isn't doing more to inform and protect patients.

Of the provinces that pre-screen for potential toxic reactions, many check for what are considered the four most common genetic variants.

While many cancer drugs can be toxic, what sets 5-FU apart is that severe illness and death is largely preventable, according to Mayo Clinic researcher Steven Offer who has been studying the genetic factors that actually predispose them to an increased risk of toxicity to the drug.

Offer said.

"One thing that strikes home is these patients are dying because of their treatment... and not necessarily dying because the cancer has progressed," Offer said from his office in Rochester, Minn.

Offer says ideally, medical systems should pre-screen for all of the at least 50 genetic variants that can lead to the deadly reaction.

It's called full genome sequencing. That's not happening in Canada, according to Go Public's research.

Offer says that may be due to the added cost and infrastructure.

Go Public reached out to Health Canada to ask about pre-screening and what it's doing about the risks some patients face with 5-FU, but did not hear back in time for publication.

Studies favour white populations: experts

The problem, Offer says, is that the

clear. Health Canada's adverse reactions website indicates more than 330 deaths involving patients with 5-FU among their prescriptions have been reported since 1975.

There have been 56 fatal adverse reactions reported from capcitabine, since 2011. It's unclear how many of those deaths were due specifically to 5-FU, a combination of medications or to the existence of genetic variants.

Pre-screening rules

Pre-screening rules differ from province to province.

Earlier this year, Ontario Health started routinely pre-screening. When asked why it doesn't pre-screen for more than four variants, it told Go Public "there is limited or no information available" on how other variants interact with 5-FU.

It says it will update its pre-screening recommendations when more research is done.

According to Statistics Canada numbers released earlier this year, 26.5 per cent of the population is "visible minority" - about 9.6 million people.

It's unknown if the genetic variant involved in Anil's death is more common in people of South Asian ancestry. It's one of many unknowns in the research that leaves people of colour with questions about the risks they may face.

"I think the more important thing is that nobody's informing the patients," Scott told Go Public.

"So as you and I are sitting here right now, there are people sitting in the hospital being given this drug, who are not of northern and western European ethnicity, and they are completely vulnerable."

Quebec has been routinely pre-screening 5-FU patients for four genetic variants since 2019. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have no current province-wide protocol for genetic pre-screening, it's left up to individual hospitals and oncologists to decide.

B.C. and Yukon pre-screen for six genetic variants after studying 5-FU's impact on Vancouver's diverse population.

"As we get more information, we should be prepared to expand our testing or make it most relevant to the populations that were serving," said Dr. Bruce Carleton, who co-authored the study and is the Division Chair and clinical pharmacologist for the University of British Columbia's department of pediatrics.

He says the goal for B.C. is to make sure testing also recognizes populations that haven't been "well-served by this research," referring to B.C.'s large Chinese and South Asian populations.

2 sisters among 4 victims of West Broadway mass shooting

Two sisters from a Manitoba First Nation among the four people killed in a shooting in Winnipeg's West Broadway neighbourhood that happened early Sunday morning.

Cystal Shannon Beardy, 34, Stephanie Amanda Beardy, 33, Malik Losen Lesnik, 29, and Dylan Maxwell Lawless, 41, died after being shot on Langside Street, police said Monday in a news release.

Cystal and Stephanie Beardy were sisters, their mother Beverly Beardy has confirmed to CBC News.

Cystal, a mother of two boys, died at the scene, while Stephanie, a mother of two girls, died in hospital last night after being taken off life support, her family said.

The sisters were members of Lake St. Martin First Nation, police said Monday.

The families of all four have been notified. Lesnik's family lives in the United States and Kenya, while Lawless' family is in Winnipeg. Insp. Jennifer McKinnon said.



A 55-year-old man who was also shot remains in hospital in critical condition, police said.

Suspect still at large

No arrests have been made at this point and no suspects have been identified, Winnipeg police Chief Danny Smyth said at Monday's news conference.

"This is a dangerous offender, in my view, and we must do everything that

we can to identify that person and take them into custody," he said.

Police are also trying to determine if there was more than one shooter, Smyth said.

Officers are doing everything they can to make an arrest as soon as possible and help residents feel safe, including increasing patrols in the area, Smyth said.

"We will do everything we can to

discover why this happened and who was involved," he said.

"This is an extremely troubling event and it certainly has shocked the community."

Smyth said the shooting happened in a unit of a multi-suite dwelling, but that he couldn't say why the five victims were in the home together.

Beyond that, he said he couldn't offer more details because police are still in the early stages of their investigation.

"I don't even know what happened in the suite yet, will let the investigators do their thing."

Police were called about multiple injuries on the Langside Street south of Sara Avenue just after 4 a.m. Sunday.

Cystal Beardy and one of the men were pronounced dead at the scene. The other three were rushed to hospital in critical condition, where another man and Stephanie Beardy died.

Police were still at the scene Monday morning, with a large white forensic unit was parked along Langside Street.

They could be there for up to a week as they continue their investigation, Smyth said.

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