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BC Delays Return To School For K-12 Students By One Week

While staff and children of health care workers to go back to school from Jan 3/4



Return to K-12 delayed to January 10

VICTORIA - A full return to school for students in kindergarten to Grade 12 has been delayed until Monday, Jan. 10, in order to give public health and B.C. schools additional time to adapt to the impacts of the Omicron variant on communities and schools, and to implement enhanced safety plans to support the continuation of in-class learning. During this time, schools will be open for limited numbers of students in particular need. Districts will be communicating out to families about how this process will work.

"Schools have safety protocols in place that have kept students and staff in school over the past two years, but as the pandemic chang-

es, our protocols must change, too," said Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer. "That's why schools will be implementing enhanced public-health measures to ensure we can continue the in-person learning that is so important for well-being and mental health."

The delayed return is supported by an Order from the Provincial Health Officer, which applies to all public and independent schools in British Columbia. While students will return on Jan. 10, staff will return on Jan. 3 and 4. This will allow schools to implement enhanced safety measures and proactively implement continuity of learning plans.

Continued on page 09

Calgary's Real Estate Mogul Bob Dhillon Appointed To The Order Of Canada

Calgary's real estate mogul Navjeet (Bob) Dhillon, the CEO of Mainstreet Equity, has been appointed as one of the 39 appointed officers to the Order of Canada. Dhillon has been appointed "for his achievements in business, and for his unwavering commitment to philanthropy and higher education."

"Learning today that I have been named an Officer of the Order of Canada has left me utterly speechless. I am so honoured and grateful to my fellow Canadians; for this. I am truly proud to be Canadian," Dhillon wrote on his Twitter. Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, announced 135 appointments to the Order of Canada. The new appointees include 2 Companions (C.C.), 39 Officers (O.C.), 1 honorary Member and 93



Members (C.M.).

They will be presented with their insig-

nia at investiture ceremonies to be held on future dates.

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His family comes from Tallewal in the district of Barnala, Punjab. His grandfather moved to Hong Kong for business reasons and set-up the North China Shipping Company to carry out trade with Japan. Dhillon was born in Japan in 1965.

Continued on page 08

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What Are The Common Symptoms Of The Omicron Variant Of Covid?

Dr Navdeep Grewal, emergency room physician, practicing in Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities, and Dr Birinder Narang, a family doctor working in East Vancouver and Burnaby, answer frequently asked questions on Omicron variant

What is the Omicron variant?

The Omicron variant is a variant of concern that has taken over from the Delta variant as the most common Covid infection in many parts of the world in the past few weeks, including Canada. Like other variants, it was naturally created where virus was circulating widely and causing numerous infections, resulting in the virus mutating.

Why are we seeing so many Covid cases from Omicron variant around the world?

The Omicron variant of the Covid virus is extremely transmissible and contagious, which means that if someone has an infection, they can in turn infect up to 16 other people. This is 4 times more transmissible than the delta variant, which was already more easily spread than earlier variants of concern. It is also more likely to cause "break-through" infections in people who are fully vaccinated, up to 5 times more than the Delta variant.

Why are people getting infected with Covid, even if doubly vaccinated?

We are seeing that the Omicron variant has many more mutations than previous variants, which means that the antibodies we create (from previously being infected with Covid or from getting the Covid vaccines) may not always recognize this variant when we are exposed to it, so we take longer to develop an immune response to fight it off. It is still better than not being vaccinated, because almost everyone who has had 2



Dr Birinder Narang

doses of vaccine is able to avoid severe illness resulting in hospitalization, ICU admission and death.

What is the current status in BC?

Omicron is spreading rapidly within BC and the rest of Canada.

There has been a rapid rise in cases, and we are seeing the highest levels during the pandemic, and even these numbers are much lower than the actual numbers because people may have mild or no symptoms, and testing lineups are long or PCR tests unavailable, so not everyone who has Covid is getting tested.

It is estimated that cases in BC are doubling every 2-3 days. This increase is currently mostly in the Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities.

Are children more likely to get infected with the Omicron variant?

At this time, the variant is causing infection in people of ALL ages. It is



Dr Nav Grewal

more likely that younger kids are getting infected if they are too young to be (fully) vaccinated yet, similar to older people who aren't vaccinated. And older kids may be more likely to get infected if they are mixing socially because it spreads so easily between people.

What are the common symptoms of the Omicron variant of Covid?

Common:

Runny nose
Headache
Fatigue
Sneezing
Sore throat

Not common:

Loss of taste
Loss of smell
Severe shortness of breath

Why should we be worried if it often only causes a mild disease, like a cold?

Scientists and data analysis predicts that demands on our healthcare system will be extreme in January, even if Omicron is less severe than previous variants. So even if most people only have symptoms suggestive of a cold, the sheer number of people who require hospitalization (1-2% of these cases) will still result in a huge impact on availability of hospital care for Covid and non-Covid patients.

How do we deal with the Omicron tidal wave?

We can still slow the spread of Omicron as we did with previous variants:

- get vaccinated
- wear tight-fitting masks that cover your mouth and nose (consider double masking or wearing a KN95/N95 mask when indoors)
- improve ventilation (open windows/doors when gathering indoors)
- avoid large indoor gatherings, gather only with your same small trusted group of people
- avoid crowded spaces
- wash your hands regularly
- stay home when sick

I'm sick and I'm not sure if it's Covid. What should I do?

If you are sick, presume it's from Covid.

If you can, go and get tested at a testing centre.

If your PCR test comes back negative for Covid, stay home until you are well. If your Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) comes back negative for Covid and you are still having symptoms, stay home and test daily for 5-7 days (it's possible that the RAT test may not become positive for a few days but you could still have Covid)

Continued on page 06

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Seizure of fentanyl, guns, cash in Surrey linked to Lower Mainland Gang Conflict

SURREY: Surrey RCMP informed of a two separate investigations which resulted in the significant seizure of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, cash and firearms.

"These two seizures are significant, not only because it has disrupted drug trafficking network ties with link to the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict, but it also lessens the supply of potentially fatal doses of fentanyl off our streets, says Surrey RCMP Drug Unit's Staff Sergeant Glenn Leeson," said Surrey RCMP in a release.

In September 2021, Surrey RCMP Drug Unit started an investigation into a drug trafficking network in Surrey. After a thorough investigation, officers obtained a search warrant for a residence in the 12400-block of 99 Avenue, which was executed on November 25, 2021.

Police seized \$90,000.00 cash, 225 grams of fentanyl, 16 grams of cocaine, 24

grams of methamphetamine and 67 fake oxy pills. The drugs were prepackaged for street level sale. Two Surrey men in their late 20's were arrested and later released pending charge approval. Both men are known to police and are linked to the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict.

On December 12, 2021 a separate investigation led to a search warrant being executed at a residence in the 7000-block of 150A Street. Police seized one and half kilograms of bulk fentanyl (1.5 kg), 775 grams of bulk methamphetamine, \$60,000 cash, one assault rifle and one tactical shotgun. The investigation is ongoing to obtain charge approval against one individual who has associations to the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict.

The bulk fentanyl alone represents approximately 150,000 potentially fatal doses and for reference that would be enough doses for a full capacity at a major events arena such as BC Place, three times over.



Anyone with information about criminal activity in Surrey can help keep the com-



munity safe by reporting it to the Surrey RCMP at 604-599-0502.

Sumas Prairie Property Offender Arrested

Abbotsford: In the middle of December, the AbbyPD's Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) began to investigate a series of property offences that had occurred within the Sumas Prairie area. Several residents were in the process of dealing with the impact that the flood had on them, their families, and their farms when an unknown person victimized them.

CRU, with the assistance of the Chilliwack RCMP Property Crime Unit (PRU) identified a 29-year-old Chilliwack man as a person of interest for the Abbotsford crimes. Throughout the next few days, investigators from CRU, with the assistance of (PRU), AbbyPD Forensic Identification Section, Patrol, and Flood response officers, worked around the clock

to advance the investigation. On December 22nd, Andrew Charpentier was arrested in the 45900 block of Wellington Ave in Chilliwack by members of AbbyPD CRU. CHARPENTIER has since been charged with four counts of Break & Enter and remains in custody. Additionally, various stolen property has been recovered and returned to the victims in these incidents.

"The AbbyPD's Crime Reduction Unit is committed to the identification, targeting, and arrest of prolific property offenders. CRU has zero tolerance for those that choose to victimize people who have already experienced enough loss. CRU remains dedicated to identifying, targeting and holding those responsible accountable", said CRU Sergeant Johansen.

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Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Explained



By Zile Singh



The Indian Citizenship Act of 1955 was amended enacting Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2003 (CAA-2003), in order to provide citizenship to those persons who were of Indian Origin by birth or descent but later became citizens of some specified countries.

These specified countries are - Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Cyprus, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Section-7A(1) of the Act states that the Government of India may, subject to such conditions of reciprocity, register any person, on an application made in this behalf, as an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) if (a) that person is of Indian origin of full age and capacity who is a citizen of any country mentioned above or (b) that person is of full age and capacity who has obtained the citizenship of one of these countries on or after the commencement of the CAA-2003 and who was a citizen of India immediately before such com-

mencoment; or (c) that person is a minor of a person mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b).

A spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India and a spouse of foreign origin of an OCI are also eligible.

The OCI is not a "Dual Citizenship". OCI does not confer political rights. Detailed instructions and procedures on the Scheme are available on the Ministry of Home Affairs website: www.mha.nic.in or www.cgivancouver.gov.in Email: cons.vancouver@mea.gov.in The OCI document is a life long

OCI Registration Booklet. The Booklet and the foreign Passport need to be carried while traveling to /exiting from India. The OCI is good for multiple entries and multi- purposes. The OCI holder can stay for any length of time in India without any registration with the Police. He is entitled to general parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

They can purchase residential and commercial properties. They can inherit ancestral property. Further benefits are notified by the Ministry from time to time. An Overseas Citizen of India shall not be entitled to the following rights:

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Cameron MacKay Becomes High Commissioner To India Replacing Nadir Patel

Patrick Hébert is New Consul General in Chandigarh

OTTAWA: The government of Canada recently announced new diplomatic appointments to various countries. Three new appointments were made for India.

While Cameron MacKay has been appointed Canada's High Commissioner to India, replacing Nadir Patel, Patrick Hébert has become Consul General in Chandigarh, and Diedrah Kelly replaced Annie Dubé as Consul General in Mumbai.

The announcement was made by Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on December 23.

MacKay who has a BA [Economics and Industrial Relations], McGill University, McGill University, 1990; MES, York University, 1996) joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1995.

At Headquarters, he served as director of regional trade policy from 2008 to 2010, director general for China trade policy from 2012 to 2013, director general of the Trade Negotiations Bureau from 2013 to 2015 and director general of the Trade Sectors Bureau from 2015 to 2017.



Patrick Hébert

Most recently in Ottawa, he served as director of operations at the Privy Council Office's Foreign and Defence Policy Secretariat.

Abroad, he served at Canada's permanent mission in Geneva from 2001 to 2006, as Canada's ambassador to Costa



Cameron MacKay

Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua from 2010 to 2012 and as Canada's ambassador to Indonesia and Timor-Leste from 2019 to 2021.

Patrick Hébert becomes Consul General in Chandigarh. He replaces Mia Yen. "Really honoured and happy to be ap-

pointed Consul General of Canada in #Chandigarh. Looking forward to joining Team ☐☐ in #India and working with our friends in #Punjab, #HimachalPradesh, #Haryana and #Uttarakhand to support Canada-India relations," he wrote on his Twitter.

Hébert joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1998. At Headquarters, he was acting director of the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Response Group; he was deputy director in this unit from 2010 to 2011, when it was coordinating Canada's responses to the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 and the tsunami in Japan in 2011.

He worked in the Defence and Security Relations Division from 2003 to 2006 and was responsible for Asia and the Americas. He first served abroad at the Embassy to France from 2000 to 2003. He served as political counsellor at the Embassy to Serbia from 2006 to 2009 and at the Embassy to Sweden from 2011 to 2016. Most recently, Mr. Hébert served as political, economic and public affairs counsellor at the Embassy to South Korea.

Continued from Page 03

What are the common symptoms of the Omicron variant of Covid?

If your PCR or rapid antigen test comes back positive for Covid, or if you can't get tested, stay home and self-isolate for 7 days from start of symptoms

What is the role of booster shots?

Slowing the spread of Omicron buys time to give booster shots which raise antibodies to levels that can prevent infection, reduce cases, and reduce hospital demand. Current data from around the world suggests that the

current Covid vaccines prevent 35% of cases from occurring, so it is possible to still get a mild illness after being vaccinated. But with a booster, this rises to preventing 75% of cases from occurring. It is important to remember that regardless of if you've had 2 doses or 3, your risk of becoming severely ill, being hospitalized, or dying is significantly lower than someone who is partially or unvaccinated, which is the outcome we want from our vaccines!

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New Relief Funding For Businesses Ordered Closed



VICTORIA - British Columbia businesses that were mandated to temporarily shut down through public health orders because of surging COVID-19 cases will be eligible to receive a new one-time relief grant of up to \$10,000.

The COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant will supplement federal support programs and

provide funding to help affected businesses alleviate some financial pressures and help with expenses including rent, employee wages, insurance, maintenance and utilities.

"We're all exhausted by COVID-19, but unfortunately COVID-19 is not done with us," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. "As we have done since the beginning of the pandemic, we are coming together to ensure those hardest hit businesses will receive much-needed support. The COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant will directly help businesses through these difficult times. I encourage everyone in B.C. to support impacted local businesses, including businesses that have been forced to close by buying gift cards and memberships for future use."

The grant was fast-tracked by the Province following new restrictions an-

nounced by the provincial health officer on Dec. 21, 2021, and will cost an estimated \$10 million.

Businesses ordered fully closed include:

- * gyms, fitness and adult dance centres
- * bars, lounges and nightclubs
- * event venues that can no longer hold events

Relief grants of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 will be provided to eligible businesses based on their number of employees, following the similar formula to the previous Circuit Breaker Relief Grant that supported businesses in the spring of 2021. (see background).

Applications for the grant will begin in January 2022. More information on how to apply will be made available over the next few weeks, with the application process open until the end of February 2022. Business advisors will be able to support and direct applicants through a dedicated

call centre that will be set up in early January by the Province and Small Business BC. Businesses will also be able to email questions to: covid@smallbusinessbc.ca. The provincial COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant program is in addition to the federal government's expansion of its Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit and the Local Lockdown Program for workers and employers across the country who are affected by new capacity restrictions and closures.

For details about the new federal measures, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/12/government-temporarily-expands-access-to-lockdown-program-and-worker-lockdown-benefit.html>

For more information on the business relief grant, including the application process and eligibility, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/business-relief

Shushma Datt Honored By Hindi Literary Society With "Hindi Ratna"

By Acharya S.P.Dwivedi

Shushma Datt, famous broadcaster in Lower Mainland, was honored by the Hindi Literary Society of Canada for her deep dedication and commitment towards promoting Hindi. She founded IT Production and Rim Jhim in 1987 and added later on Spice Radio. Rim Jhim was the first round-the-clock station to provide the programs in five languages but mainly in Hindi. Hindi Literary Society of Canada, BC (HLSC) has been promoting Hindi language and literature since 1988 in Canada. It is well aligned with the national policy of the multi-culturalism that gives right to all Canadians

to maintain and promote their cultural heritage and faith with pride.

This year Hindi Lok Mahotsav was organized by the HLS C and was held in Khanna Banquet Hall which presented several attractive and colorful folk dances and plays. Harish Masand, the president of HLC welcomed the guests and artists, and Master of Ceremony -Reshma Misra and Nutan Thakur, followed by the ceremony of lighting the lamp. The devotional dance was presented by a group of young girls, and that was choreographed by a highly regarded dance teacher Jayalakshmi Ravindra.

Harish and his wife Anupa offered a statue of Lord Ganesha



to the chief guest Manish ji, Consul General of India. While addressing the audience, CGI emphasized upon the use and

importance of Hindi. Next was an impressive and thrilling item "Spirit of Dance" presented by Reshma Misra and Kirti Shar-

ma. Shushma Datt was honored by the HLSC for her deep dedication and commitment towards promoting Hindi. Acharya Dwivedi spoke that Shushma ji established herself in field of broadcasting when women were struggling for existence and identity.

She continued her programs fearlessly and never bow down to any social and political pressure. An outcome was that she gained respect and love from the listeners. Shushma ji, by her Radio programs, tried to connect young and immigrants of Indian diaspora to their glorious cultural heritage.

Continued on page 08



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Continued from Page 01

Calgary's Real Estate Mogul Bob Dhillon Appointed To The Order Of Canada

His family lived in Liberia before settling in Canada in the 1970s.[3] As a small child he was sent back to India for his schooling. He was educated at Bishop Cotton School (Shimla). After graduating from university, he completed his master's degree (MBA) at Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario.

Dhillon founded Mainstreet Equity Corp based in Calgary, Alberta. The Canada-based real estate company is the only Sikh-owned company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.[6] [1] He reportedly owns more than 13,000 apartments in Canada and is developing a high-



end tourist resort in Belize. [3][7] He is also the honorary consul general of Belize to Canada.[4]

According to the information posted on Dhillon's company's website he has contributed generously to various causes. Some of his major contributions include raising \$60,000 for underprivileged children in San Pedro and donating free apartment suites to victims of the Fort McMurray and Slave Lake, Alberta fires. Along with Dhillon, ICBC board chair Joy MacPhail has also received Order of Canada.

"On behalf of everyone at ICBC, we wish to congratu-

late Joy MacPhail on receiving our nation's highest civilian honour – the Order of Canada.

We could not feel more proud to see Joy recognized with this award. Every one of us who has had the pleasure of meeting Joy, and the privilege of receiving her knowledge and guidance, knows how deserving she is of joining such esteemed company.

Joy has helped guide ICBC through its biggest transformation in history with the implementation of Enhanced Care – a change which has delivered significant improvements to the care provided to anyone injured in a crash while making auto insurance in B.C. more affordable," said ICBC in a release.

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Continued from Page 07

Shushma Datt honored by Hindi Literary Society with "Hindi Ratna"

By doing so, she has soared their Hindi consciousness and emotional unity, and strengthened the awareness of Indian-ness.

Inspired by the principle of "Vasudhaiv kutumbkam" and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah" Shushma ji frequently hosts radio-thons to raise funds for community projects. She is the hope and inspiration of millions across the world.

The founding President Acharya Dwivedi and present President Harish Masand of Hindi Literary Society of Canada honored Shushma ji with the title "HINDI RATNA" for her historic promotional work of Hindi. Deepa Sharma and Pushpa Sharma presented shawl to her. Shushma ji accepted with feeling of gratitude and love.

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Continued from Page 01

BC delays return to school for K-12 students by one week

"We know how important it is for students to return to safe, in-person learning," said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education. "This extra time will allow the Ministry of Education and public health to better understand the impact of the Omicron variant on the education system, and school communities to prepare for students returning to class with enhanced safety measures. Safety is our top priority, and we're going to keep working with public health to ensure the right measures continue to be in place to keep students and staff safe."

The Ministry of Education has developed an addendum to the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 settings based on public health's current knowledge of the Omicron variant. The guidelines were developed in collaboration with the BC Centre for Disease Control, Indigenous rightsholders and education partners, including teachers, parents and school administrators. As the ministry has done throughout the pandemic, safety measures for schools will continue to be updated as needed in consultation with public health.

K-12 schools must reinforce existing safety measures, including:

- * Using all available space to maximize space between people:
- * For example, different common space, classroom and learning environment configurations (e.g., avoid face-to-face seating arrangements where possible).
- * Everyone able to wear a mask.
- * Doing daily health checks, and staying home when sick.

K-12 public and independent schools must also implement enhanced safety measures, such as:

- * Implement strategies that prevent crowding during class transition times.
- * Hold school gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies, etc.) virtually. If they must be in-person, limit the number of people to no more than 50% operating capacity.
- * Hold staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development activities) virtually whenever possible.
- * Limit visitors to those who are supporting activities that directly benefit student learning and well-being (e.g., teacher candidates, immunizers, meal program volunteers, etc.).
- * Pause extracurricular sports tournaments.

The guidelines build on existing protocols that have succeeded in minimizing the spread of the virus in schools, such as:

- * Encouraging everyone who is eligible to get fully vaccinated.
- * Using available space to spread out and to respect personal space.
- * Wearing masks in accordance with Provincial Health Officer Order on Face Coverings:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-face-coverings.pdf>

- * Cleaning hands regularly.
- * Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces at least once a day.

As the Province awaits new rapid tests shipments from the federal government, B.C.'s existing sup-



ply of rapid tests will continue to be used at schools where there has been exposure events and outbreaks. When new federal shipments of take-home rapid tests arrive in mid-January, their use will be scaled up with 500,000 tests deployed as needed to support the safe continuation of in-person learning. Transmission in B.C. schools reflects transmission in the community and schools with consistently implemented prevention measures have proven to be lower risk throughout the pandemic. The government is committed to continuing to support safe in-person education in recognition of its positive impact on the intellectual, social and emotional development of students. Schools also provide important supports for children, such as meal programs and mental-health supports.

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KPU and Atira Women's Resource Society connected to determine what clothes were most needed

Surrey: Women affected by violence have more warm clothing this winter thanks to a clothing drive by Assessment and Testing Services (ATS) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

After testing administrator Juliana Jenkins-Wilks suggested the idea to her co-workers, the team connected with Atira Women's Resource Society in Surrey to find out which clothing items were in demand.

They set up collection boxes outside their test centres in Richmond, Langley and Surrey and started receiving donations almost right away. They also connected with friends and family in their communities who brought in bags of clothing. By the end of the drive they had 18 boxes of women's clothing for Atira.

Thanking the ATS team, donations as-



Assistant Amanda Amboe says donors help Atira provide housing, counseling programs, outreach programs, legal advocacy and self-employment training.

"It is with your help that we are able to provide the support that we do to women and their children who have experienced the impact of violence or abuse in our community," says Amboe. "Your commitment to helping women and children live free of violence is much appreciated, not only by Atira but also by those who access our services."

The ATS department at KPU supports community employers by providing testing sites for certification exams, English proficiency exams for citizenship and provides a safe and secure site for students in the community to write their distance education exams, especially while studying remotely. The department regularly supports the community through its work at KPU and through personal volunteerism,

but took it a step further this year by foregoing their annual team building event to help women in need instead.

"A lot of our team are socially connected in their communities and everyone agreed it was a fabulous initiative," says ATS manager Catherine Siermacheski.

But she says the COVID-19 pandemic created uncertainty about how successful the drive would be.

"I know people are wanting to do what they can right now and to help out in any way possible, but I didn't expect there would be enough people on campus to make this happen," she adds.

"It was such a great initiative that worked out so well. As you can imagine, this time of year it's difficult to get warm clothing. Atira don't have a problem with getting children's clothing because everybody seems to be more than willing to donate that, but it's women's clothing that they are desperate for."

Assessment and Testing Services thanked everyone at KPU who helped make the warm clothing drive a success. The team hope to continue donating in the future.

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Gurdwara Nanak Niwas Helping the Community

By Balwant Sanghera

Last year, when COVID-19 was creating havoc all around the globe, the situation in Punjab was extremely serious. People in various countries, including Canada were reaching out to help those in India as much as they could. At that time, there seemed to be a great need for oxygen. Responding to this need Sarbat Da Bhala Trust under Dr. SPS Obrai's leadership managed to install a number of oxygen plants in the Punjab. Gurdwara Nanak Niwas management got in touch with Dr. Obrai and started a fundraising campaign to help the needy in the Punjab. With the help of some very generous donors, and the congregation, we were able to raise \$100,000. By this time we found out from Dr. Obrai's organization that there were more than enough oxygen plants already serving the people of Punjab. Instead, they suggested that we should consider the possibility of installing kidney dialysis machines in certain hospitals as there is a lot of demand for that.

Our Gurdwara Management Committee agreed with that recommendation. Consequently, it has purchased and is in the process of installing three kidney dialysis machines at Guru Nanak Mission Hospital in Jalandhar and five machines in the Raja Sahib Majara/Rehpa hospitals. For the latter, we have been working with the Raja Sahib organization here in Canada and in India. All of these machines have been bought through the Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation, a non-profit Charity organization. Every dollar raised by us has been used to pay for these machines. There was no middleman or commission paid to anyone.

Like many other places of worship in Metro Vancouver, India Cultural Centre of Canada Gurdwara Nanak Niwas on Richmond's Highway to Heaven has also been making a commendable contribution to the community. The recent devastation caused by floods in some parts of BC, including the Fraser Valley quickly mobilized our community into action. A number of Gurdwaras and other places of worship were quick in offering support to the needy including farmers in the Abbotsford area. The management committees and congregations of various places of worship did a commendable job in this regard. On its part, India Cultural Centre of Canada Gurdwara Nanak Niwas was quick in providing two tons of groceries to the needy and victims of the floods. Also, it has raised ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to help the Fraser Valley farmers and victims of recent floods. This amount will be passed on to a suitable organization soon. Initiatives like these go a long way in creating more pride in our community. Gurdwara Nanak Niwas is pleased to engage in such activities of public welfare.

Balwant Sanghera is General Secretary, India Cultural Centre of Canada Gurdwara Nanak Niwas, Richmond, BC



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BC Government Promises To Bring Down Costs For British Columbians In 2022

VICTORIA – The Province is working to bring down costs for people in 2022, said BC government. "People are worried about the cost of everyday life, and the pandemic has only made it more difficult for those already struggling to get by," said Premier John Horgan. "This year, our government will continue working to bring down costs for people and their families so we can build a stronger B.C. for everyone."



Premier John Horgan

In the coming year, families will benefit from:

- * expanded \$10-a-day child care and reducing average fees by as much 50% by the end of 2022 for children under six
- * free public transit for kids under 12 that will save them as much as

car insurance rates by 20% on average in 2021

* increased minimum wage, which gives the lowest-paid workers in B.C. a raise to more than \$15.20

These initiatives build on the Province's work to make life more affordable for people over the last four years, including:

- * elimination of MSP premiums and bridge tolls
- * capping rent increases to inflation
- * saving tens of thousands of families up to \$19,000 a year on child care
- * eliminating interest on student loans
- * increasing income assistance by more than 50%

\$672 in 2022
* the biggest rate reduction in ICBC's history, which reduced

"We don't want to go back to the old ways of unfair MSP premiums or skyrocketing ICBC rates that made life more unaffordable for people," Premier Horgan said. "There's still much more work to do, but we've taken concrete action to lower costs for families. We'll keep working to put money back into the pockets of British Columbians."

B.C. Lottery Players Win A record-setting \$891 million in 2021

VANCOUVER: It was a record-setting year for lottery players in British Columbia, with more than \$891 million in total prizes paid out, including \$421 million to players who purchased winning tickets in the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley.



BCLC sold more than 102 million winning tickets to players at retail locations and online in 2021, which was also a record-breaking total amount. Burnaby's Christine Lauzon purchased one of these tickets and scored the \$70 million Lotto Max jackpot on September 28, 2021, becoming the largest single-prize winner in British Columbia's history.

"As 2021 wraps up, we're celebrating all of our players and so many amazing, life-changing dreams that came true for lottery winners," said Lynda Cavanaugh, BCLC's Interim President and CEO. "It's thanks to each one of our players that BCLC generates revenue for the Province of B.C., which in turn invests it back into the communities where our players live and work in. It's a win-win-win, and today we're celebrating the 48 million winning tick-

ets sold in the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley in 2021."

Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley lottery highlights:

- \$421 million in prizes paid to players
- 48.8 million winning tickets sold
- 36 grand prize-winning tickets sold, valued at \$500,000 or more
- 10.6 million free-play tickets won

BCLC offers socially responsible gambling entertainment while generating income to benefit all British Columbians. Remember, play for fun, not to make money. For more information, visit GameSense.com.

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Canada Welcomes The Most Immigrants In A Single Year In Its History

Government reaches target of 401,000 new permanent

Ottawa: With the significant exception of Indigenous people, all Canadians originally come from somewhere else. The story of immigration fills many chapters in the history of Canada—including the most recent one. To support Canada's post-pandemic recovery and chart a more prosperous future, the Government of Canada set a target of welcoming 401,000 new permanent residents in 2021, as part of the 2021–2023 Immigration Levels Plan. Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced that Canada reached its target and welcomed more than 401,000 new permanent residents in 2021. Surpassing the previous record from 1913, this is the most newcom-

ers in a year in Canadian history. This historic achievement is particularly significant in the face of the pandemic's many challenges. From closed borders to domestic lockdowns, global migration has been upended by COVID-19. But the employees of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) rose to the occasion and processed a record half a million applications in 2021. To achieve this, IRCC added resources, embraced new technology and brought more processes online. These changes are all permanent improvements to Canada's immigration system. "As we continue to struggle with the pandemic, we made the most of the talent

already within our borders. The majority of these new permanent residents were already in Canada on temporary status. Most notably, we launched new programs to engage essential workers, health care professionals, international graduates and French-speaking newcomers. Family reunification is another pillar of our system, and we reunited spouses and children while enabling more families to sponsor parents and grandparents. Finally, with many countries closing their doors to refugees, we continued to offer the world's most vulnerable shelter in Canada," he said. Canada needs immigration to drive our economy, enrich our society and support our aging population. One in 3 Canadian businesses is owned by an immigrant, and 1 in 4 health care workers is a newcomer. Business, labour market experts and economists all agree that immigration creates jobs, spurs innovation and helps address labour shortages. New Canadians contribute to communities across our country ev-



Sean Fraser Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

ery day, and we will continue welcoming more of them as we build the Canada of tomorrow. Immigration accounts for almost 100% of Canada's labour force growth. Roughly 75% of Canada's population growth comes from immigration, mostly in the economic category. By 2036, immigrants will represent up to 30% of Canada's population, compared with 20.7% in 2011.

OCI Card Holders don't Need RBI's Approval To Buy Or Transfer Immovable Property In India

But RBI's permission is needed to buy agricultural land, farm houses, plantation property

Those holding Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards need Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) permission to buy agricultural land, farm houses and plantation property. But they need not seek the RBI's prior approval to buy or transfer immovable property in India, said the apex bank in a clarification after it received a large number of queries based on newspaper reports on a Supreme Court Judgment.

The Supreme Court's judgment on February 26, 2021, in a civil appeal was related to provisions of FERA which has been repealed. At present, NRIs and OCIs are governed by provisions of FEMA and do not require prior approval of the RBI for acquisition and transfer of immovable property in India, other than agricultural land, farm house and plantation property.

Continued on page 22

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In Blow To Navjot Sidhu, Congress Won't Announce Chief Ministerial Face In Punjab

CHANDIGARH: In a blow to Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, who is said to have been positioning himself as the chief minister candidate of Congress in the state, a senior party leader confirmed rumors that Congress won't announce a Chief Minister face for the upcoming state assembly elections, according to media reports.

Sunil Jakhar, Chairman of the campaign committee of Punjab Congress, told news agency ANI that the party will contest under a "joint leadership".

According to The Tribune, it has been made clear that the elections would be fought collectively with CM Charanjit Singh Channi as the Dalit face, PPCC chief Navjot Sidhu the Jat face and former PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar the Hindu face. Indicating internal dissensions, the PPCC chief at the Batala rally on Sunday declared former MLA Ashwani Sekhri as the Congress candidate from Batala even though the party is yet to



release a list of nominees. The announcement by Sidhu is being interpreted as a snub to minister Tript Rajinder Bajwa, who has been eying the Batala seat. In the Qadian Assembly segment, Sidhu is backing sitting

MLA Fatehjang Bajwa.

The latter's brother, Partap Singh Bajwa (MP), too wants to contest from Qadian.

The move is aimed at balancing caste equations in the state and preventing infighting within the party. The top faces of the party in Punjab come from diverse communities, aimed at strengthening numbers by tapping into vote banks of all electorally significant groups. Punjab Congress had gone through a massive crisis earlier this year after an open rebellion by party leaders that ended in the unceremonious removal of Amarinder Singh from the post of the chief minister. The state then got its first Dalit chief minister in Charanjit Singh Channi.

Sidhu, who led the attack on Singh during the Punjab Congress crisis, has also been taking swipes at the Channi-led government from time to time. He is considered a loose cannon who often publicly puts his own party in the spot and even trains his guns at the state government from time to time.

Continued from Page 05

Overseas Citizenship..

(i) shall not be registered as a voter, (ii) shall not be eligible for election as President, Vice President, Member of Parliament or any Legislative Council and Assembly of a State, (iii) shall not be eligible to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, the High Courts and appointment to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or any State.

Section 7-C of the Act provides that an Overseas Citizen of India of full age and capacity may renounce his overseas citizenship by making a declaration which should be registered with the Indian Embassy/High Commission or the Indian Consulate. When a person ceases to be an overseas citizen of India, every minor child/ spouse of foreign origin of that person shall thereupon cease to be an OCI.

The Central Government is empowered under Section 7-D of the Act to cancel the OCI by making an order if it is satisfied that (a) the registration as an OCI was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact; (b) the OCI has shown disaffection towards the Constitution of India as by law established; (c) the OCI has, during any war in which India may be engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been engaged in, or associated with, any business or commercial activity that was to his knowledge carried on in such manner as to assist an enemy in that war; or (d) the OCI has, within five years after registration as OCI, been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years; or (e) it is necessary to cancel the registration in the interest of the sovereignty, integrity and security of India, friendly relations of India with any foreign country, or in the interest of the public. The Indian civil/criminal laws are applicable to the OCI while in India.

Note: By the expression 'person of Indian origin' shall mean a citizen of another country who (i) was eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of the commencement of Indian Constitution; (ii) belonged to a territory that became part of India after the 15th day of August 1947*; and (iii) the children and grand-children of a person covered under clauses (i) and (ii), but does not include a person who had been at any time a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Indian government may specify.

*The following territories became part of India after August 15, 1947: (1) Dadra & Nagar Haveli :11 Aug. 1961, (2) Goa, Daman and Diu: 20 Dec. 1961, (3) Puducherry: 16 Aug. 1962 and (4) Sikkim: 26 April 1975.

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2021 Advocacy Year-In-Review

This year was full of significant changes for the real estate sector in BC. REALTORS® continued to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and many assisted communities hit by historic rainfalls in a number of ways, including fundraising to support the Red Cross. 2021 was also filled with significant government interventions impacting the sector. Here's a recap of significant actions by the

BC Government from this past year. Cullen Continues Inquiry into Money Laundering The Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in BC (Cullen Commission) continued to examine a series of sectors, including real estate, throughout 2021. BCREA Chief Executive Officer Darlene Hyde and Chief Economist Brendon Ogmundson were participants in

the Cullen Commission, during which they answered questions about the real estate sector and demonstrated how BCREA has supported Realtors by equipping them with tools to help identify and combat money laundering. These tools included developing a course for managing brokers and compliance officers, and providing resources on filing Suspicious Transaction Reports and other FINTRAC require-



ments. Oral submissions to the Cullen Commission ended in October 2021. The Cullen Commission

was recently granted an extension for submitting their final report, which will now be published on May 20, 2022.

Continued on page 25

Kristina Eng

BA, MA, MCNE, CIPS • 604-365-0991



From Condos to Castles...

NEW LISTING



#405 - 15164 Prospect Ave
White Rock
\$859,000
MLS# R2630626
Penthouse in Concrete Building

Luxurious penthouse in respected CONCRETE and steel Waterford building. Boutique 4 storey building in the Five Corners neighbourhood in the heart of White Rock. Bright and gorgeous top floor condo with oversized windows, skylight and gleaming hardwood floors throughout. Huge house-sized kitchen with extensive granite counters, pantry and new upscale appliances. 2 bed, 2 spa-like bathrooms with granite counters and heated floors. Heat pump provides economical heat and central Air Conditioning. Built in vac. Relax on the generously sized balcony with angled ocean view. Shopping, coffee, restaurants, transit are on your doorstep. 10 minutes walk to the beach. A beautiful move-in ready home.

NEW LISTING



#214 - 15185 22 Ave
Surrey
\$675,000
MLS# R2637374
Corner Condo at Villa Pacific

Beautiful corner condo at sought-after Villa Pacific. Spacious 2 bedroom & den, over 1,300 sq ft. Huge wrap-around covered deck overlooking quiet courtyard and trees. Each bedroom is large with ensuite bathroom & walk in closet. Den for convenient work from home. Snuggle by the cozy gas fireplace with gas incl in strata fees. Great layout with separated bedrooms, large dining area, laundry room with extra storage. Bring your house-sized furniture. 2 parking spaces and locker. Respected Villa Pacific has proactive strata, large contingency fund, lots of building updates. All ages welcome, pet friendly, no rentals, no smoking. Move in ready



309 12890 17 Ave
Surrey
\$389,000
MLS# R2607831
Ocean Park Top Floor Condo

Welcome to Ocean Park Place. Top floor spacious two bedroom condo with updated kitchen, laminate flooring and fresh paint. Relax on the large balcony with view of trees. Wonderful walkable location close to centre of Ocean Park Village, steps to shopping, transit and library, walking trail to the beach. 45+ complex, no pets or rentals. cotala.com/58933

NEW PRICE



24555 44 Ave
Langley
MLS# R2605289
Modern Masterpiece

Spectacular home rebuilt in 2009. Designed by Raymond Bontar, built by Brendan Cote. Over 4000 sq ft, 5 bedrooms, 5 baths. Soaring 20' ceilings, polished concrete floors, huge windows overlooking lush & private landscaped one acre grounds. A/C & radiant underfloor heating. Stunning great room w gas fireplace, luxury kitchen, expansive back deck w show-stopping firepit & hot tub. Lavish entertainment & bar area. Lower level w sep entrance. Super private on quiet no through road. Over 1,750 sq ft workshop w 14' door, mezzanine, 30 amp hook up & covered RV parking. Video, floorplan, photos: www.cotala.com/58742

NEW PRICE



Ph2002 2959 Glen Drive
Coquitlam
\$1,089,000
MLS# R2610997
Corner Penthouse at The Parc

Gorgeous penthouse. Windows on 3 sides & unobstructed panoramic views from every room. Soaring 10' ceilings & floor-to-ceiling windows provide abundant natural light. 2 huge balconies open to north, east and west to enjoy from sunrise to sunset. Flexible open floor plan w spacious den for work at home. Deluxe kitchen w Bosch Stainless Steel appliances, granite counter-tops & pantry. 2 full bathrooms. 2 side-by-side underground parking spaces located close to the elevator. Storage locker & private wine locker. Walking distance to Evergreen Line, Coquitlam Centre, shopping and restaurants. <https://www.cotala.com/59139>



308 5377 201A Street
Langley
\$499,000
MLS# R2627459
Top Floor Condo at Red Maple Place

Beautiful 2 bed 2 bath, spacious, bright and airy condo at Red Maple Place. Huge kitchen with brand new counters, updated stainless appliances and brand new fridge. Newer laminate floors throughout. Open modern floor plan with large dining area perfect for entertaining friends and family. King size principal bedroom with walk in closet and ensuite bathroom. 2nd full bathroom and spacious 2nd bedroom. Large sunny south facing balcony with view of trees. <http://cotala.com/60245>



311-15185 22 Ave,
South Surrey
\$589,000
Villa Pacific Penthouse

Updated top floor condo at sought-after Villa Pacific. Beautifully renovated 2 bedroom, 2 full bath unit, 1,132 sq ft. Brand new vinyl floors, quartz counters in kitchen and both bathrooms, wainscoting and mouldings and more. Great layout with separated bedrooms and huge dining area. Enormous private south-facing balcony, overlooking trees. Cozy gas fireplace. 2 parking spaces and locker. All ages welcome. Pet friendly. A beautiful place to call home. www.cotala.com/58824



325 - 1952 152A St.,
Surrey



Ph2003 2959 Glen Drive
Coquitlam



Lot 10 Foxglove Ln,
Bowen Island



206-15288 22 Ave
South Surrey



62 - 15233 34 Ave
South Surrey



14350 17 Ave
South Surrey

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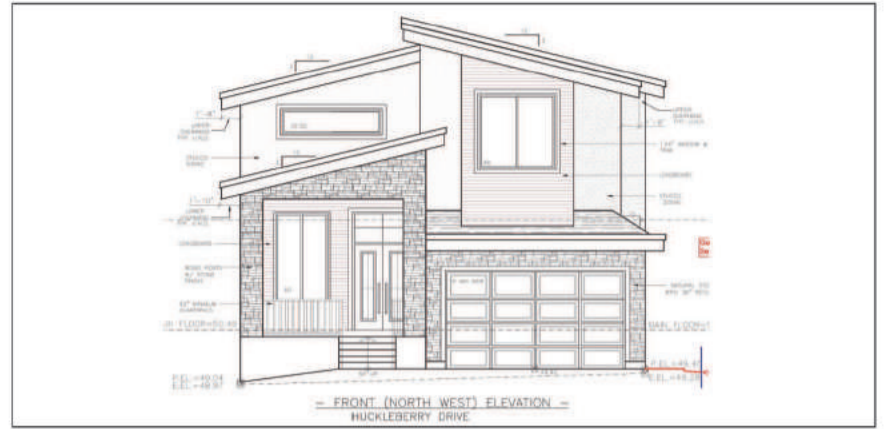


NEW LISTING

\$4,488,000

Architectural elegance at its finest; this West Vancouver-inspired property is located within the prestigious Elgin Park Estates neighborhood in South Surrey. This extravagant home portrays the unique blend of timeless sophistication and secluded park-style living. Sitting on approximately 14,000 sqft of land, this property offers 6488 sqft of luxurious living space; meticulously by design, it features four opulent bedrooms upstairs and similarly one spacious bedroom on the main floor. The kitchen is equipped with Miele appliances throughout and features a beautiful transparent wine cabinet. Furthermore, the property possesses an abundance of outdoor entertainment space in conjunction with a designated theatre room, gymnasium, games room, and bar. Call us now to book your private showing!

9858 HUCKLEBERRY DRIVE



Welcome to Fraser Height's newest sub-division. This 3684 sqft lot is ready to build, the plans should be ready to pick up from the city in a few weeks. The home will include 7 bedrooms 6 bathrooms with a media room and a bar area for your own use downstairs. The total square footage for the home will be 3922 plus a garage. Call now to get more info.



Sunny Sangha
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5 BRAND NEW HOUSES MOUNTAINS VIEW 13774 112 AVE, SURREY



5 Brand New houses with SPECTACULAR North Mountains & New West Shore view from Master Bedroom. BONUS James & Surrey Traditional Elementary School across the street. 3 level 3000 sf homes sitting on 3300 sf lot with back lane access. Main floor feature open floor plan with spacious living & dining room and a HUGE kitchen. Dream room. Dream room.

SOLD OUT

BDRMS: 6
BATH: 5
YEAR: 2020
LOT: 3300 Sq. ft.
HOUSE: 3000 Sq. ft.

ASKING \$1,399,000 + GST

8 BRAND NEW HOUSES MAPLE RIDGE 11008 240 ST



BDRMS: 6 BATH: 4 YEAR: 2020
LOT: 3100 Sq. ft. HOUSE: 3280 Sq. ft.

SOLD OUT

MEADOWLANE HOMES.....This premier collection of 8 Single Family Homes in the historic Albion neighbourhood is set to inspire an exceptional quality of life with smart home features and interiors that evoke a quality of timelessness with unique finishes creating a functional space. A blend of impeccably crafted homes with diverse styles of vintage and modern. There is a home for everyone, and a life without compromise. This Dream home will boast 3280 sq. ft. OPEN CONCEPT FLOOR PLAN WITH HUGE GREAT ROOM AREA. The Gourmet Kitchen features party sized island, quartz counter & Butler's Pantry. 4 bedrooms & 2 full baths on upper floor, including Luxurious MBDRM with spa like ensuite. Walkout basement with huge recroom, 2 bedrooms plus storage area, bar sink, full bath & separate entrance. Detached 2 garage with back lane access.

ASKING \$899,900 + GST

#68 6383 140 ST



JUST LISTED \$699,000

BDRMS: 4 BATH: 4 YEAR: 2013
LOT: Townhome HOUSE: 1663 Sq. ft.
Panorama West Village, Spacious & well-maintained. Sunny south facing balcony. Kitchen with SS appliances and granite counters, large dining room, living area with

SOLD

5912 183A ST



JUST LISTED \$1,275,000

BDRMS: 5 BATH: 3 YEAR: 1980
LOT: 7141 Sq. ft. HOUSE: 2558 Sq. ft.
Perfect family home with mortgage. 2 yr old High Efficiency Furnace & deck. Roof is 3 yrs old. Newer s/s dishwasher and gas range.

SOLD

8567 152 ST



R2530921 \$999,900

BDRMS: 3 BATH: 2 YEAR: 1962
LOT: 9656 Sq. ft. HOUSE: 1969 Sq. ft.
3 bedrooms, 2 bath house. 76x127 lot. Private patio at rear of house and lots of parking, room for RV and yard is fully fenced & back lane

SOLD

16787 16 AVE



JUST LISTED \$1,399,000

BDRMS: 6 BATH: 4 YEAR: 2020
LOT: 7200 Sq. ft. HOUSE: 1710 Sq. ft.
SOUTH SURREY, VERY CONVENIENT. 2 full bath upstairs, 2 berm suite plus rec room in basement. Double detached garage with back lane access. Ready to move end of 2020.

SOLD

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604-897-9575
E MAIL SAMKAUSHAL@GMAIL.COM

16900 30A Ave., Surrey \$3,499,000



Gorgeous acre property in a luxurious neighbourhood with Views of North Shore Mountains, situated on a quiet, no through street in the heart of a highly desirable area of South Surrey. This custom built rancher has been lovingly maintained. Updates include laminate flooring, new kitchen counters, high end appliances, paint and more. This PARKLIKE acre has towering majestic trees and backs on to 5 acres of grazing horse land affording the ultimate in privacy. Perfect location minutes to major shopping, schools, U.S. border and freeway access to Vancouver. Great holding property with excellent future development opportunity in North Grandview Heights, Subdividable property. Must See!

5877 E Kettle Crescent \$2,199,900



Arguably the best neighbourhood in all of Surrey! Located in what is known as the "K subdivision in Sullivan Station! Fully RENOVATED 2 level executive home with over 3,000 sq.ft. of living space on a 12,806 sq.ft. lot. New acrylic kitchen cabinets, new flooring, new s/s appliances, new paint, new quartz countertops, new driveway, freshly painted stucco, A/C unit, new lighting fixtures, cameras and security system and much more! 3 bedrooms on the main including a master suite and ensuite bath, 2 more generous size bedrooms on the upper level. Family room walks out to the private, landscaped south west facing back yard with stone patio. Surrounded by 1/2 acre lots and tons of greenspaces all within walking distance to parks, schools, the YMCA and shops at Panorama. Must see beautiful home!

5657 132 Street \$2,749,000



BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME IN PANORAMA RIDGE! Attention builders/investors - Make your DREAM home a REALITY! EXECUTIVE, GATED PANORAMA RIDGE RANCHER with part basement in one of Surreys Most PRESTIGIOUS areas! Situated on a spectacular 23,086 sq. ft. lot with Park-like setting. WRAP AROUND SUNDECKS & mature hedging around yard providing ULTIMATE privacy! Plans in place for a MEGA 3 STOREY HOME approx 8000 SQFT of living space! Home has 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Chefs dream kitchen with new granite countertops, heated floors, solid cabinets, gas range, Stain steel appliances & large island. HUGE living area with cedar beams & soaring vaulted ceiling for entertaining. Hot tub area & Built in Gas for bbq. EXCEPTIONAL VALUE! Rare opportunity to own this gem in original Panorama Ridge. Call now!

13143 56 Avenue \$3,990,000



FINALLY! THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE WAITING FOR - TIME TO OWN YOUR ESTATE IN PANORAMA RIDGE! OCEAN VIEW ACREAGE! This is a PRIME piece of land. Fully cleared with no trees! Make your DREAM home a reality in Surreys Most PRESTIGIOUS area of PANORAMA RIDGE. Situated on 1.307 Acres with a 168 Foot Frontage this piece of land is ready for you to make your dream home ideas a reality! Perfect for someone who wants to build a MONSTER HOUSE with breathtaking OCEAN AND VALLEY VIEWS in the original Panorama Ridge. 168 Ft. Frontage and 338 Ft. Deep. MASSIVE 56,932 Square Feet Lot (1.307 Acres). Not everyday these types of properties become available in the desirable area of Panorama Ridge. Take advantage of this RARE opportunity to own your own acreage on which you can build DREAM MANSION!

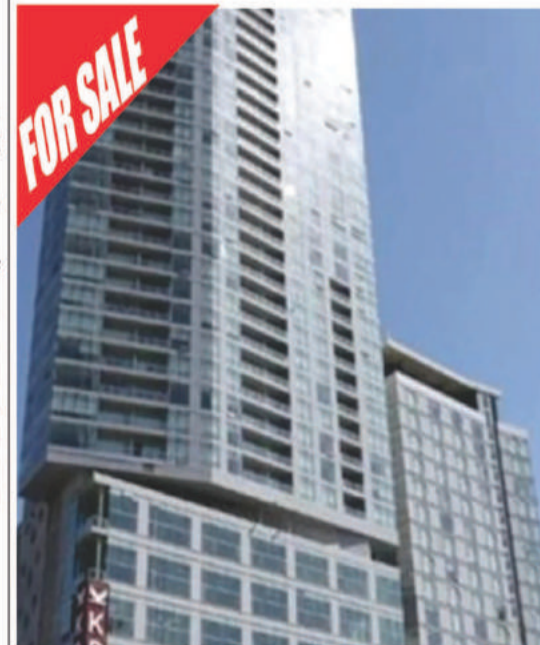
INDIA BAZAR GROCERY BUSINESS \$2,599,000



FOR SALE WITH PROPERTY

Listing include units #107 & #108. Great investment property on Scott Road. Good exposure to busy traffic with plenty of parking. The property consist of 3,957 square feet of retail space plus a small office. Lots of continual development around this area and opposite Delta side buildings coming in near future. Strata fee \$805 per month for both units.

3909 13495 Central Ave \$899,000



The Residences, Surrey's Flagship Residence at 3 Civic Plaza Development. This 39th FLOOR, 1248 square foot, 2 bedroom and den, 2 bath property features high-end finishing. Large 102 square foot balcony with unobstructed views. Steps to Skytrain, Central City Mall, SFU, KPU, Civic Plaza, City Hall & Hotel, coffee shops & library, & planned LRT system. TWO PARKING stalls and locker included. This premium condo has an open concept layout with floor-to-ceiling windows, exercise centre, elevator, in-suite laundry. You won't find a better location close to this many amenities. No GST. Rentals are allowed.

For units in York Centre (80 & 128 St), Please Call **604-897-9575** or **604-897-0006**

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DOWNTOWN SURREY

A zoned medium to high density with approx. 5200 sqft of warehouse or retail space. Can't go wrong with this 7200 sqft lot. Act fast because this won't last long.

Only \$3.2 Million

**3 STOREY HOUSE CITY CENTRE
13351 98 Ave., SURREY**

Beautifully kept 3 storey house in City Centre with great potential. Almost 7900 sqft square lot, 4 beds up, family room, double garage. Basement suite. Very quite city centre location. Close to University, Shopping, Train Station, Bus etc.

Only \$1.69 Million

DOWNTOWN SURREY

Exclusively listed in the middle of a high density zone. 12400 sqft + land with 6 units. Building on it is fully leased

Only \$3.3 Million

EAST RICHMOND OFFICE

Beautiful office space for sale. 985 Sq Ft with great amenities, lots of natural light and great views. Includes a built-in reception area and a closed off office.

Only \$475,000

TRAILER PARK

Excellent investment in Kamloops with city water and sewer storm. 37 permanent trailers and approximately \$220,000 income. Develop anytime soon.

**CONDO FOR SALE
SURREY**

2 bed, 2 baths, ground floor unit with convenient location. Only a block from Scott Road and all major businesses.

SOLD

**HUSKY GAS STATION
BUSINESS**

Gas station business for sale. Please call for details.

Only \$299,000

**WAREHOUSE
FOR SALE**

2817 Sqft in Surrey, Newton for sale. Great for auto etc. 16 foot ceiling.

PAYAL CENTRE

Approx. 981 Sq Ft retail shop in Payal Business Centre. Can buy with business, with lease or business. \$3,500 a month.

SOLD

Only \$1,225,000

LANGLEY ACRES

1.2 developable acres in Langley. **SOLD**

Only \$4.3 Million

**PAYAL CENTRE
BEAUTY SALON**

Beauty Salon & Laser treatment center in excellent location. 2 banquet halls. This one is one of the best.

SOLD

Only \$75,000

OFFICE FOR SALE

In surrey with major exposure on 128 street. 1010 sqft. A prime location. **SOLD**

**NEWTON FOR
LEASE**

1916 sqft retail shop or for lease. **SOLD**

**MAPLE RIDGE
C4**

Application for ground floor units and condos. **SOLD**

Only \$1.5 Million



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4879 DUCHESS STREET, VANCOUVER



Well-kept 1,563 sqft corner townhouse unit in the rarely available, highly sought-after Duchess Place! This east facing unit sits on the quiet road close to Kingsway. It features a functional layout, 4 spacious bedrooms/3.5 baths, a grand kitchen with eating area, and a side-by-side garage with lots of storage. Consistent upgrades done over the years include painting, flooring. Roof, balcony, exterior painting, stairway upgraded/ongoing in the complex. Enjoy all the nearby conveniences this central location has to offer, with schools, shopping, restaurants and transit at your doorstep!

4 BED • 4 BATHS • 1,563 SQ.FT.

ASKING
\$1,100,000

7743 115 STREET, DELTA



10,800 SF. LOT. SUB DIVIDABLE LOT

Beautiful 90 by 120 lot. Third reading done, waiting on docs from city. Potential to build 2 single family homes once subdivision goes through. The houses on proposed "Lots A and B would have 253 m2 (2,723 ft2) of above-ground floor area with an in-ground basement floor area of 121 m2 (1,302 ft2) for a total floor area of 374 m2 (4,026 ft2)." from city docs.

ASKING **\$1,749,000**

2944 BERGMAN STREET, ABBOTSFORD



ASKING **\$1,599,500**

10733 BURBANK DRIVE, DELTA



ASKING **\$1,288,000**

6 16828 BOXWOOD DR, SURREY



ASKING **\$885,000**

102 2649 JAMES ST, ABBOTSFORD



ASKING **\$1,288,000**

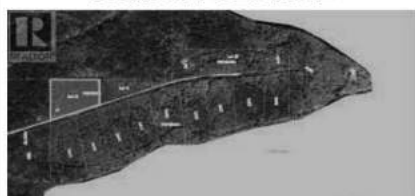
**Buy or Sell your house with me...
I will pay the legal fee of that house!!**

LOT 11 CHIEF LAKE ROAD PRINCE GEORGE



Beautiful 5.48 acre property.
\$28,776

LOT 12 CHIEF LAKE ROAD PRINCE GEORGE



Beautiful 4.94 acre property
\$45,540

LOT 10 CHIEF LAKE ROAD PRINCE GEORGE



Beautiful 4.95 acre property.
\$45,540

8134 112A STREET DELTA



Great investment property

56-8168 136A ST, SURREY



ASKING **\$795,000**

5533 CHESTNUT CRE, LADNER



ASKING **\$1,325,000**

16669 31B, SOUTH SURREY



ASKING **\$2,640,000**

5192 MANOR ST, BURNABY



ASKING **\$1,567,000**

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119 UNITS APARTMENT 119 units apartment Kitimat BC building in ocean view apartment all strata title built in 1956. Sitting on 5 acres lot with on site caretaker and management. \$13,900,000	FORECLOSURE Hope BC, 76 years old, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lot size is 7600 sqft., great deal, don't miss out on this one. \$334,000	30 UNITS APARTMENT 30 units apartment building in Prince George BC. 15 units 2BR 15 units 1BR, owner will take trades \$2,280,000	COACH HOUSE Surrey Panorama Ridge 12 years old, 3 storey, just like new with 7 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 4539 sqft lot, 3126 sqft house, double garage with alley access have own 3 parking spots available for tenants, main floor rents \$2350PM, coach house rents \$1050 PM, suite rents \$850 PM. For more details call. \$1,498,000
17 UNITS APARTMENT Building in Prince George BC, 5-2 BR and 12 1 BR units, fully rented brings \$172,000 annually with 16 parking stalls. \$2,250,000	FORECLOSURE Prince George BC, 60 years old, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 6000 sqft lot size, house with one bedroom suite \$339,000	FORECLOSURE Pitt Meadows, 26 years old house being rebuilt by fire insurance claim, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4386 sqft lot size, It will be just like new house. \$1,099,000	FORECLOSURE Vancouver BC, 38 years old, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3832 sqft lot size, double garage. \$1,738,000
8 UNITS TOWNHOUSES Prince George two storey, 2 bedrooms, fully rented, all renovated brings \$90,000 per annually, close to downtown, Victoria medical building. \$1,400,000	FORECLOSURE Mission BC one acre older home, 3 bedroom, 3 bathrooms, rancher, also have a workshop. \$895,000	FORECLOSURE Burnaby South BC, 3 years old, 3 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 6996 sqft lot size, 3 storey home 4155 sqft, double garage. \$2,299,000	8 UNITS MOTEL & RESTAURANT ASHCROFT BC 8 rooms rents for \$2,850 PM, sign art shop rents \$850 PM, total revenue for annually \$44,400 plus restaurant brings daily cash in to business, for more details pls call. \$525,000
FORECLOSURE Whiterock, Condo 2 bed, 2 bath, 13 years old, 952 sqft \$555,000	FORECLOSURE Richmond BC, 5 acres commercial development land great investment. \$4,580,000	BANK FORECLOSURE West Newton 3 bedroom and 2 bathroom, 3997 sqft lot, 2 storey, 1530 sqft house. \$899,000	PRINCE GEORGE BC Older home with 3 bedrooms, one bath, big shop, no basement, 6000 sqft. lot, 864 sqft. home. \$198,000
FORECLOSURE Vancouver E, 3700 sqft lot, 2100 sqft home, 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms \$1,465,000	PRINCE GEORGE BC Investors rents \$1700 pm, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths with 1 bedroom suite in basement, single garage, 2 storey home, 8000 sqft lot, close to walking distance to high school, elementary school and downtown. \$379,000	THORNBURY MANOR Right across from "SFU" campus, 2 bedroom, bath 855 sqft best investment, rented \$1650 per month. \$415,000	PRINCE GEORGE BC Condo Guildford, One bed one bath 840 sqft 22 years old condo rentals allowed, strata fee \$291PM, taxes \$1661.00 for the year \$412,000
HIGH RISE Surrey one of the fast growing city in Canada. Park avenue building on King George 2 bedroom, one full bath, over 635 sqft located on 36th floor with unobstructed view of whole city. \$549,000	FORECLOSURE Port Moody, One acre lot 3 years old home, 6 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, 3 storey, 7200 sqft home \$3,300,000	9PLEX FOR SALE Prince George Fully rented 3 storey building new roof, close to PG downtown. \$1,399,000	

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DriveBCadds 13 New Cameras To Help Drivers Plan Ahead

VICTORIA - People can "know before they go" to better prepare for their driving routes, thanks to 13 new cameras and 33 more views added to the DriveBC webcam network in 2021.

New cameras are installed annually at locations throughout B.C. so drivers can plan for traffic and weather conditions on the route ahead. This is especially important during winter and as drivers plan trips on unfamiliar routes due to road closures resulting from November's washouts.

Some of the new cameras and views added to the network include:

* Balfour Inland Ferry Terminal: located on Highway 3A in the West Kootenay area. The old camera was replaced and provides improved views of the Balfour inland ferry terminal lineup, with an additional south-looking view of the ferry loading ramp. This was done to support the ongoing terminal upgrades.

* Kootenay Bay Inland Ferry Terminal: located on Highway 3A in the West Kootenay area at Kootenay Bay Ferry Landing. The old camera was replaced and provides improved views of the Kootenay Bay in-



land ferry terminal lineup and an additional northeast look at the ferry loading ramp. This was done to support the ongoing terminal upgrades.

* Needles Inland Ferry Terminal: located on Highway 6 at the Needles Ferry Inland Landing. The addition of this camera pro-

vides the public with better visual information on the ferry lineup and helps the ferry operator to better manage congestion at peak travel times.

* Highway 19A at 17th Street Bridge: located in Courtenay on Highway 19A at the 17th Street Bridge, with views looking north, south and west. This camera was installed to help drivers better plan travel along this busy corridor and is important

as the City of Courtenay is in the process of rehabilitating the 5th Street Bridge, the other Courtenay River crossing in town.

* Golden Ears Bridge: Located on and around the Golden Ears Bridge, these four new TransLink-owned cameras provide up-to-date information for drivers using this connection across the Fraser River between the Township of Langley and City of Maple Ridge.

* Highway 19 at Menzies Hill: located southeast of Roberts Lake and north of Campbell River, with north and south views. This camera was installed at the request of local residents to provide additional information on Highway 19 for south Island residents.

The cameras offer real-time images of hundreds of locations throughout the province. There are 480 highway cameras delivering 953 views.

DriveBC maintains its network of existing cameras placed at strategic locations throughout the province. Webcam locations are assessed based on needs identified by residents, contractors or weather experts.

For the latest travel information before heading out on B.C.'s roads and highways, check: <https://drivebc.ca/>

Continued from Page 13

OCI Card Holders don't Need RBI's Approval To Buy Or Transfer...

The sale and transfer will have to be as per the terms and conditions laid down in Chapter IX of the FEMA (Non-debt Instruments) Rules of October 17, 2019, said the RBI.

In a statement, the RBI said it had received several queries based on reports on a Supreme Court judgment. "It is hereby clarified that the... judgment dated February 26, 2021 in Civil Appeal 9546 of 2010 was related to provisions of FERA, 1973, which has been repealed under Section 49 of FEMA, 1999," it said.

"At present, NRIs/OCIs are governed by provisions of FEMA 1999 and do not require prior approval of RBI for acquisition and transfer of immovable property in India, other than agricultural land/ farm house/ plantation property, as per the terms and conditions laid down in Chapter IX of the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019, dated October 17, 2019 (as amended from time to time), issued under Section 46 of FEMA 1999," it added.

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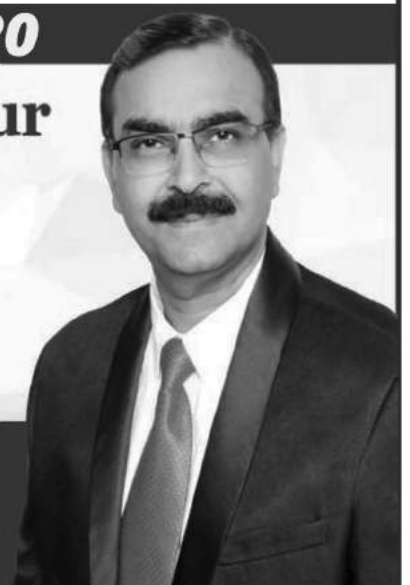
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Former Speaker Plecas Lands On Taxpayers' Nice List

By Kris Sims

Darryl Plecas has given British Columbians a gift that keeps giving all year long: government transparency.

Before you stop reading because that sounds as dry as a Griswold Christmas turkey, remember that if it weren't for the former speaker of the legislature, we wouldn't know about the wood splitter and whale-watching party bought on our dime.

B.C.'s former speaker-turned-undercover-detective earned his way on to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation's Nice List this year, for his work to uncover the abuse of taxpayers' money.

The CTF released its annual Naughty and Nice list and some familiar names are on the scroll.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau landed on the Naughty List for increasing taxes. Conservative Party Leader Erin O'Toole's nose grew three sizes when he broke his promise to fight carbon taxes.



Members of Parliament are on the Naughty List for taking two pay hikes while thousands of Canadians were los-

ing their jobs and businesses during the COVID-19 mess.

Former governor general Julie Payette topped the Naughty List because she's still eligible for a fat pension and expense account even though Rideau Hall became a Grinch-like working environment and she left early.

The Nice List is more of a challenge to write than the Naughty List, but it was easy to give applause to Plecas.

Shortly after he became speaker in 2017, Plecas said he noticed something was weird with the workplace.

The speaker is one of three officers of the legislature, along with the clerk of the house and the sergeant-at-arms. The clerk and the sergeant-at-arms aren't elected, while the speaker is chosen from among elected MLAs.

The officers are the people in the black-and-white robes in the middle aisle of Westminster parliamentary systems around the world.

Plecas said when he moved into his new

role as speaker, he noticed that the offices had copious amounts of alcohol onsite, and it wasn't just rum for seasonal egg nog.

He also said that his colleagues were eagerly planning their next international trip – all at taxpayers' expense.

Alarmed, Plecas started making copies of travel itineraries, expense reports and receipts, keeping them all in a file. He was making his own list and checking it more than twice.

The average tax-paying British Columbian had no idea this was happening because back then, officers of the legislature never had to post their expenses.

A year into the investigation, the clerk and the sergeant-at-arms were escorted off of the legislature grounds by Victoria Police. Plecas released the first of his bombshell reports a few weeks later, detailing shocking levels of spending on luxury items.

Tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars blown.

B.C. taxpayers paid for video cameras, Apple TVs and trips to the U.K. and Hong Kong. They paid \$714 for a man's wristwatch billed as luggage.

They paid \$2,434 for a whale-watching trip expensed as "tsunami awareness training" and Seattle Mariners Baseball tickets that were billed as "evacuations training."

Infamously, taxpayers paid more than \$3,000 for a wood splitter and more than \$10,000 for the trailer to cart it around. What justification? If there were an earthquake, officers of the legislature could rescue trapped people by chopping the fallen beams apart with the firewood splitter.

The impact of Plecas's work will be felt for years.

Today, the former sergeant-at-arms no longer works at the legislature. While charges have yet to be proven in court, the former clerk is facing three counts of breach of trust and two counts of fraud. He has plead not guilty.

Officers of the legislature must now post all of their travel and hospitality expenses online so taxpayers can see what they're paying for.

Investigations are on-going, and Plecas continues to call for stronger accountability in Victoria. His place on the Nice List is well-deserved.

Kris Sims is the B.C. Director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. This commentary was first published in the Prince George Citizen.

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Indian CEO of Global IT Firm Veeam

Hot on the heels of Indian-origin Parag Agarwal being appointed as Twitter CEO, another Indian-origin executive Anand Eswaran has made it to the high-profile league of global honchos calling the shots at Big Tech.

Eswaran, who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a member of the Board of Directors of global IT firm Veeam, will lead the company to achieve the next \$1 billion in annual recurring revenue (ARR) and beyond.

Continued from Page 15

2021 Advocacy...

We look forward to the release of the final report and will continue advocating for smart policy to ensure integrity and transparency in supporting Realtors to help identify and combat money laundering in real estate.

BC Real Estate Sector Moves to Single Regulator

For the second time in five years, the real estate regulatory system was restructured. In March 2021, the government passed amendments to the Real Estate Services Act, resulting in a new regulatory body for real estate, the BC Financial Services Authority (BCFSA). In addition to real estate, BCFSA also regulates credit unions, trust companies, insurance companies, mortgage brokers and pension plans.

At BCREA, we are hopeful about the potential of the shift away from a dual-regulator model, which had its challenges. We do, however, have several ongoing areas of concern that we are continuing to advocate for as we continue regular meetings with senior staff at BCFSA. We will continue to call for the creation of a Professional Standing Committee to establish licensing qualifications and provide on-the-ground insights into all proposed changes to real estate practice.

Actions Taken to Improve Housing Supply

While there is no single solution to housing affordability in BC, governments can have the greatest impact by encouraging increased housing supply. A recent BCREA Market Intelligence report estimates in March 2021, 67,000 buyers were searching for homes across BC while only 24,000 listings were available. In November 2021, total active residential listings were down 40 per cent year-over-year an all-time record low for the province. These numbers highlight the undersupplied housing market in the face of surging demand. There has, however, been some progress made by the provincial government on increasing housing supply in the past year, including:

Eswaran joined Veeam from RingCentral where he was President and Chief Operating Officer (COO), overseeing exponential growth and customer expansion. Before RingCentral, he was responsible for Microsoft's Enterprise Commercial and Public Sector business globally.

Before Microsoft, Eswaran was the Executive Vice President of the \$5.4 billion Global Services business at SAP, leading 17,000 business process and technology professionals to accelerate customer and partner value creation through SAP's enterprise applications.

He has held multiple other leadership roles including Vice President of Global Software Services at HP, Vice President of Global Professional Services at



Anand Eswaran

Vignette (now OpenText), and Senior Manager at Braun Consulting (now Fair Isaac). "Today my RingCentral chapter

closes with unforgettable experiences and lasting friendships. My next chapter begins -- promising opportunities to learn and

grow. New beginnings as CEO of Veeam," he said in one of his tweets.

In a write-up, Eswaran said: "A new adventure often marks the close of a chapter. In my case, one that has provided unforgettable experiences and lasting friendships. But as one chapter closes, a new one begins - promising new opportunities to learn and grow."

He is a founding member of the Technology Services Industry Association (TSIA) and served on the executive advisory board for 12 years.

Eswaran holds a master's degree in computer science and engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from the University of Mumbai. He is married and has two children.

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Justin, Hailey Bieber Say They're 'Ready For Parenthood'



"definitely ready" for the challenge of parenthood, reports female-first.co.uk.

The insider explained: "They both feel like it's their destiny to have kids together and they are definitely ready."

The 'Sorry' hitmaker has earlier spoken about his ambition to become a dad one day.

Bieber admitted earlier this year that he hoped to "squish out a nugget" before the end of 2021.

Bieber said: "My intention for 2021 is to continue to set goals and have fun while doing them. Make sure I put my family first and hopefully we squish out a nugget."

Bieber subsequently said that he wanted to "start trying" at the end of 2021.

And in response, his wife said: "We shall see."

Baldwin has also spoken of her ambition to have kids with Bieber.

However, in an interview in 2018, the model insisted that they weren't in a rush to start a family.

She explained at the time: "I love kids and I can't wait to have my own, I would say that now, that's a closer reality, but definitely not anytime soon."

Los Angeles: Pop singer Justin Bieber and supermodel Hailey Bieber think it's their "destiny" to have kids together. A source told Us Weekly: "Babies are definitely on the brain." Bieber, who previously dated fellow pop star Selena Gomez, and Baldwin are both keen to start a family, and they are

LL Cool J Cancels 'New Year's Rockin' Eve' Performance After Testing Positive For Covid

Los Angeles: Two-time Grammy Award winner LL Cool J has pulled out of this year's 'Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2022' after testing positive for Covid-19. The special, which is marking its 50th anniversary this year, is still moving forward as planned with hosts Seacrest and Liza Koshy, but will have to make an adjustment due to the hip-hop star's absence, reports variety.com.

"I know it's disappointing to the millions of fans but my test came back positive for Covid, which means I'll no longer be able to perform as scheduled at 'New Year's Rockin' Eve,'" LL Cool J said in a statement.

He added: "We were ready and I was really looking forward to ringing in 2022 in my hometown in a special way, but for now I wish everyone a healthy and happy new year. The best is yet to come!"

As per plan, 2021 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee LL Cool J was set

to perform some of his hits from the New Year's Rockin' Eve stage in Times

Square. Also, no longer performing will be Chlöe, who had been scheduled to sing her track 'Have Mercy'.

Still set to perform are Journey performing a medley of hits and Latin recording artist Karol G.

This year's event will also include a New Orleans segment, featuring co-host Billy Porter performing his new single, and a Spanish-language countdown from Puerto Rico, with co-host Roselyn Sanchez, along with a perfor-

mance by Daddy Yankee.

Previously announced Los Angeles performers (in pre-taped segments) include AJR and Daisy The Great; Avril Lavigne and Travis Barker; Big Boi with Sleepy Brown; Don Omar with Nio Garcia; French Montana; Macklemore and Ryan Lewis with singer Windser; Maneskin; Mae Muller with Polo G; Polo G; Masked Wolf; OneRepublic; and Walker Hayes.

The LA segments are hosted by Ciara, with Club Quarantine's D-Nice as DJ.



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Rashmika Mandanna Lists Lessons Learnt As She Completes Five Years In Films



memories each day. 2. How to be truly genuinely happy from the bottom of the heart. I am happy. 3. I've realised nothing in life is easy. Got to always always keep fighting for what you want. Be alert, be on your toes, be grounded, be grateful but always keep fighting.

"4. But also be patient. Wait, be patient. Things will take its place. It might be hard and taxing but be patient and calm also. 5. Other people always have something to teach you, so always be open to learn. You should be able to unlearn and learn many things.

"6. Don't carry emotional baggages -- physical baggages, mental baggages. Let go! Learn to let go. 7. Give time for things in life you want to work out. Example, if it's career - give time to that. If it's love - give time to that. If it's family - give time to that. If

it's you - give time to yourself. Your time is yours. So you choose but remember time and flights will never wait for you.

"8. Eat cleaner, sleep better, workout harder, smile bigger, love more openly. 9. People don't owe you anything so you don't have to do favours to anyone. You can and you should think of yourself first. And many more. I'll keep going on and on. I'll speak of all of this one day but for now these."

Chennai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who has made a name for herself in the Tamil, Telugu and Kannada film industries, on Thursday announced that she had completed five years in the film industry and shared some lessons she had learnt during this period.

Taking to social media, she wrote, "It's been five years of me in the film industry. Like woahhhh how did that happen. Guys, couple of things I've learnt all these years -

"1. Time is flying by too fast make

Parineeti: 2021 Has Bolstered My Belief In Picking Subjects That Are Ahead Of The Curve



Mumbai: Actress Parineeti Chopra credits 2021 for bolstering her belief in picking subjects that are ahead of the curve as she showcased her acting prowess through films like 'Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar', 'The Girl On The Train' and 'Saina'. She said: "It's a year filled with gratitude for me. 2021 was the year I had been waiting for, having taken the biggest plunge of my career in the form of 'Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar', 'The Girl on the Train' and 'Saina' and thankfully, each one of them paid off."

Parineeti added: "2021 made me realise that audiences expect me to be clutter-breaking and I couldn't agree with them more; I am more thankful to them for showering me with all the love for my performances."

"It's been a year that has bolstered my belief in picking subjects that are remarkably ahead of the curve and present me in the most unique way on screen. Parineeti feels blessed that the makers, producers and her fans didn't give up on her, and pushed her to do her best work.

Parineeti will be seen next in films like 'Uunchai' with Amitabh Bachchan, and 'Animal' opposite Ranbir Kapoor.

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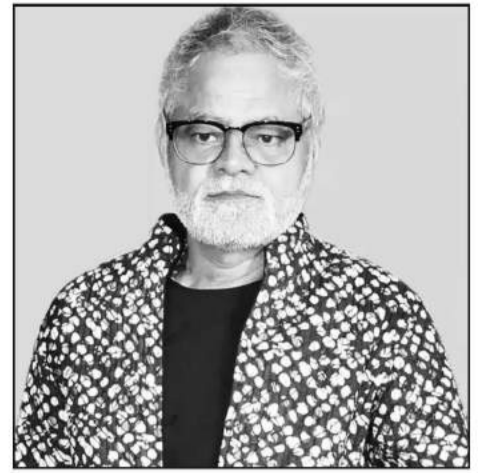
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Sanjay Mishra Excited For His Two Digital Film Releases On New Year's Eve



Mumbai: As two of his films - 'Wah Zindagi' and 'Turtle' - are releasing on OTT on Friday, actor Sanjay Mishra says it couldn't have been more exciting than this to end the year with.

Both the films are releasing on ZEE5. 'Wah Zindagi' is a slice-of-life story about a fickle boy who is set to redeem his past. Besides being a quirky and unconventional love story, the film is a journey of a destitute farmer's son struggling hard to become an entrepreneur to win his childhood sweetheart.

'Turtle' is inspired by the real story of Ramkaran Choudhary (Bagod) from village Dehlor, Rajasthan. The movie won critical acclaim at various film festivals and also received the award for Best Rajasthani Film at the 66th National Film Awards.

Sanjay is playing a pivotal part in both films. Talking about the release, the actor said, "I

am delighted that two of my special films 'Turtle' and 'Wah Zindagi' will be premiering on ZEE5. The entire team has put in a lot of hard work and it couldn't have been released at a better time than the eve of the New Year for the viewers. I am hopeful that people will take away something after watching these films and that they love the way we have presented them."

Lara Dutta Loved The Opportunity Of Working With Naseeruddin Shah



Mumbai: Actress Lara Dutta is over the moon on sharing the screen with veteran star Naseeruddin Shah in the series 'Kaun Banegi Shikharwati'. She says the actor was on her wishlist for the longest time ever.

"'Kaun Banegi Shikharwati' is an extremely special show. With all the kinds of content that's now available on OTT platforms, very rarely do you see the content that can be

watched and enjoyed by the entire family," Lara said.

She added: "I think in today's times, there is content made which caters to different audiences - some of it is edgy, some thriller and some dark. But I think it is important for all of us who've kind of grown-up sitting in our homes and watching television together to be able to watch something with our kids and parents and in a way we all are sort of dysfunctional families one way or the other."

'Kaun Banegi Shikharwati' is a dramedy based on the life of a royal king played by Naseeruddin and his dysfunctional family. Talking about working with the veteran star, Lara said: "I love the characters and I love the opportunity of being able to work with Naseeruddin Shah. Somebody who was on my wishlist for the longest time ever."

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