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Toronto Celebrates 30 Ghanaian-Canadians at Dazzling Awards Event

By Ebenezer Amankwah, Toronto, ON

On the evening of September 9, 2023, Toronto's Viceroy Banquet Hall was alive with the spirit of celebration and recognition. The 20th Ghanaian-Canadian Achievement Awards honoured 30 individuals and groups from the Ghanaian-Canadian community, acknowledging their significant contributions to both the local community in Canada and their homeland, Ghana. The event, which drew a crowd of nearly 400 attendees, kicked off with renditions of the Canadian and Ghanaian national anthems by Priscilla Addo, also known as SILLLA in the music industry. Emmanuel Ayiku, the Publisher/Editor of the Ghanaian News

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H.E. Anselm Sowah, Ghana High Commissioner to Canada with the Award Recipients

Ghanaian News Canada Receives Accolades from Ghana's High Commission in Canada

By Ebenezer Amankwah, Toronto, ON

Ghana's High Commissioner to Canada, His Excellency Anselm Sowah, has commended the contributions of Ghanaian News Canada to the Ghanaian diaspora in Canada. He highlighted that the media organization has consistently aimed for excellence since its establishment 25 years ago. This commitment to excellence is demonstrated in the organization's 20-year tradition of the Ghanaian-Canadian Achievement Awards. The awards event was



H.E. Anselm Sowah, Ghana High Commissioner to Canada

created to honor outstanding contributions by Ghanaians across various fields in Canada.

His Excellency Anselm Sowah expressed these sentiments during his address at the 20th anniversary of the Ghanaian-Canadian Achievement Awards night in Toronto.

He applauded the media organization's accomplishments and expressed his hope for their continued success.

The High Commissioner also took the opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate the award recipients for their significant achievements within the community.

“Establishing a Social Support Network: A Call to Action for Ghanaians in Canada” Dr David Firang

By Ebenezer Amankwah, Toronto, ON



Dr David Firang, Keynote Speaker

Dr David Firang, an Associate Professor at Trent University, has urged Ghanaians residing in Canada to establish a robust social support network to foster a brighter future.

He underscored the numerous challenges Ghanaians face, a racialised immigrant group, which

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Scotiabank cutting 3% of global workforce, will take \$590M Q4 charge after tax

Scotiabank is cutting about three per cent of its global workforce as a result of changes at the bank and customers' day-to-day banking preferences, as well as ongoing efforts to streamline operations, the bank announced Wednesday.

It will also take several charges that total \$590 million after-tax, or about 49 cents per share, for its fourth quarter related to the cuts and other changes it is making.

The charges include \$247 million after-tax for restructuring and severance provisions and \$63 million after-tax related to the consolidation and exit of certain real estate premises and service contracts.

They also include an impairment charge of \$280 million after-tax related to its investment in Bank of Xi'an Co. Ltd. as well as the impairment of certain intangible assets including software.

Scotiabank noted that the market value of Bank of Xi'an has remained below the bank's carrying value for a prolonged period.

"We expect the savings on the above items to be achieved throughout fiscal 2024 and anticipate full run-rate benefits in fiscal 2025," the bank said in a statement.

Scotiabank said it will provide further details when it releases its fourth-quarter results on Nov. 28.

The bank had 91,013 employees in its third quarter.

Canada's big banks have been working to manage costs given the continued

economic uncertainty ahead after an unprecedented interest rate cycle.

Higher interest rates and inflation have put pressure on Canadian households.

When it reported its third-quarter results earlier this year, Royal Bank of Canada said it was working to cut its employee numbers after it said it had over-hired by thousands.

RBC said in August that it had already cut about one per cent of staff and it expected to cut another one to two per cent this year.

CIBC also reported in August that it had 48,718 employees in its third quarter, down 1,709 from the fourth quarter of 2022. **The Canadian Press**

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**EDITORIAL****Patronizing our Community
Businesses is Key to economic
success**

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau's vision in supporting Black Businesses was demonstrated when two years ago he visited some of the Black Community Businesses in Montreal to make sure that they survive. While we encourage our community businesses to strive for higher heights, the Ghanaian News wish to use this opportunity and this column to strongly advise and appeal to our community members to consciously and strongly patronize the businesses in ourvarious Ghanaian community Businesses here in Canada.

We all know of the economic, political and social successes of many migrant communities in Canada. We also know that the key to their economic, political and social successes has been due to only one major act of their community members: patronage ofthe businesses in their various communities. There's a common saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." The power of the community has paved the way for many of our community business owners. When you choose to support community-owned businesses, you're supporting community pride and unity.

While that may be intimidating to some, it would mean the world to many families and communities. Ghanaian entrepreneurship is a tool for survival in a world that does not want to see us win. When we win against all odds, our young children grow up seeing successful entrepreneurs and the world a better place. We do not need to stretch this point very far. We can see these realities of the success of other communities around us. We can take tours of those businesses and establishments and we will come away with only one major reality: the active patronage of these businesses by their community members. Charity, they say, begins at home. "Home" in this context means 'our own communities' right here in Canada. When businesses in our communities flourish, the benefits transcend to the larger communities as well. The economic success will enable the businesses support initiatives in our communities from support for youth education, recreation, services and by extension creating a positive image for our community.

The economic successes will also lead to social and political recognition from the larger Canadian community. Again we can see evidence of these around us from other communities: their economic and business successes mean that the larger society takes them seriously. This has enabled them to make inroads into the bigger political arena enabling them to be part of the vital decision-making process of the country that eventually affect all of us.

We therefore entreat our community members to take cues from the above and actively and strongly patronize the businesses inour community. It is very important. It is vital and it is the major key to our communities' success, revival, recognition and future strength

**Toronto Celebrates 30
Ghanaian-Canadians
at Dazzling Awards Event**

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and head of the event organizing team extended a warm welcome to all attendees. He expressed his gratitude to everyone present, including long-standing partners and new friends who had come to celebrate the occasion.

Mr Ayiku praised the award recipients for their commitment to excellence, stating that their dedication serves as an inspiration for all Canadians, particularly those of Ghanaian descent. He also expressed his appreciation to the Awards Planning and Selection Committee and all sponsors for making the event possible.

Hon. Anselm Sowah, the Ghana High Commissioner to Canada, commended Ghanaian News for its consistency with the awards and its resilience to continue even after COVID in his goodwill message.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. David Firang, Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Work at Trent University, Ontario, Canada. Speaking on the theme 'Promoting Excellence and Better Future for the Ghanaian Community', Dr Firang encouraged Ghanaians residing in Canada to establish a robust social support network to foster a brighter future. He expressed optimism that Ghanaians in Canada could transition from vulnerability to empowerment by sticking together and providing each other with necessary support.

Dr. Kwame Despite and Dr. Ofori Sarpong came to grace the occasion with their presence from Ghana on their tour to Canada and presented an award to recipients.

The award ceremony then commenced with nominees receiving awards in various categories:

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* Dorothea Dadson
* Juanita De-Souza-Huletey
* Liz Okai

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* Dr. Nana Sasraku La-Kumi
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* Juliet Opoku
* Ajoa Ayeko (Eve A. Labi)
* Nana Yaa Yeboaah (Bernadette Mary Poku)
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* Afro Continental Restaurant
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* Irene Norgah
Sports
* Jeremy Aibi
Music
* Priscilla Addo (SILLLA)
Media
* Nana Yaa Konadu Berima Tweneboa
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* Abubakar (D-Flex) Alhassan

The evening concluded with joyous celebrations as awardees took photos with friends and family and danced to highlife tunes selected by the DJ.

Attendees interviewed after the event expressed hope for receiving awards at next year's ceremony in 2024 and congratulated the organizers on a well-executed event.

**"Establishing a Social Support
Network: A Call to Action for
Ghanaians in Canada" Dr David
Firang**

cont'd from pg. 1

often hinder their successful integration into mainstream society.

The under-representation of Ghanaians in managerial roles, their over-representation in menial jobs, and the high rate of single motherhood among them are clear indicators of these challenges.

DrFirangsharedtheseinsightsduringthe 20th Ghanaian-Canadian Achievement Awards event, a platform that celebrates individuals and groups who have excelled in their respective fields.

He expressed optimism that Ghanaians in Canada could transition from vulnerability to empowerment by sticking together and providing each other with the necessary support.

It's Obvious National Cathedral Won't See the Light of Day Let's Move On! - Kwami Sefa Kayi

Award-winning Broadcaster Kwami Sefa Kayi, popularly called 'Chairman General', has shared no hope in the government completing the National Cathedral.

The Cathedral project, which commenced in the first term of the Akufo-Addo government in fulfilment of the President's pledge to God for winning the 2016 election, has hit the rocks.

Early this year, some members of the Board of Trustees on the Cathedral bowed out of the project.

Dr. Mensa Otabil, the General Overseer of International Central Gospel Church, and Bishop Dag Heward-Mills, Founder and leader of the Lighthouse Chapel International, among others raised

concerns over the project and stepped aside.

In latest development, the Founder and General Overseer of the United Denominations of Action Chapel Churches Worldwide, Archbishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams, and the President of the Eastwood Anaba Ministries, Rev. Eastwood Anaba, have also both resigned from their positions on the Board of Trustees.

They cited in a letter that their conscience and faith could not permit them to remain on the Board.

Passing a remark about the construction of the Cathedral in response to a text message on his morning show "Kokrokoo" on Peace FM, Kwami Sefa Kayi cast doubts on the Cathedral becoming a reality.



To him, it is near impossible that the Cathedral will be constructed and completed.

"As for National Cathedral, it won't be successful. I mean let's move

on. It's obvious that it won't see the light of day, maybe not now, maybe some other time but as it looks now, it won't come off," he stressed. ghanaweb

Bank of Canada holds key interest rate at 5%, keeps door open to more rate hikes

The Bank of Canada held its key interest rate steady at five per cent, but hasn't ruled out future rate hikes as price pressures remain high.

"With clearer signs that monetary policy is moderating spending and relieving price pressures, governing council decided to hold the policy rate at five per cent," the Bank of Canada said in a news release on Wednesday.

"However, governing council is concerned that progress toward price stability is slow and inflationary risks have increased, and is prepared to raise the policy rate further if needed."

The Bank of Canada was widely expected to hold its key rate steady again as economic data suggests high interest rates are having their intended cooling effect on the economy.

"Although the BoC has painted a clear picture for why it doesn't need to hike again, we expect its hawkish rhetoric to persist," said TD director of economics, James Orlando, in a client note.

That's because it needs to maintain tight financial conditions to ensure both growth and inflation continue along the Bank of Canada's projected trajectory, he added.

Consumers and businesses are facing the highest interest rates in decades, leading to a pullback in spending.

In addition to the signs of slowing growth, inflation resumed its decline in September, with the annual rate falling to 3.8 per cent.

The Bank of Canada also published its quarterly monetary policy report on Wednesday, which includes new economic forecasts that suggest slower economic growth and higher inflation in the short-run.

The central bank expects real gross domestic product to grow 1.2 per cent in 2023, down from 1.8 per cent in its previous forecast.

Meanwhile, growth is expected to come in weaker in 2024, with real GDP rising by 0.9 per cent. Growth is expected to rebound to 2.5 per cent in 2025.

Inflation is still expected to return to the two per cent target in 2025, however, the central bank says it expects inflation to be higher in the short term.

The Bank of Canada projects inflation will average about 3.5 per cent through the middle of 2024.

The report outlines some risks surrounding its forecasts, including the war between Israel and Hamas. With oil prices right now higher than previously expected, the central bank says an escalation of the war into a broader regional conflict could disrupt global oil supplies.

The Canadian Press

Ghana's former First Lady Theresa Kufuor dies at 87

Theresa Kufuor, the former First Lady of Ghana, has died at the age of 87.

"Her warmth, kindness and grace were exceptional," said the country's current president in an announcement on Monday.

Mrs Kufuor served as First Lady from January 2001 to January 2009 and is remembered for her dedicated work in advancing maternal and child healthcare in Ghana.

Her advocacy efforts were pivotal in the introduction of a policy providing free childbirth care, which significantly reduced maternal and child mortality rates in the country.

In 2007, she championed policy reform for the implementation of Unesco's Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) program for nursery-age children.



The Late Mrs. Theresa Kufuor

Born Theresa Mensah on 25 October 1935 in Kumasi, Ghana, she went on to have fulfilling career as a midwife and earned the admiration of Ghanaians for maintaining a modest profile throughout her eight years in public life as first lady.

She married Former President John Agyekum Kufuor in 1962 after they met at a Republic Day anniversary dance in London the year before.

Theresa Kufuor is survived by her husband and their five children. BBC

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“Democracy in West Africa in Danger” – President Akufo-Addo to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament

The President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, has charged members of the Parliament of ECOWAS to find solutions to the emerging re-militarisation of governance, the attempted confiscation of democracy by elites and the wanton desire to destroy democracy by terrorist groups and armed criminal gangs in the region.



President Akufo-Addo was addressing the 2nd Ecowas Parliamentary Seminar, in Winneba, on Friday, 29th September, 2023, under the theme

Stating what he described as three serious threats to democracy in the region, President Akufo-Addo said, “democracy in West Africa is in danger”, thus the regional fraternity “must work even harder to entrench the principles of democratic accountability in the citizenry.”

According to President Akufo-Addo, democracy in the region has been seriously subverted by “the attempted confiscation of democracy by elites, who engage, through legal antics, in the manipulation of constitutional rules and the subjugation of the institutions of the Republic with the sole aim of remaining in power.” He added that another key threat is “the emerging re-militarisation of governance with the intrusion, once again, of the military on the political scene, who have neither consulted, nor received any mandate from, the people on whose behalf they purport to act.”

The President did not hesitate to also mention “the wanton desire to destroy democracy by terrorist groups and armed criminal gangs, who seek to establish zones of lawlessness and the absence of freedom” as another deliberate threat to the democratic stability of the region.

Referring to the great British wartime leader, Winston Spencer Churchill’s statement that “democracy is the worst form of governance, except for all the others”, he stated that “modern history has taught us that tyranny, oppression, and totalitarian government do not last long. No matter how a people apparently reject democracy and civil liberty, circumstances would always force them back to embrace them.”

President Akufo-Addo told the gathering that “we cannot run away from the fact that our Region is confronted with a difficult economic, political, social and security situation. As all of us know, despite the considerable progress made by the

Community, in the areas of democracy, good governance and the rule of law since the early 1990s, which meant that, four (4) years ago, all fifteen (15) leaders of ECOWAS States were democratically elected, we are, at the moment, witnessing a decline in our democratic credentials.”

President Akufo-Addo was addressing the 2nd Ecowas Parliamentary Seminar, in Winneba, on Friday, 29th September, 2023, under the theme, “Challenges Relating to Unconstitutional Changes of Government and Presidential Term Limits in West Africa - Role of the ECOWAS Parliament.”

Describing the prevalent situation as bitter and implacable, he said, “today, four ECOWAS Member States are led by military governments as a result of coups d’états. This sad and unfortunate development has created a state of palpable anxiety and tension in every corner of the region, raising the spectre of regional instability, which we thought had been banished forever. Equally abhorrent is the culture of violence and disputes that characterise the periods of electing some of our leaders.

Mentioning the election of Mohammed Bazoum in Niger as a recognition of the common will of the people, he said “that is why the coup against him is particularly tragic for the consolidation of democracy in our region” and added that, “the only legitimacy for any leader is through a mandate that is given freely by the people in a fair, peaceful and transparent election. This is the most tangible and objective way

to know and recognize the common will, which is the will of the people.”

That is why, he continued, “any attempt at the manipulation of opinion and of the rules of the democratic game for partisan political ends always leads to a loss of legitimacy, which is reflected in the social tensions it creates. We must distinguish between legality and legitimacy, because our region will only experience genuine stability if our powers are imbued with both legality and legitimacy.”

“The true purpose of democratic governance is to obtain the objective of free government, shared prosperity and progress, equitable and accessible justice and lasting peace for the wellbeing of the citizenry, he added.

He called on the ECOWAS legislators to ensure that one of the expected outcomes is to help “us understand even better the root causes of democratic regression and political instability in the region in order the better to address them, and speak against the extension of presidential term limits by some leaders to strengthen their grip on power.

“These actions tend to result in discontent amongst the populace, which create fertile grounds on which military interventions disingenuously feed,” he observed. Distributed by APO Group on behalf of The Presidency, Republic of Ghana.

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Toronto City Council approves hike in vacant home tax amid scarcity of housing

Toronto City Council voted Wednesday to increase the vacant home tax from one per cent to three per cent as the city tries to tackle the housing crisis.

“The housing costs are so incredibly high, which is why housing is the first item in front of City Council today,” Mayor Olivia Chow told reporters ahead of the council meeting Wednesday. “We’re asking speculators that are leaving units, apartment units empty in the middle of a housing crisis to pay a bit more so we could raise millions and millions of dollars.

“And we’re going to put that in a program to buy city buildings. These might be older buildings, they are affordable buildings. We want to protect these buildings so that we could make them available for people to make sure the renters have affordable homes forever.”

A motion from Chow to pass any additional revenue generated from the 2023 Vacant Home Tax to the Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition (MURA) program passed 23-1.

The MURA program is designed to preserve the existing supply of affordable rental housing in the city by having the city purchase market rental buildings in danger of being converted to condos.

The vacant home tax requires residential property owners in Toronto to make a yearly declaration about whether their property was vacant or occupied each year. It requires that homeowners pay a one per cent tax on the assessed value of their property if it was vacant for six months or longer.

The tax was adopted in 2021 and came into effect last year. Council asked staff to report back by the end of 2023 with findings from the first full year of tax

collection and make recommendations for any changes.

For 2022, there were 2,336 property owners who declared their residential units vacant, while 44,902 other properties were deemed vacant by the city because no declaration was made. Late declarations received through a complaints process by August reduced the number of homes deemed vacant to 17,437.

Ultimately the city collected \$54 million through the tax in its first year of implementation.

In the report to council on their findings, staff are recommending that the tax be boosted to three per cent of a property’s assessed value starting for the 2024 taxation year. The move would generate around \$50 million more for the city, staff estimate, assuming that the number of vacant homes stays around the same. However, they point

out that they expect the extra revenue to decrease each year as the program starts to deter people from leaving homes empty.

“The assumption is that this additional \$50 million in revenue will decrease by approximately 20 per cent annually in subsequent years as a result of the Program’s target outcomes in improving housing supply and reducing the number of deemed vacant units,” the report says. “It is also expected that the incremental revenues as a result of a higher VHT rate starting with the 2024 taxation year will lessen over time as the objective of reducing the number of vacant residential units is achieved.”

Staff say the increase will help further discourage property owners for keeping units unoccupied, and will help offset the cost of the program.

Staff are also recommending a new fee of \$21.24, to be adjusted annually for inflation, for failing to provide a declaration of occupancy by the yearly deadline. The move would bring in about \$800,000, which they say would help offset costs of running the program. Revenue from that fee will also decrease as owners become more compliant with reporting, staff point out. Reporting compliance for the first year of the program was 95 per cent and staff estimate that will improve by one percent each year.

Executive committee considered expanding the program to include multiunit residential buildings at a meeting on August 24. They contemplated including properties with two to six units in the program. However staff determined that it would be difficult for the city to make that move without expending excessive time and resources to assess the value of each individual unit. Staff are therefore not recommending the move at this time. Owners of multi-unit properties with two to six units can continue declare a property occupied for the purposes of the tax if at least one rental unit is occupied for a period of 183 days or longer.

Other changes being recommended include an exemption of up to two years for newly constructed, never occupied and unsold residential housing units, as well as an expanded definition of tenant to include business tenants.

cont’d on pg. 10

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FOCUS

Happy Teachers' Day!

By Joe Kingsley Eyiah, OCT, Brookview Middle School, Toronto-Canada

October 5th is World Teachers' Day. Teachers in the member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization celebrate this day the world over. The day was established by UNESCO in 1993, it is an opportunity for all of us to think about the difference that teachers have made in our lives.

I remember the car sticker in Ghana during the 1980s which read: IF YOU CAN READ THIS, THANK A TEACHER. How true! It is very true that we all remember moments when an inspiring teacher opened our eyes to something wonderful. Moments like those are happening every day in our schools. As a lifelong teacher, I can testify to this.

From time immemorial, teaching has been a noble profession. From the days of Socrates to the time of Paul of the Bible students/graduates had spoken highly of their teachers (also called masters in some instances). The Holy Bible



mentions teaching as one of the three top spiritual gifts from God that we must desire most for the growth of His church (read 1 Corth. 12:28).

Interesting! Teachers make the medical doctors, the lawyers, the accountants, the engineers, the agriculturalists, the musicians, the pastors, the politicians, the nurses, the computer analysts and many other workers who contribute effectively to the building of a nation anywhere.

Ghana like many other countries around the world has, over the years, sought to improve its education system by introducing reforms and making projections based on the education needs of the country. However, the basic education in the system is yet to experience the impetus that will fortify it as a strong foundation for the child's educational journey.

Teachers must be the pivot for ensuring successful learning process sought after in any education reform.

Education has been the major facilitator and catalyst in the astonishing changes and transformation sweeping through the world today. The role of formal (school) education in the liberation of the individual mind as well as economic dependence and in national development is therefore quite obvious. Thus, education pays off not only in literacy but also in income

It is therefore quite obvious that education is very imperative to the sound development of individuals and nations. Every country ought to provide its people with qualitative and "not only quantitative" education! And every parent ought to ensure that their child gets the best of formal education as much as possible.

Undoubtedly, education is the biggest enterprise in any civilized society. Teachers play an important role in this enterprise. Their training, distribution and maintenance as professionals anywhere must be given serious attention. Together we must fight to give our children everywhere the education they need.

Knowledge is Power, but ignorance is a disease. And teachers who are the facilitators of learning, which is the process of acquiring knowledge at school deserve better! HAPPY DAY TO ALL TEACHERS!

Fired in a recession? Here are 5 facts to know about severance pay

Recessions and economic downturns aren't fun for anybody. They're hard on workers, hard on businesses, and hard on our communities as a whole. And while some companies determine they need to reduce their staff to stay afloat during those tough times, that doesn't mean they can fire employees without paying proper severance packages. In fact, if you're fired during a recession, you could be owed more severance pay than usual.

Given the current uncertainty and news about being in a possible recession right now, we spoke to Lior Samfiru, employment lawyer and national co-managing partner of Toronto-based Samfiru Tumarkin LLP, Canada's largest employee-side employment law firm, to learn about the five key things you need to know about severance pay if lose your job during a recession.

EMPLOYERS CAN'T AVOID PAYING SEVERANCE

Businesses may not like to hear it, but in Ontario, economic hardship doesn't override employment laws or legislation. If your employer decides to lay you off due to a recession, they're still legally on the hook to pay you a full and fair severance package.

Samfiru says, "Many employers mistakenly think that a recession or economic downturn absolves them from providing severance to downsized employees. That couldn't be further from the truth. In Ontario,

even if an employee is let go due to economic challenges, it's considered a termination without cause, and they are legally entitled to full severance pay."

FIRED EMPLOYEES ARE TYPICALLY OWED MORE SEVERANCE DURING A RECESSION

Being let go is never easy, especially during hard times. But there's a silver lining. If you're fired or let go during a recession, your employer must pay you more severance, because finding a new job might be tougher.

To find out what your severance package might look like when you lose your job during or outside of a recession, check out the Pocket Employment Lawyer from Samfiru Tumarkin LLP. It includes a severance pay calculator and tools that address various employment issues to help you understand your options based on your own personal situation.

SEVERANCE PACKAGES AREN'T "ONE SIZE FITS ALL"

Severance pay is tailored to individual circumstances, which means if there's a mass layoff in Ontario, each employee will get a different severance package. You likely won't get the same amount as your co-worker.

Many factors go into calculating

a severance package in Ontario, including how long you've worked at the company, your salary, your age, and other points like benefits, commission, bonus, pension, stock grants or options, and car allowances. It's also important to know that what you are entitled to by law in many cases far exceeds the minimum amount of severance suggested by the province's Ministry of Labour, and can run as much as 24 months' pay.

Even if you're an independent contractor, not a full-time employee, there's a good chance you'll be owed severance pay if you're fired during a recession.

IGNORE THEIR SEVERANCE OFFER DEADLINE

If your now-former employer does offer you severance, they'll probably

cont'd on pg. 12

Toronto City Council approves hike in vacant home tax amid scarcity of housing

cont'd from pg. 9

Speaking at council Wednesday, Coun. Stephen Holyday said he opposes the increase and worries that it will become a revenue tool rather than a policy tool.

"I do not like this tax," Holyday said.

He said he would like the ultimate goal of the tax to be for the city to collect no money rather than to become reliant on it for revenue.

He said he also wants to see an exemption for people who leave homes vacant due to health circumstances, relating a story about one woman in his ward who was hit with the tax after

selling a condo she moved out of while she was having cancer treatments. Council passed a motion moved by Holyday to study the feasibility of exemptions for medical reasons.

Council also passed a motion moved by Holyday to affirm that the ultimate goal of the Vacant Homes Tax is to collect zero dollars.

Efforts to try and decrease the number of homes left vacant come as the city deals with a housing crisis that has seen rent prices skyrocket and home ownership made less affordable by higher interest rates. **Cp24**

Is Alan’S Butterfly Big Enough To Cause A Surprise?

By Edmund Agbeko, Toronto, ON



In election year, Ghanaians enthusiastically – ready even to kill, maim and destroy reputations – mobilise support for their favourite candidates. On December 7, they endure the snaky interminable queues till 6 p.m. and sit with agonising impatience till about 4 a.m. December 8 for the first phone call from unimpeachable party sources announcing who’s won and who’s in a comfortable lead; writes Enimil Ashon.

Six months, at most, under the new President, cracks of regret begin to show. The whining, demonstrations, occupying, picketing and striking begin and never cease till December 7, four years later. Party politics has become the stench that never leaves our nostrils – except for the ruling few. What makes the 1992 Constitution smell so bad is the excessive power in the hands of one person, a President who can do all things. A wave of his hand transforms a pauper, Cinderella-like, into a prince(ess)!

Forever gone in our Fourth Republic is the meritocratic system under which long-serving career diplomats could dream of becoming Ambassadors. Every SOE now has a political CEO. Soon, even messengers will be appointed from party headquarters! Their only qualification is that they are air, sea and foot soldiers.

Come 2023, Alan Kyeremateng is advocating what sounds like the Union Government which General Acheampong attempted to foist on Ghana in the 1970s. It failed to fly because Acheampong was thought to want to use it to perpetuate military rule. Some 47 years later, Alan believes that the wingspan of his Royal Butterfly is large enough to bring under its cover all shades of political persuasion. But will he ever become President?

Will typical NDC/ CPP supporters jump ship because they believe in the 3rd force agenda of an all-inclusive Cabinet, politically neutral SOE-CEOs and board chairs and ambassadors? Under the Butterfly, Parliamentarians will not have to be whipped into

voting. But, can Alan make a dent in NPP’s own stronghold? Forget about the results of the last Super-delegates conference. Scientific surveys by credible researchers say that voting in that particular exercise was not, IN ANY WAY, a reflection of how NPP would have voted in November - with Alan on the ballot. Others will ask: even in Ashanti, will disaffected supporters vote skirt-and-blouse?

Outside of NPP, is it possible for Alan to attract significant numbers from the minority parties, namely PNC, CPP, etc? Even if they do, the Ghanaian reality is that all those small parties, together, do not command even 2% of the votes. Without a political party mass movement, will Alan possess the machinery to engage in house-to-house campaigning? Alan’s answer will determine how different he will be from those who have gone this ‘independent’ way before. Without exception, all individuals who, in the Fourth Republic, tore themselves away from the two established parties to go either independent or backed by a party, failed to make even a slight dent.

In the run-up to the 2000 election, Goosie Tandoh, a founding member of the NDC, largely rumoured to be the grassroots man whose magic with figures won the 1992 and 1996 for NDC, quit the party. He was so heavyweight that the noise of his resignation to contest the 2000 election on the ticket of his National Reform Party reverberated across the land. It was feared that he was going to snatch one-half of the NDC. In the 2000 election, he lost, having garnered only 1.15% of the votes.

Obed Asamoah, a former national chairman of the NDC, whose house became the party’s war chest (from where his police detail was spiriting money to their girlfriends), resigned in 2010 and formed the Democratic Freedom Party on whose ticket he campaigned to become President. He lost. Like Goosie, he returned to the party.

In 2016 Nana Konadu Agyemang Rawlings would have been the first female President of Ghana if she had won with her National Democratic Party which she formed in 2016. She lost, ignominiously. Aware of what is resembling a political jinx in Ghana, some pundits are rushing to conclude that Mr Kyerematen will be the next. The man knows this but his Bible tells him in Ecclesiastes 11:4 that “whoever watches the wind will not sow and whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.”

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IMMIGRATION AND SOCIAL ISSUES

By: James A. Kwaateng, B.A. (Hons), LLB (Hons)

REVISITING THE PROCESS AND RULES FOR SPONSORING PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

This topic is being revisited because of the confusion and frustration generated by the newly introduced process and rules regarding sponsorship of parents and grandparents. As indicated in the earlier article, it is permissible for a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada and a person registered in Canada as an Indian under the Canadian Indian Act to sponsor his or her own parents and grandparents related by blood or adoption.



In a situation where the parent or grandparent is divorced or separated, one can include the spouse or common-law partner of the parent or grandparent as a dependent relative. In the application, sponsors can include their brothers and sisters or half brothers and sisters or step-brothers and step-sisters **only if** they qualify as dependent children of the principal applicant.

Like all forms of immigration sponsorships, apart from status in Canada, other conditions of eligibility exist. A sponsor must provide a proof of income to demonstrate capability to support the persons being sponsored. And among other things, the sponsor must not be in jail, prison or penitentiary; must not have defaulted in payment of immigration loan, a performance bond or court-ordered support payments; must not have defaulted in any sponsorship agreement; must not be an un-discharged bankrupt; must not be receiving social assistance for a reason other than disability; must not have been convicted of a violent criminal offence or any offence against a relative or any sexual offence inside or outside Canada; and must not be under a removal order.

The process of sponsoring parents and grandparents has changed. Under the

current system, the first step to sponsor your parents or grandparents is to fill out **an interest to sponsor form**. This form is available at the beginning of the year for only a limited time after which submission of the form will be closed.

At the second stage, Immigration will **invite** potential sponsors to submit a complete application. It is at this time that you complete an application package, pay the necessary fees and submit the application. The complete application should get to Immigration within 60 days of receiving the invitation.

The current minimum necessary income for sponsoring parents and grandparents is the existing Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) amount plus 30 percent of it. The period for demonstrating the minimum necessary income has extended from one year to three years. Thus, sponsors will be required to demonstrate that they meet the new income threshold for the three consecutive tax years prior to submitting the sponsorship application. This, as opposed to 12 months that used to be the case, will assure the Government that sponsors have income stability and the financial means to provide for the

basic needs of the sponsored parents and grandparents. This assurance is further enhanced by the fact that under the new plan, evidence of income for eligibility purposes is confined to Canada Revenue Agency notices of assessment.

The sponsorship undertaking period for parents and grandparents has been extended from 10 to 20 years. This means sponsors and co-signers (if applicable) will be responsible for repaying any supplementary health care costs or provincial social assistance benefits paid to the parent and grandparent and their accompanying family members within sponsorship validity period of 20 years, and not 10 years.

While the foregoing measures do not benefit the sponsor and the sponsored relative, it is presumed the lengthened sponsorship undertaking will protect Canadian taxpayers by compelling the sponsors to shoulder financial responsibilities associated with the care and upkeep of their sponsored aged parents and grandparents and their accompanying dependent children.

Notwithstanding the increasingly tough process and measures being adopted in respect of such applications, the Government still places a cap on acceptance of new applications for sponsorships of parents and grandparents. The newly-adopted tough measures however do not seem to have had the dissuasive effect the policy makers might have anticipated. Children and grandchildren still struggle to sponsor their parents and grandparents in large numbers.

Sponsorships of parents and grandparents are becoming increasingly complex due to the ongoing changes to the process, laws and regulations. Contact immigration law professionals for advice and assistance whenever you deem it necessary.

James A. Kwaateng, is an Immigration Law practitioner with offices located at 168A Oakdale Road, Suite 4, Toronto, Ontario. For thorough discussion of your immigration and related social and legal issues, contact him at telephone number (416) 743-2758 for an appointment.

Fired in a recession? Here are 5 facts to know about severance pay

cont'd from pg. 10

give you a tight signing deadline. However, this imposed urgency largely serves their agenda, not yours. They're applying pressure during a stressful and confusing time because they hope you'll accept less money than you're actually owed, as that's in their best interest. For your best interest, it's important that you take some time to understand their offer and digest what's on the table. Consulting with an employment lawyer can help you determine if it's a fair severance package and guide your next steps.

Samfiru tells us, "If you're handed a termination or layoff notice, hold off on signing that severance package right away. You don't work for them anymore, and aren't obligated to help them out by signing immediately, especially if it might cost you the fair severance you truly deserve and need."

Ultimately, companies lay off employees because they're looking after their own bottom line. And you need to make sure you're taking care of your bottom line as well, which means getting the best severance pay possible. In Ontario, you legally have two full years from the moment you lose your job to claim severance after a wrongful dismissal, Samfiru emphasizes.

"Take advantage of this time to understand your rights and options. I can't stress this enough: in nearly two decades of practice, my team has assessed thousands of severance offers, and the majority don't measure up to what individuals truly deserve."

TEMPORARY LAYOFFS OR MAJOR CHANGES TO WORK ARE A TERMINATION

Your employer may tell you the layoff is temporary and promise to bring you back or re-hire you when the economy turns around. The fact is, temporary layoffs in Ontario are illegal. This stoppage in work is a fundamental change to your job. If you don't agree to it, either in writing or through a clause in a signed employment contract, you can view your employer's actions as an outright termination.

You also can't be forced to agree to any sort of significant and negative change to your pay, work duties, location, commission, bonus, or job title. If they do try to force these changes, that constitutes a constructive dismissal, meaning you could quit with full severance pay. However, you should always consult an employment lawyer before doing so. Cp24

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Toronto Pearson airport reveals new autonomous security robot

There's a new crew member at Toronto Pearson International Airport dedicated to securing the runways at Canada's busiest travel hub.

On Tuesday, officials with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) showcased the new airfield inspection vehicle, which they said is the first-of-its-kind.

"Toronto Pearson is proud to be a leader when it comes to investing in technology that will enhance the efficiency of our operations," Brian Tossan, GTAA's chief technology officer said in a [news release](#).

The GTAA said the electric vehicle is able to autonomously detect safety or security issues on runways, taxiways and security fences and report them to back to airport staff as they arise.

"Airports are constantly under pressure to ensure the safety of passengers, airplanes and operations, and we are always working with industry-leading partners to make sure we're investing in a safe and efficient airport for everyone," Tossan said.

While the robot is only in its proof-of-concept stage, meaning there's no date set for its official deployment, video released by the GTAA showed the vehicle scanning a security fence and identifying

objects as it passed.

It's expected that the additional testing and regulatory review required to implement the concept will be complete by 2025, the GTAA said.

The robot, which can also be controlled remotely, is a collaboration between the airport and Honda, Illuminex AI, Genwave Technologies, Cisco and Eagle Aerospace.

Tuesday's display is just the latest in a series of Artificial Intelligence (AI) enhancements Toronto Pearson has made in recent years.

In March, the GTAA announced it had partnered with Swiss aviation software company Assaia to deploy its ApronAI technology, which tracks aircraft turnaround performance to identify and correct inefficiencies at the gate.

Before that, in 2022, the airport announced it was testing a new [AI-based security portal](#) to automatically detect weapons as well as another program that carries out [runway inspections using drones](#). CTV

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Every Dollar Count! Splitting Income to Save Tax Liabilities? Ways and Means Part 2!

By: **Eddie Twumasi-Smith, (P.Eng, PMP, CPA, MBA)**

Last Month, I presented on potential tax saving strategies through, possible lending portions of higher income partner sources of income to the other family member or spouse without being affected by CRA attribution rules.



In this part 2, and final edition of the income splitting strategies. I would like to shed light on these strategies:

- Make contributions to a spousal RRSP (Strategy #2)
- Max out your spousal TFSAs (Strategy #3)
- Split pension income (Strategy #4)

Strategy #2&3: Make & Max Contributions to a Spousal RRSP

For couples where one spouse earns more than the other, a spousal Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) can lower the tax burden now and in retirement.

In this strategy, the higher-income spouse with the larger contribution limit puts money into an RRSP in the lower-income spouse's name. While the high earner gives up some of their contribution room within that tax year, they also get to claim the tax deduction.

In retirement, the lower-income spouse converts the RRSP to a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) and pays less tax at that time due to the marginal tax rate.

If your spouse is earning less money than you are currently, there's a good chance they'll have less income in retirement as well. The spousal RRSP can redistribute retirement savings to be more equitable while helping you pay less tax overall.

Advantages

Ease of set up: Unlike the spousal loan, the spousal RRSP can be set up very quickly and does not require the same level of tax, accounting, and estate planning support.

Immediate impact: The tax advantages are immediate for the higher-income earner in the form of a tax-deductible contribution.

Long-term stability: In retirement, it provides income stability for the lower-income earner while taking advantage of the lower tax rate when the RRSP is converted to a RRIF. Overall, it successfully lowers a family's tax burden without much effort.

Disadvantages

No early withdrawals: Funds must remain in the plan for at least three years (including the year of contribution), or the CRA attribution rules kick in and the contributor will be taxed accordingly.

Maximum contribution limit: This

strategy only works if the higher-earning spouse has contribution room. If they've maxed their contributions in a given tax year, they cannot contribute even if the lower-income spouse has contribution room.

Summary

Here is what you need to know about spousal RRSPs:

You can also contribute to a spousal RRSP to help even out retirement savings for you and your spouse if they earn a lower income since the contribution room is based on earned income.

Your spouse must open a spousal RRSP account in their name (separate from their personal RRSP account).

All contributions are tax deductible for the higher-earning spouse in the same tax year the contributions are made.

Be careful not to go over your RRSP contribution limit as the higher earner. If you max out your RRSP, you cannot contribute to the spousal RRSP.

When your spouse withdraws the money in retirement, they'll pay the tax on the withdrawals at their lower tax rate.

Strategy #4: Split Pension Income

If you're 65 years or older, you can split up to 50% of eligible pension income with your spouse or common-law partner. If you both have eligible income, you'll first need to decide who transfers the money – usually, it's transferred from the higher-income spouse to the lower-income spouse. Then, you will need to fill out the Joint Election to Split Pension Income form when filing your personal tax returns.

Pension income eligible for splitting includes:

Lifetime annuity payments under a registered pension plan

RRSPs

Deferred profit-sharing plan

Payments from a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF)

Pension-sharing income does not

include:

Old Age Security benefits

Canada Pension Plan benefits

Death benefits

Retiring allowances

Excess amounts from an RRIF transferred to an RRSP, another RRIF or annuity

Specific income as reported on your T4RSP slips

Amounts distributed from a retirement compensation arrangement on your T4A-RCA slip

As a reminder, you must be over 65 to make RRIF withdrawals. If you are under the age of 65, the pension income you are eligible to split is further limited (often only eligible in the case of the death of a spouse or partner). Visit the CRA for more information.

Advantages

Lower taxable income: If you and your spouse are in different tax brackets at retirement, income-splitting could lower the overall tax bill for your family. This could be very beneficial if you receive income from investments, rental properties, etc., along with government pension benefits.

Ease of set up: To set this up, you

just fill out the Joint Election to Split Pension Income form when filing your personal tax returns.

Pension Income Tax Credit: The federal government and provinces (excluding Quebec) have additional tax credits you can apply for. For example, if you split your pension income with a spouse who is not currently receiving a pension, that spouse can also claim up to 15% of \$2,000 in eligible pension income. This Pension Income Tax Credit would translate to a maximum of \$300 in federal tax savings.

Disadvantages

Same tax bracket: This strategy is not helpful if you are in the same tax bracket as there would be no benefit to splitting your pension income.

Restrictions: Certain pension income doesn't qualify for splitting, such as Old Age Security.

Conclusion

Income splitting is one of the most effective ways families can lower their tax burden and save money.

Each income-splitting strategy comes with benefits and drawbacks and, in some cases, very complicated tax rules. As such, it is always best to seek professional tax (and where necessary, legal and estate) advice to ensure which strategy is the right one for your unique tax situation.

Any comments or suggestions

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Richmond Adomako, Erica Ofori, Israel Nana Dou-Adomako, Madelyn Adubek Ofori, Jayden Festus Nana Adomako, Jeremiah Gyabaa Ofori, Andrews Nana Adomako, Gabe Nana Adomako

Foster Ofori (Son)

Genevieve Ofori Adomako (Daughter)

Daniel Ofori (Son)

Georgina Ofori

OCTOBER 28, 2023

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Step up to attract investors--- Nero X to Ghanaian musicians

By Joyceline Natally Cudjoe

Hiplife musician, Nero X has expressed the need for Ghanaian musicians to step up their game in the industry to gain government and investors' support.

He said lack of seriousness by musicians has made investors as well as the government withhold the support they could have given to develop the industry.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Ghanaian News Canada, the musician who had been on hiatus for three years said the sector needed investment for it to grow in the right direction.

In so doing, he said musicians had to take it upon themselves to do the necessary works to attract investors while making them realise that the industry is a profitable venture to invest and reap the benefits.

“We should be serious so that our leaders could help

the music industry. We have to know that there are different sectors, like the movie industry and other profitable ventures so if those sectors are serious our leaders will invest in that sector instead,” Nero X said.

He also called on musicians to invest into their craft to gain gigs and patrons to their shows being it foreign or local.

“Today music is expensive. For me I invested into myself and took time off in 2020 when COVID-19 set in. I used that time to learn how the music works even on social media. I produced my songs so if someone now wants to invest in my craft, it will be under my terms,” he added.

Born Joseph Nkrumah Buabeng, the musician who has been in the industry for over a decade is known



Nero X

for songs including Osey, Otan, Nyame Dadaw and Nyimpa Nua.

He recently released a new song titled Medo Wiase featuring Tinny.

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Maame Monica Baffoe a.k.a Adwoa Adomaa died on the sept 25 2013 exactly ten years ago in Toronto at North York General Hospital. Maame was a member of the St Andrew Catholic church.



The Late Maame Monica Baffoe

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Ghanaian Presbyterian Church of Toronto donate to Refugees at Dominion Church International Toronto

By Mary Akuamoah-Boateng, GCAO Vice President

This summer has revealed a stark reality for the African community in Toronto, as we witnessed a surge in the number of African refugees seeking shelter. We are grateful for organizations like Dominion Church, which opened its doors to provide aid, and numerous other churches and organizations that have joined forces with Dominion Church to offer support.

On September 20, 2023, the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church of Toronto, under the leadership of Rev. George Agyei Kwabi and Elder Mavis Addo, along with the leaders of the Ghanaian Canadian Association of Ontario, contributed funds to Dominion Church to assist the African refugees residing at 2256 Sheppard Ave W., North York. Dominion Church is not only accommodating African refugees but also individuals from diverse parts of the world. Currently, they are providing shelter to people from Barbados, Uganda, Kenya, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, and occasionally North Americans. Their facility has 192 beds, and at times, they find themselves exceeding capacity, leading to the regrettable necessity of turning people away. They have received generous support from local communities for breakfast and lunch, but they are actively working on securing dinner provisions. If any community can offer assistance with dinner, it would be greatly appreciated.



Rev. George Agyei Kwabi presenting a cheque to Dominion Church Representative

As a united community, we must come together to provide support, and thus, the Ghanaian-Canadian Association of Ontario is issuing a call to action for everyone to get involved. While the government has made expediting work permits

and Social Insurance Numbers (SIN) a priority, the challenge of housing continues to persist. We encourage you to visit Dominion Church to explore ways in which you can contribute to this vital cause. Together, we can make a difference.

Ghana Working on a Policy to use Electric Vehicles for Public Transport

Dr Bawumia

Dr Bawumia stated on Wednesday September 27, 2023 when he visited the offices and assembly plant of Solar Taxi

Government is working on a policy framework to move public transportation from a dependence on petroleum fuels to electric vehicles, Vice President Bawumia has disclosed.

“Where I want to see us go in the next few years is to move public transport completely from a dependence on petrol and diesel to fully electric vehicles. That is really where Ghana ought to go. And it is doable. We ought to move away from petrol and diesel to electric vehicles as a matter of policy,” Dr Bawumia stated on Wednesday September 27, 2023 when he visited the offices and assembly plant of Solar Taxi, a wholly Ghanaian start up engaged in the assembly and manufacture of electric cars, motorcycles, buses and battery packs for electric cars.

Among the top 3 Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing companies in Africa, Solar Taxi, founded in 2019, with a staff strength of 113 (90% of whom are women) and an average age of 26, can also convert petrol or diesel powered vehicles into electricity powered ones, with the technology to convert cars and buses also available, according to Jorge Appiah, CEO and Co-Founder. Solar taxi has assembled over 460 vehicles and sold over 500 vehicles, with orders for vehicles, battery packs and training in the maintenance of EVs coming from all over the continent.

Solar Taxi also operates a ride-hailing service, as well as a motorcycle leasing and vehicle sales model anchored on the Ghana Card. Through its bankers, the company provides financing options for its motorcycles, cars and buses, to be paid for over time, without collateral. All they require is a Ghanacard ID

Mr Appiah disclosed this while riding in one of the company’s EV buses, which can travel from Accra to Kumasi without need for a recharge of the batteries, with Vice President Bawumia and the heads of STC, Metro Mass, Aayalolo, as well as officials of the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Road Safety Commission.

Fuel, Transportation

“The whole issue of climate change, energy transition and moving away from dependence on fossil fuels to more green energy is very important for us because as you know, we spend a lot on fossil fuel. But the other thing that is very, very important for Ghanaian households and individuals is the high cost of transportation.

“If you look at the cost of transport in Ghana, there are two elements that dominate the pricing formula for transport: fuel and spare parts. Now, with what you are doing with electric vehicles generally,

I mean, the fuel costs really becomes very minimal.

“And then because of the nature of the engines for electric vehicles, its very low maintenance. So with these two elements, you will reduce the cost of transport very significantly. So to deal with one of the aspects of the cost of living increase that Ghanaians are facing on a sustainable basis, we need to really, as a matter of policy, say that, look, let’s move away from the dependence on fossil fuels, petrol and diesel, to electric vehicles and make sure we can make it happen. Are the charging stations available? Let’s make it happen. It’s possible.”

TVET

Acknowledging that it may not be a “smooth transition,” Vice President Bawumia nevertheless argued that “the benefit for Ghana – lower prices of transport, savings on foreign exchange, job creation, opportunities to train – far outweigh any such challenges.

“For example, you could really help the TVET institutions design a curriculum in terms of EV maintenance and so on, because as we move and see more adoption of EVs, you’ll need more people who can maintain,” he suggested.

Pointing out that that the cost of fuel and transport are the two of the main drivers of inflation, in Ghana, with a rise in them having implications on other variables like the exchange rate, cost of food and utilities, Dr Bawumia commended the founders of Solar Taxi for their commitment to entrepreneurship.

“We as a country really have to believe that it is possible to leapfrog many of the advanced countries in the area of technology. In the area of electric vehicle manufacturing, I think we have a bit of a comparative advantage in Africa and in in Ghana compared to the more advanced countries.

“But what really will make it happen is people who have the ideas, who have the dedication like you, who have thought through this, who value chain in this whole enterprise. You have been able to put something together. From our point of view as a country, we are very interested in your success. Very, very, very interested. And we are even more delighted that it is the youth who have taken up the mantle of entrepreneurship. We as government will collaborate with and provide the support you and others like you need to deal with any bottlenecks,” the Vice President assured.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of The Presidency, Republic of Ghana.

Ghana’s latest Logistics Managers Index reveals slight economic slowdown from boisterous start in 2023

The LMI measures the growth or decline of Ghana’s logistics industry, giving managers, policy makers and analysts a reliable data tool for evidence-based decision making

Increasing warehousing and transportation capacity combined with decreasing prices in both metrics are driving an economic slowdown in Ghana. The data are revealed in the Ghana Logistics Managers Index report for the second quarter 2023, which the Center for Applied Research and Innovation in Supply Chain – Africa (CARISCA) released.

The LMI measures the growth or decline of Ghana’s logistics industry, giving managers, policy makers and analysts a reliable data tool for evidence-based decision making. The LMI is based on eight key components: inventory levels, inventory costs, warehousing capacity, warehousing utilization, warehousing prices, transportation capacity, transportation utilization and transportation prices.

The LMI for the second quarter (64.2) decreased by nearly three points from the first quarter’s 67.1. Any score above 50, however, indicates that logistics activities are expanding. A reading below 50 would reflect a contraction.

“The Ghana LMI is still in growth mode,” said Emmanuel Quansah, co-author of the LMI report. “Nevertheless, growth is at a decreasing rate, with the current economic situation in the country not stable enough to generate increasing growth and optimism among industry players.”

Inflation has begun an upward trend, Quansah noted, and the appreciation of the cedi against the dollar in the first quarter has been lost, with the dollar gaining against the cedi.

The LMI summarizes the survey responses of supply chain and operations managers from multiple industries in Ghana. Researchers collected data for the second quarter report from April to June 2023 from 424 respondents.

In addition to being asked about current logistics activities, respondents

are asked to predict movement in the LMI over the next 12 months. For the first time, respondents have predicted a future LMI (64.5) that is almost the same as the current score. They are slightly less optimistic than in the first quarter, when they predicted the LMI would rise to 69.3.

“This forecast paints a picture of mixed optimism in the market due to the country’s current macroeconomic state,” said Quansah. “The hopes of a quick turnaround in the Ghanaian economy after the country secured the \$3 billion IMF credit facility early this year remains to be seen in the marketplace.”

The predictive nature of the LMI is clearly seen in the second-quarter results, Quansah added. Even though the LMI measures changes in logistics activities, it is highly reflective of the economy as a whole.

The calculated LMI for Ghana, along with the analysis of its components, is intended to provide useful insights for the government of Ghana, business decision-makers, market analysts and investors. The tool is the first of its kind in Africa. The Ghana LMI is based on the U.S. LMI, which was created in 2016 by a team led by CARISCA Executive Director Dale Rogers.

“The Ghana LMI helps us with our current strategy to achieve our KPIs,” said Thomas Yeboah, logistics manager for the World Food Program in Ghana and an LMI respondent. “The trends and projections from the LMI guide the alignment of our logistics plans.”

In addition to a detailed overview of the survey findings, each Ghana LMI report includes observations from the researchers, predictions and charts and tables that display the data at a glance. It also includes an electronic payment systems index (EPI). This index gauges the views of respondents on the usage of electronic payment systems when

cont’d on pg. 22

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PRESS RELEASE



SESO GLOBAL

Seso Global launches Ghana Diaspora Mortgage Platform with Republic Bank

Seso Global, Africa's leading digital property marketplace, has partnered with Republic Bank (Ghana) PLC to launch an exciting diaspora mortgage platform in Ghana. This groundbreaking platform will significantly enhance the process of investing in Ghanaian real estate by allowing Ghanaian citizens living abroad to search, submit and manage their mortgages in Ghana digitally. Indeed, this partnership with Republic Bank Ghana and this newly launched diaspora mortgage platform reflects Seso Global's important role in the rapid growth of emerging African real estate markets. Seso Global sees the diaspora as a major catalyst for this rapid growth. It is estimated that a billion US Dollars flows into real estate in Ghana every year. This partnership will accelerate the growth of diaspora capital into Ghana real estate even further. Visit the website here:

Seso Global has worked closely with Republic Bank Ghana to create a platform that simplifies the mortgage application process by making it digital. Speaking on the partnership, the Managing Director[2] of Republic Bank Ghana, Mr. Benjamin Dzoboku said that the Diaspora mortgage platform will allow clients to view thousands of prime and vetted properties in Ghana, and apply for mortgages from the Bank on selected

properties. He further explained that, Republic Bank Ghana offers an array of mortgage options including; Home Purchase, Home Improvement, Home Completion and Home Equity Finance Mortgages. 'This innovation creates new opportunities for investors and homebuyers in the diaspora to purchase and finance prime Ghana real estate in a transparent, secure and easy way' Mr. Dzoboku added.

According to Seso Global's CEO, Daniel Bloch, [3]Republic Bank is a leading Universal Banking Institution in Ghana. As one of the most diversified Financial Institutions, the Bank has been very instrumental in the development of the mortgage industry in Ghana. It has supported many Ghanaians both at home and abroad to own their homes. 'Unsurprisingly, the bank continues to be the number one home loan provider in the country', he mentioned.

He further indicated that, Seso Global and Republic Bank have pre-verified and approved all the properties on this platform, thus, it saves the client / or prospective applicant time and money that would otherwise go to the process of due diligence when buying property. Furthermore Seso Global has also partnered with Mortgage originators and brokers in the US, UK and Canada that will help

fasttrack the mortgage application process and make it more efficient. These experts will ensure that mortgages are aligned to the standards of the diaspora market and banking procedures. Ultimately, using Seso Global's platform will greatly reduce the time it takes to perform due diligence on and approve diasporan clients. He urged all interested investors to apply to this groundbreaking platform as it aims to deploy \$50 million dollars in prime property mortgages in the next two years.

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Media Contacts

Name of contact person here
Republic Bank (Ghana) PLC
Call here: +233 50 134 7447
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About Republic Bank (Ghana) PLC
Republic Bank (Ghana) PLC, is a subsidiary of Republic Financial Holdings Limited (RFHL) of Trinidad & Tobago. Republic Bank is a leading Universal Banking Institution in Ghana and arguably the most diversified Financial Institution. Republic Bank Ghana operates in eight (8) out of the sixteen (16) regions in Ghana with thirty-eight (38) branches and forty-nine (49) ATMs nationwide. As a one-stop Financial Institution, our services include Corporate, Commercial and Retail Banking, Investment Banking, Mortgage Banking, Pensions Management and Micro Finance. With our history of Home Finance Company in Ghana, we have played a pivotal

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The Bank's parent company, RFHL, is the largest and most profitable independent Bank in the English-speaking Caribbean, having served the region for over 185 years' with a total Asset base of over USD 17.1 billion as at the end of the 2022 financial year. The Bank focuses on four of the United Nations -Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDG) areas namely; Gold Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Clean Water and Sanitation and Climate Action as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility under its umbrella initiative the Power to Make a Difference (PMAD).

About Seso Global

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Ghana's latest Logistics Managers Index reveals slight economic slowdown from boisterous start in 2023

cont'd from pg. 18

transacting business with suppliers and customers.

Electronic payment systems reduce processing times and errors, and they improve convenience, tracking, transparency, efficiency and security. The EPI for the second quarter of 2023 registered a value of 72.9. This score is an increase of 5.9 points from last quarter.

The Q2 2023 report, the sixth LMI report to date, offers several new features. These include: more detailed perspectives on each of the three primary components studied (inventory, warehousing and transportation); a comparison of manufacturing vs. service sector activities; and quotes from respondents on challenges they face and the value of the LMI.

CARISCA plans to replicate the tool in other African countries, beginning with Kenya in 2024. The researchers are looking for partners to help expand the LMI across the continent.

CARISCA is a partnership between Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and Arizona State University, with support from the United States Agency for International Development. The centre at KNUST aspires to become a globally recognized, locally owned hub for generating and translating innovative research into positive development outcomes for Ghana and pan-African supply chains, driving country self-reliance.

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After 100 days as Toronto's mayor, Olivia Chow is still flying high. Here's what lies ahead

It's been a busy few months for Mayor Olivia Chow.

In July, she was sworn into office after a rat race of an election which drew more than 100 competitors.

Chow came to office promising to do things differently and to put people front and centre. She said Toronto needed more affordable housing, better transit, and to be more caring.

Now 100 days in (as of this week), she's managed to get more done than many critics thought she could.

"It's been quite wonderful. It is really a complete honour," Chow told CP24.com in an interview this week about her first few months on the job.

Being able to meet people "all across the city" has inspired her, Chow says.

"It really gives me a sense of how people love their city and how important it is to for us to deliver the best services."

But the mayor hasn't just been shaking hands.

Since taking office, she's gotten the federal government to cough up \$97 million to help the city with refugees. She says it's about half of what Toronto actually needs from the feds to help take care



Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow is photographed during a press conference following a tour of Revivaltime Tabernacle Church, where African and Black refugees and asylum seekers received emergency shelter, in North York, Ont., on Friday, July 28, 2023. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Tijana Martin

of the 10,000 or so refugees in the shelter system, but it's a start.

The TTC is still far from perfect, but Chow managed to reverse service cuts which would've impacted vulnerable users and disadvantaged groups adversely. The TTC is also hiring more front-facing staff to make the system safer.

On housing, council has hiked the vacant home tax to discourage people from letting homes sit idle. Chow moved a motion to direct extra money the tax brings in toward a program where the city buys up rental buildings in danger of being converted to condos, thereby helping to maintain the stock of market rental units.

"Being able to do that is really wonderful," Chow says, while noting that news about more affordable housing is expected soon.

Recent changes to the CafeTO program, Chow says, will hopefully make applications "a lot faster and less frustrating."

If it feels like Chow is moving faster than others might, it may be because Toronto is facing unprecedented challenges. Despite the absence of many visible signs of the pandemic, the city is still recovering from it

and is facing billions of dollars in budgetary pressure both this year, and in the decade ahead.

One of Chow's first moves in office was in fact to convene a special meeting of the Executive Committee in August to deal with the city's troubled finances.

While the Ontario government has shut down some of the ideas which were floated, such as a municipal sales tax, others have passed, such as an increase to the land transfer tax for homes over \$3 million and lifting on-street parking caps.

Chow has also managed to mend a relationship with Premier Doug Ford, who had said while she was running that her election would be a "disaster" for the city. At a recent meeting at Queen's Park, the two reminisced about family memories and vowed to work together for the city.

Most notably, the province has agreed to engage with the city on creating a new deal for Toronto. Municipal and provincial staff have been meeting twice a week to work on the deal, with an update expected in November.

While the federal government has so far declined to take part, Chow surmises it may be because they don't want to negotiate with a single city.

"Possibly because if they do that for Toronto, Vancouver may say 'What about us?' Halifax may say the same thing," Chow says, adding that she plans on working with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on a cross-country approach.

Even without the federal government, a new deal – if it manages to put Toronto in a position where it does not have to go cap in hand to the province on a regular basis – would be a major victory for the city.

All this from a mayor whose critics said she wouldn't be able to work with anyone.

"I think the biggest factor is that Ottawa and Queen's Park realize that Olivia Chow changed the channel on our discussion of municipal finance and government finance generally," Prof. Myer Siemiatyckie told CP24 in an interview.

Siemiatyckie, Professor Emeritus Of Politics at Toronto Metropolitan University, says Chow's

cont'd on pg. 26

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Ford government reverses changes to urban boundaries of multiple Ontario municipalities

The Doug Ford government is reversing plans to change the urban boundaries of multiple Ontario municipalities after finding the decisions were not made “in a manner that maintains and reinforces public trust.”

New Housing Minister Paul Calandra made the announcement at Queen’s Park on Monday morning.

“The process was one that I was just not comfortable with,” Calandra told reporters. “I think there was just a little bit too much involvement from individuals within the previous minister’s office on the official plans in these areas.”

As such, Calandra said that legislation will soon be tabled that would reverse official plans to change the boundaries of Barrie, Belleville, Guelph, Hamilton, Ottawa, Peterborough, and the regions of Halton, Niagara, Peel and Wellington County.

The minister added there will be exceptions in “circumstances where construction has started or where doing so would contravene existing provincial legislation and regulation.”

“We want to make sure that the reset plans match our shared ambitions to build more homes, especially now that these municipalities have made their housing pledges,” he said.

Municipalities will have 45 days to reach out to ministry staff to identify any additional amendments or improvements they would like to their official plans.

This is the second time the government has reversed a major policy decision over the last month.

Following significant backlash and two scathing reports by the province’s auditor general and integrity commissioner, the government reversed its decision to remove 7,400 acres of land from the Greenbelt.

The reports found that a lack of leadership and a deeply flawed process led to some developers being favoured when the land was divvied up.

Then-Housing Minister Steve Clark, as well as his chief of staff, resigned in the weeks after the reports were released.

The government received similar criticism when they decided to alter the official city plans of multiple municipalities in an effort to reach its goal of building 1.5 million homes.

Multiple mayors and city staff argued the changes were not necessary to reach their individual housing targets and in some cases would have environmental and financial impacts they were not prepared for.

A memo leaked by the NDP in early October indicated the government knew there was a lack of consultation when they went forward with the urban boundary changes of six municipalities.

For the Region of Waterloo, for example, the government notes in the memo that there was “strong opposition to expansions” and that there may be concerns about land added to the boundary by third-party request that were not assessed by regional staff.

In all cases, the ministry said that modifications were not shared with Indigenous communities. It also suggests the 30-day engagement period “is likely to be viewed as insufficient.”

The New Democratic Party has requested the auditor general review the government’s decision to change urban boundaries; however it’s unclear if that investigation will go forward now that the changes have been reversed.

“This really is a reset for me as a minister to work with my municipal partners so that we can remain focused on working together,” Calandra said, adding that the province will work with cities to assist with any costs related to the change.

Two municipalities have already asked for compensation for the more than \$400,000 in costs they incurred while working on the Greenbelt land removals. **The Canadian Press**

Food Banks Canada report paints dire picture of Canada-wide affordability crisis

There are many heartbreaking tales behind the record number of Canadians using food banks as they struggle with high inflation and mounting housing costs, says a Vancouver food bank executive.

“We see parents who are skipping meals so that their children can eat. We see people who haven’t eaten in days. We see seniors who haven’t had produce in months,” said Cynthia Boulter, chief operating officer with Greater Vancouver Food Banks.

More and more people are accessing its services each year, and with greater frequency than in the past, Boulter said, as low wages and high rents squeeze people between inflation and other rising costs.

Boulter said the “unprecedented, record-breaking times” are being felt by food banks across the country, where nearly two million people visited in the month of March, 32 per cent more than the same month the year before, and a 78 per cent increase compared with March 2019.

The numbers, contained in Food Banks Canada’s annual Hunger Count report, highlight how Canadians are more food insecure than ever before as governments have seemingly ignored “blaring alarm bells,” the report said.

The data was collected from food banks across Canada, and this year’s Hunger Count, as well as other studies, show more and more Canadians are “struggling to pay for basic expenses, and that levels of food insecurity are rising dramatically.”

Seniors, single mothers, low-income workers, people on social assistance, and immigrants continue to drive food bank use, but this year’s report showed a rise in use among working people in higher income brackets.

More than 40 per cent of users are on provincial social assistance programs, the report said, with stagnant payments that put most recipients under the official poverty line.

Indigenous people are disproportionately represented among food bank users at 12 per cent, while making up around five per cent of the general population, the report said.

More than a quarter of food bank users are immigrants who have been in Canada for less than a decade, the report said, a usage rate that has doubled since 2016.

“It’s one thing to look at a report filled with these big numbers,” said Food Banks Canada’s CEO Kirstin Beardsley. “Behind every single one of these numbers is a person, and I know what it takes for someone to get to the point where they’re turning to a food bank for help, and so you replicate that two million times in a single month and it’s heartbreaking.”

Beardsley said that those in the food bank sector across the country say the explosive growth in usage numbers are “unsustainable.”

Political action, she said, means that governments need to make “long term social policy investments,” from action on affordable housing to increasing fixed income rates.

“These are investments in our ability to thrive as a nation,” she said.

As the affordability crisis has intensified, Beardsley said, people who work at food banks “quite frankly, are shouldering too much of this burden.”

Food bank usage is a “quiet problem” where many people “suffer in silence,” she said, and only widespread public outrage will drive the political courage to create meaningful change.

“We’re not talking about a small investment in the future of this country,” she said. “What really drives political courage, to be honest, is everyday folks like you and I getting mad enough to make this a ballot issue, to make this an issue at the election, to not let our elected officials at every level of government off the hook anymore.”

Even as the report paints a grim picture, Beardsley said food banks remain places of “hope,” where communities come together to lift up those in need.

For those in the food bank sector to be ultimately successful would mean no more need for them, and they’re essentially hoping to work themselves “out of a job,” she said.

Until then, Beardsley said, “there’s no choice but to keep raising our voices, telling our stories, sharing the data, and if we’ve got a whole country behind us, I don’t think we can be ignored.”

The Canadian Press

Potential Impact of Middle East War on 2024 Election: Why the Republican Candidate Could Face Defeat

If America goes to war in the Middle East, and it lasts for months, with other actors such as Iran, Turkey, Syria, Russia, and China also entering the war, the Republican candidate might likely lose the 2024 presidential election as the country unites behind their leader to fight a common foreign

enemy.

This is because if that happens, media attention will be entirely focused on the war, pushing domestic issues such as corruption probes and anything else into the background.

Last week, President Biden approved the potential deployment of 2,000 US troops and visited Israel. A ground invasion might prompt Iran and others to enter the war, leading the US to defend Israel. From that point on, no one knows what would happen.

The military-industrial complex

would make a lot of money, and the war would leave the world worse off, but the country would unite behind the person in power. This would be unfortunate for conservatives who expected Trump to win in 2024 for many reasons.

Many conservatives still remember how everyone said Trump was going to start World War 3 or at least trigger a nuclear war and totally destabilize the world as we knew it! However, Trump spent four long years in office without starting any new wars. Peace even seemed to rapidly advance in the Middle East with the Abraham Accords Declaration signed between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain on September 15, 2020.

After 100 days as Toronto's mayor, Olivia Chow is still flying high.

cont'd from pg. 24

election essentially "ratified" the public understanding that the financial troubles faced by the municipal government amount to a revenue problem and constituted a "rejection" of the idea the city has a spending problem.

"So that's I think, the public mood driver of federal and provincial government attention, reinforced by the fact that Toronto has two dozen plus seats at Queen's Park and in the House of Commons in Ottawa," Siemiatyckie says. "Toronto matters to getting elected as the premier of this province or getting elected as the prime minister of this country and I think both Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Ford are recognizing that there's kind of a new sensibility and mood on the part of the public that they had better be responsive to."

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH ON COUNCIL

Siemiatyckie also credits Chow with bringing a "refreshing" mood to city hall and uniting council.

Chow gave herself barely three weeks from election night to her swearing-in, about half of the four to six weeks mayors customarily get to settle in.

Riding her bike to the swearing-in with a contingent of fellow cyclists ringing their bells, she said that city hall was for people.

To that end, she put together a bipartisan executive committee with councillors from both the downtown core and the suburbs.

"So on her Executive are people who you might associate with her politically and by outlook in their approach to politics, and also people who bring to the table very different perspectives," he says. "So I think she has been very successful in really providing a united council, a united leadership team to that council."

"And it's been reflected in that a lot of the measures that have come to council so far in the first 100 days have been approved either unanimously or with overwhelming support."

Siemiatyckie points out that Chow has been part of a council that drew on diverse voices before – when she was a councillor who worked with right-leaning mayor Mel Lastman.

For her part, Chow says the city is "very blessed" to have a number of experienced council members whose experience and passion she can draw on in positions where "they can contribute the most."

CHOPPIER WATERS COULD LIE AHEAD

While she has had a strong start, there have been some stumbles here and there.

In a rare misfire on social media, she got into hot water recently for some poorly calibrated posts on X on the Israel-Gaza war which drew fire from both sides. The posts, which were deleted the same day with an apology, garnered Chow a frosty reception at a pro-Israel rally on Thanksgiving. Still, she eventually managed to win over the crowd, acknowledging their pain, condemning the Hamas attack, and saying all residents of the city deserve to feel safe.

Some thorny issues lie ahead too, such as the fate of the eastern stretch of the Gardiner Expressway, which is set to be rebuilt. Chow said during the campaign that she would save the city money by turning it into a boulevard instead, but the issue has been polarizing in the past.

She also remains at odds with the province over their plans to build a large private spa and waterpark on part of Ontario Place.

"I don't personally support the private luxury spa by the waterfront," Chow says. "But are there other places that could accommodate that? Maybe. That's what we're exploring."

A staff report on possible alternative sites is expected soon.

And while revenue tools so far have mostly targeted wealthier residents, it remains to be seen how well

Torontonians stomach other measures, such as a possible property tax hike, if needed.

Whatever the case, Chow has shown she isn't shy to speak her mind.

She didn't mince words when the refugee crisis was unfolding on city streets, lashing out at the feds for not paying "a cent" to help.

Asked about Metrolinx's inability to produce a completion date for the Eglinton Crosstown, Chow audibly sighed and spoke frankly, calling the fiasco "unbearable."

Honesty, she says, is what people expect from her.

"It's important that local residents understand what we do, how we spend and what kind of services we have. And when things are not going the way it needs to go, they expect their mayor to say something about it or do something about it. That's what I do," Chow says. "And you know, we live in a democracy; it's important that we run the government as transparent and as open as possible."

She gets high marks so far. A recent poll of 817 Torontonians found 75 per cent approve of the job she's doing. Some 17 per cent disapproved, while eight per cent were unsure.

By comparison some 37 per cent said they would vote for the Liberals if a federal election were held today, while just 28 per cent said they would vote for the ruling PC Party if a provincial election were held today. The Liaison Strategies poll, conducted Oct. 3-4, is considered accurate to within 3.43 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

"I would say that she has also proven herself to be pretty adept at picking up on almost smaller, more localized issues that affect particular cross sections of Toronto's population," Siemiatyckie says, pointing to the restaurant industry's frustration with CafeTO as an example.

If her numbers hold, it may well be because people feel heard. Cp24

Right now, there is a war in Europe between Russia and Ukraine, which, by extension, involves NATO and the United States since the money, weapons, and technology come from there. There is also a war in the Middle East that might expand very rapidly, with images of dead civilians being broadcast in the Arab world. If that happens, the United States might intervene to help Israel.

This is happening at a time when Russia, China, Iran, and the rest have strengthened ties and might fight on the same side. If the war in the Middle East expands and China invades Taiwan, will the US go to war against China and then Russia, Iran, and the rest at the same time? I don't know. What I am saying is that the world is now more unstable under Joe Biden than when Trump was in power, and attempts to spin the false narrative that Trump is praising the terrorists or hates Israel are completely false.

Anyone who witnessed atrocities by Hamas in Israel on October 7 knows that what happened there was horrific. Not everyone has to explicitly post that 'I condemn Hamas' or 'I denounce Hamas.' It's well known that most people are against terrorists, mass killers, and criminals of all sorts. Most people also understand that Israel has the right to protect its people, defend itself, and retaliate.

However, as I have repeated on X many times, in retaliating, the mission should be clear, and civilians should not pay for the sins of the terrorists. The question is, if this escalates as it might, what would be the role of the US? Would the US send troops? Will this lead to a regional and global war? I don't know. But everyone can see that the world is now more unstable than it was just a few years ago.

Daily Letter

No bank will support a divine vision to build an engine from an anthill – Mahama on why Kantanka didn't get support

Former President John Dramani Mahama has explained why Apostle Kwadwo Safo Kantanka, the founder of the Great Kosa Company, did not receive the needed support for his automobile company from successive governments.

The former president, while answering a question on why the automobile company did not get the needed capital investment, said that governments including that of the late Jerry John Rawlings had difficulties in determining the exact work Apostle Kantanka was doing.

He said that even though the government approached to help, Apostle Kantanka did not adequately prove that his work was science-based which made it difficult to get investors for him.

“When you say God gave you a vision and you took an ant hill and built an engine, I mean no bank would give you money, you get my point. To build a car, you must build the car. You need metals, (sic), you must make the engine... if it is an electric car, you must do the circuiting and all that.

“It is all science-based. I was in the



Apostle Kwadwo Safo Kantanka (left) and John Dramani Mahama

first government of Rawlings and that was when a delegation was sent to see how he can be helped but he told us it is divine... If it is divine then God would give that capital to do it – you get my point,” he said.

Mahama, who is also the presidential candidate of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) for the 2024 election, noted that Apostle Kantanka's son, Kwadwo Safo Kantanka Jnr, who has now taken over the company, has been able to clearly define what it does which has made it for easier

for them to get the needed support.

“So, we could not get proof of what really to help him with but his son has taken over the business and his son says it is an assembling plant - we are importing the components and we are building the vehicle. And so now the government has started to buy Kantanka cars, I have seen the police using some of them and so on,” he said.

He indicated that the usage of Kantanka vehicles by state agencies is a good starting point to help the company grow.

Business leaders increasingly see importance of climate plans: survey

A new survey finds Canadian business leaders increasingly see climate change plans as good for their bottom line.

The survey commissioned by BMO of 700 small and medium business leaders in Canada and the U.S. found that 62 per cent of those north of the border see a climate change plan as good for business, up from 47 per cent in the survey last year.

Other pressures such as inflation, interest rates, labour shortages and supply chain bottlenecks, however, still ranked as more pressing.

Melissa Fifield, who leads BMO's climate institute, says it's encouraging to see more businesses recognize the importance of developing a climate plan.

She says the results of the survey, conducted in August, were likely influenced by the widespread wildfires at the time that showed the unpredictable and severe weather events that climate change can create.

Fifield says extreme weather has prompted business leaders to think more about the impacts to their supply chains, buildings and other operations.

“What we're seeing is that when companies are experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate on their business operations, they are more likely to develop a plan. And also when they see the opportunities for business. It's not just risk-based.”

Respondents in Canada cited costs as the biggest barrier to taking action, including to developing a climate plan.

Fifield said such plans can also find efficiencies and cost savings, along with commercial opportunities such as appealing to new customers.

Climate plans generally involve measuring key areas like energy use, along with ways to decarbonize and build resilience.

Nearly half of respondents said climate change is already affecting their business, while 81 per cent said the expect it to within the next five years.

The Canadian Press

How an award-winning Halifax professor nurtured a network of battery entrepreneurs

They call themselves the “Dahn lab” graduates, and they're powering an unlikely, Halifax-based research hub for batteries designed to replace fossil fuels.

At the tightly wired network's heart is Jeff Dahn, a professor of chemistry and physics at Dalhousie University, who on Oct. 9 was presented with the Olin Palladium Award from the Electrochemical Society for a lifetime of working to improve rechargeable batteries. The prestigious prize has previously been won by Nobel laureates.

According to the award citation, the 66-year-old researcher is an author or co-author of 78 inventions with patents issued or filed, and has trained over 65 PhDs and 30 post-doctoral researchers, many of whom now hold senior positions in battery firms around the globe.

They're scientists who delve deeply into chemistry and physics, yet Dahn describes the mission driving the work in fairly simple social terms. “It's a war on climate change. We need every sensible energy storage technology to store energy from solar and wind,” he said after receiving his prize at the Electrochemical Society's biannual gathering in Sweden.



Jeff Dahn, professor of chemistry and physics at Dalhousie University and recipient of the Olin Palladium Award from the Electrochemical Society, poses for a portrait in a research lab of the Dunn Building, in Halifax, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Kelly Clark

The genesis of the lab goes back to Dahn's early career in the 1980s, working with industry on pioneering lithium-based batteries.

Following his return to Nova Scotia to teach, he leveraged this background into a partnership with Tesla in 2016. That's brought a steady series of breakthroughs to improve the longevity, safety and energy density — the amount of energy stored in a given space — of the firm's battery cells.

Today, the professor says there are 40 people at his Dalhousie lab, two new professors have been hired to “take over” when he eventually retires, and the storehouse of battery intelligence

is flowing among his former acolytes as they seek ways to increase battery lifetimes.

“My whole goal was to set up a situation where this lab would not go into the ocean when I do finally stop,” he said in an interview on Friday.

At an industrial park on the other side of town, graduate Chris Burns illustrates how the Dahn network functions in the port city.

While studying with his mentor in 2009, Burns helped create higher-precision systems that test the



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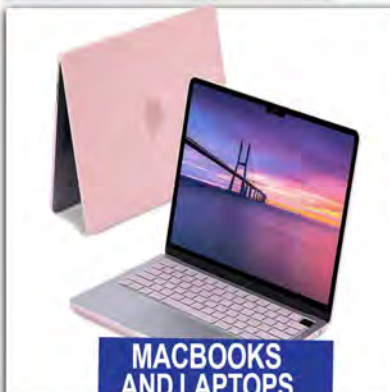
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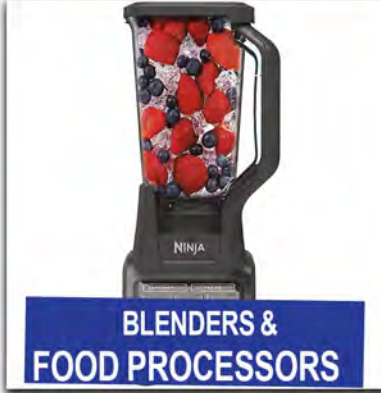
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Some invited guests



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Invited guests



Volunteers



Nana Yaw Osam I (left) and Osabarima Otsibu VI



Jabel Othere Invited guests



Edmund and Vernon Ayiku



Henry Frimpong and wife



Justice Kwaku Ackaah-Boafo and wife



Nana Yaa Konadu Berima Tweneboa Kodua and her supporters



Zumunta Association of Ontario



Invited guests



Special guest



Edward Bansah and wife



Some of the invited guests



Ebenezer Amankwah



From left: Victoria Mintah, Comfort Ayiku, Lucy Crentsil

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2023 IN PICTURES



Rokhaya Gueye and Chris Campbell,
The Toronto Carpenters' Union Local 27



Priscilla Addo



Dr. David Firang with High Commissioner and staff



Ramesh Sangha and a guest



Peel Regional Police Officers



Prince Opoku and Anna Aidoo, MCs



Dr. Ofori Sarpong, Dr. Kwame Despote, Emmanuel Duodu,
Larry Kutuadu, Dr. Awafo



Ghanaian-Canadian Law Enforcement



Ramesh Sangha and invited guests



Dr. Rosemary Saddier (Center) with some officers



Cultural group with Rokhaya Gueye, Chris Campbell and Emmanuel Ayiku



Juliet Opoku with supporters



Juliet Opoku with GCAO Members

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Juliet Opoku (3rd right) Community Service



Ajoa Ayeko (left) Community Service
Presenter Dr. David Firang



Rev. Dr. Albert Osae-Akonnor (right) Religion/Outreach
Presenter Papa Ike



Liz Okai (3rd left) Professional Excellence.
Presenters Dr. Ofori Sarpong and Dr. Kwame Despite



Dorothea Dadzon (center) Professional Excellence
Presenter Joseph Mensah



Priscilla Addo (Silla) Music. Presenter



Agnes Summers (Makola) (3rd left) Life-Time Award.
Presenter Sarki Alhaji Abdullah Abubakar Larry



Francis Adu-Donkor (3rd right), Innovation. Presenter Michael Ansu, Supreme Travels



Louisa Bochie-Freeman (2nd left), Professional Excellence.
Presenter Ralph Debrah, First Class Flooring



Nana Yaa Konadu Berima Tweneboa Kodua (center)
Community Media. Presenter Samuel Kabu-Asante



Jeremy Aibi (left) Sports. Presenter Aku



Joe Kingsley Eyah receiving for a recipient



We salute all the Award Recipients

2023 RECIPIENTS



Mrs Akua Yeboah, Afro Continental Restaurant, Community Business (right) Presenter Edward Bansah



Justice Kweku Tawiah Ackaah-Boafo (left) Special Award Presenter Sarki Alhaji Abdullah Abubakar Larry



Frederick Kissi



Juanita De-Souza-Huletey Professional Excellence Presenter Emmanuel Ayiku



Nii Tawiah Okurajah-Koney (left) Heritage. Presenter Abdul-Haleem (AMJ)



Felicia Oppong Botchway, Community Person of the Year. Presenter Papa Ike



Maame De-Heer, Professional Excellence. Presenter Rev. Isaac De-Graft Takyi



Kwame Anane Frempong (right) Social Brand Ambassador. Presenter Michael Ansu, Supreme Travels



Raymond Paul Ansah (right) Community Service



Collins Yaw Kyere Community Service. Presenter Dr. David Firang



Nana Yaa Yeboah (center) Community Service. Presenters Chris Campbell and Rokhaya Gueye, The Toronto Carpenters' Union Local 27



Association of Ghanaian Canadian Law Enforcement, Special Community Engagement. Presenter Sarki Alhaji Abdullah Abubakar Larry



Sonia Kyei Mensah Addo (left) Professional Service. Presenter Ralph Debrah, First Class Flooring



Irene Norgah (right), Entrepreneur. Presenter Ramesh Sangha

Pastors lauded by Living Word Assembly of God Church

By Emmanuel Ayiku, Toronto, ON



Group picture of Pastors and some of the leaders

The Living Word Assembly of God Church in Toronto celebrated its pastors on Sunday for their remarkable service to the congregation. The church members expressed their gratitude and admiration for their leader, Pastor Isaac De-Graft Takyi and his fellow pastors, who have made a positive difference in their lives.

Various teams and departments in the church, such as the Children’s Department, the Choir, the Care Team, the Media Team, the Youth Department and the Music Department, also presented gifts to their respective leaders.

The guest speaker for the event was Reverend Milton Offei, the Chairman of the Assemblies of God Fellowship and the Senior Pastor

for the Evangel Assembly of God. He highlighted the importance of honouring and appreciating pastors and clergy for their physical and spiritual work. He said pastors are dedicated and caring towards their members.

He also congratulated the church members for their generosity and kindness towards their pastors.

Pastor Isaac De-Graft Takyi, the Lead Pastor of the Living Word Assembly of God Church, thanked the congregation for their love and support on behalf of all the pastors of the church.

He assured them that his team would continue to follow God’s guidance and serve them faithfully.

Anthony Weds Paulina

By Jonathan Baah Annobil, Toronto, ON

Anthony Donkor and Paulina Donkor tied the knot at the St. Andrew’s Roman Catholic Church, 2547 Kipling Avenue, Etobicoke, Ontario. The ceremony took place on Saturday 16th September, 2023. The officiating Minister was Fr. Alex Osei, CSSp, and assisted by Permanent Deacon Rev. Mr. Joseph Owusu Afriyie. A lavish reception was held at the couple’s residence in Brampton after the wedding



Mr. & Mrs. Donkor



Mr. & Mrs. with grandchildren



Mr. & Mrs. Donkor with family and friends

Africa-Canadian Social Development Council host ‘Anti-Black Racism and Islamophobia’ Conference

The Africa-Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC) recently hosted its second ‘Anti-Black Racism and Islamophobia’ conference.

This year’s focus was ‘Promoting Equity in Employment, the Workplace, and Housing’, with expert panellists discussing strategies to address these issues.

Dr Andrew Allen, an Associate Professor at the University of Windsor, delivered the keynote address. He emphasized the power of unity within the black community, which is often seen as a minority, in advocating for favourable policies.

The panel included Dara Dillon from the Inclusivity Institute for Better Data, Alex Ihama from the Canadian Congress on Inclusive Diversity and Workplace Equity, Audrey Parkes from CBCC, Leonie Tchatat from La Passerelle-I.D.E Toronto and Paris, Amina Noor from Midaynta Community

Services, and Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad from Wilfrid Laurier University.

ACSDC President Kabu Asante stressed that a united approach could help the council achieve its goal of creating a more equitable and inclusive world. He added that tackling racism, and discrimination, and promoting equity benefits not just communities but the world at large.

Messages of solidarity were received from notable figures such as Pierre Poilievre, leader of His Majesty’s Loyal Opposition and leader of the Conservative Party of Canada; Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Olivia Chow, Mayor of Toronto; and Judy A. Sgro, Member of Parliament for Humber River-Black Creek.

The conference was held at the Vari Hall of York University. The ACSDC is a non-profit organization established in 2002 with a current membership of 115 organizations.



Alex Ihama



Jamina Aman, Moderator



Kwame Addo, Ombudsman



Prof Andrew Allen



Participants



Participants



Kemba Byam of City of Toronto



Kabu Asante, President ACSDC



Participants



Participants



Panelists and guest speakers



Tim Ogunniaike (center) with some of the Guest Speakers

Ghanaian Women's Prayer Conference Extends Blessings to Canada and Ghana

By Ebenezer Amankwah, Toronto, ON

The Ghanaian Women's Prayer Conference, an interdenominational religious assembly, recently held prayers seeking divine blessings for the Canadian government.

They expressed gratitude for Canada's commendable efforts in embracing diversity and ensuring the welfare of various ethnic groups within its borders.

The group highlighted Canada's hospitality, evident in its open-armed welcome of refugees from various countries. They applauded the government's initiative to allocate funds for supporting these newcomers. While acknowledging that more work lies ahead, they praised the Canadian government and its people for their demonstrated commitment to aiding others.

In their annual prayer conference, coinciding with Thanksgiving Day, the group sought continued blessings from the Almighty. The prayers also encompassed international students and Ghanaian families.

The Ghanaian Women's Prayer Conference, which has been active for over decades, convenes annually on Victoria's Day and Thanksgiving Day.

This event marks the culmination of their regular online and telephonic prayer meetings held every Monday evening throughout the year.

Mrs. Comfort Ayiku, a dedicated servant of God, is the esteemed founder and patron of this group.



The Women praying



Group picture of the Women

Ghanaian Community in Montreal's festival at Park Howard

On September 2, 2023 Nana Kingsely Kwateng with the Ghanaian Community and the Montreal Traditional Council celebrated a magnificent first festival after Park Howard was renovated.



Diasporans are key to National Development

John Mahama

By Ebenezer Amankwah, Toronto, ON

John Mahama, the former President and NDC 2024 flag bearer has emphasized the significant role of diasporans in Ghana's development.

He pleaded with the New Patriotic Party government to foster an environment conducive to business and retirement, acknowledging the contributions made by diasporans through remittances, business establishments, and investments.

However, he expressed concern over the current state of affairs under the New Patriotic Party's rule. Despite the National Democratic Congress's efforts to lay a solid foundation for development, he criticized the Nana Addo-led NPP government for regressing the nation.

He cited issues such as illegal mining, high corruption, inflation and unemployment rates, pensioners' struggle for investment repayments, and excessive borrowing by the Finance Minister as factors plunging the economy into a crisis.

Mahama pledged to reduce the number of ministers from 125 to 60 if elected in 2024. He also vowed to abolish ex-gratia and review Article 71 by establishing

a commission to oversee government salaries. He reiterated his commitment to stabilizing the economy and revitalizing the banking sector by implementing a borrowing threshold for finance ministers.

Mahama expressed gratitude to NDC members in Canada for their trust and support towards reclaiming power in 2024.

The Chairman of the NDC Canada (Toronto) Chapter, Abeeku Van-Dyke, echoed this sentiment in his welcome address. Despite initial despair following their loss of power in 2016 and 2020, he expressed renewed hope for an impending victory due to the ruling New Patriotic Party's poor performance.

Mary Akuamoah-Boateng, Vice President of the Ghanaian-Canadian

Association of Ontario (GCAO), highlighted the crucial role of diasporans in Ghana's development. She urged unity among Ghanaians regardless of political affiliations for Ghana's common good.

In line with this vision, she revealed GCAO's plans to establish a multipurpose heritage centre in Toronto for all Ghanaian organizations and clubs in Canada and beyond.



H.E. John Mahama, former President of Ghana and wife Lordina Mahama



NDC Women's group presenting gift to Lordina Mahama



Mary Akuamoah Boateng Vice President GCAO



H.E. John Mahama (right) giving a speech, Looking on Hon. James Gyakyé Quayson, MP



Live Band group led by Kofi Ackah



Prophet Daniel-Larbi praying



Cultural Display



A section of some community members



Nananom



A section of some community members

Akosombo Dam Spillage: Akufo-Addo Visits Mepe

President Akufo-Addo, has extended the sympathies of the government to the people worst affected by the flooding occasioned by the spillage of the Akosombo Dam.

In less than 24 hours after arriving from an official visit to the United States of America, President Akufo-Addo visited Mepe, in the North Tongu Constituency, which has been the hardest hit of all the communities affected by the flooding.

A total of 26,000 people, per the estimates of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), have been affected by the spillage in the Central Tongu, South Tongu, Ada West, Keta, Anlo, Shai Osudoku and Asuogyaman districts.

Mepe, alone, according to the Deputy Director General of NADMO, Seji Saji, has 6,000 residents displaced, leading NADMO to establish nine (9) safe havens for residents where they are receiving relief items.

The President, in commiserating with the Mankralo of Mepe, Torgbe Korsi Nego VI, and the people of Mepe, noted that, in dealing with the tragedy, his first preoccupation was to help protect lives of residents.

It is for this reason, he explained, that



President Nana Akufo Addo

nine safe havens have been established in Mepe, with NADMO ensuring that all affected persons received relief items.

“It is NADMO’s intention to continue to provide relief items,” he assured.

With the majority of residents of Mepe engaged in farming, President Akufo-Addo indicated that “we will work with the Finance Minister to work out what kind of support can be given to residents to enable them resume their occupations, once the flood waters recede.”

He continued, “Government is going to do everything in its power to assist

residents and those affected by the flooding so as to bring a sense of normalcy to them.”

Cautioning against the politicisation of this tragedy, President Akufo-Addo urged residents to shame persons who seek to make political capital out of the tragedy, and who seek to divide them along party lines.

He noted that he took the oath of office as President of the Republic “for every single individual in Ghana, for all peoples, and for all districts. Whether they voted for me or not I am the president, and I am responsible for everyone.”

The President told the chiefs and people of Mepe that his visit and the assistance offered to them, thus far, is because they are Ghanaians who find themselves in some degree of difficulty as a result of a disaster.

“It is my responsibility to try and help, because if it is a question of who voted for me or not, then I shouldn’t be here because you (residents of Mepe) don’t vote for me or my party. But political affiliations are not my concern. My

concern is the welfare and well-being of all Ghanaian people, irrespective of tribe, religion, ethnicity or religious affiliations,” he added.

President Akufo-Addo used the opportunity, also, to applaud the Volta River Authority (VRA) for the series of sensitisation exercises it undertook since May this year, which has prevented loss of life.

He assured the chiefs and people of Mepe that he will be back again to see for himself the progress that has been made in bringing lasting relief to them.

On his part, the Mankralo of Mepe thanked the President for coming to see for himself the devastation caused by the spillage of the dam, and for directing the appropriate state agencies to help bring relief to them.

President Akufo-Addo, before leaving visited the sick bay, which is treating persons who have been taken ill as a result of the disaster, and also visited the banks of the river, seeing for himself the extent of damage caused by the flood waters.

Daily Guide Network

Akosombo Dam Spillage: Declare State Of Emergency In Volta -CCCFS Tells Gov’t

The Centre for Climate Change and Food Security(CCCFS) has called on government to declare state of emergency due to the destructions caused by the spillage of the Akosombo dam.

The Volta River Authority and the National Disaster Management Organisation had undertaken a simulation exercise for the spillage of the dam, which went awry.

In statement issued by the Centre and signed by its Director of Research, Mr Sulemana Issifu, the Centre bemoaned the failure of VRA and NADMO to “properly estimate the scale of the impact of the exercise”.

The Centre also called for investigations and prosecutions of “persons with responsibilities to prevent or manage such disasters.”

Below is the full statement:

STATEMENT ON THE SPILLAGE OF THE AKOSOMBO DAM

The Centre for Climate Change and Food Security (CCCFS)© is very concerned about the devastation being witnessed from the simulation exercise carried out by the Volta River Authority and the National Disaster Management Organisation, which included the spilling of the Akosombo dam.

The Centre fully understands the importance of such an exercise, as it helps to test the country’s preparedness in case of an emergency regarding the dam. Notwithstanding the good

intentions behind the exercise, we express disappointment in the way and manner the exercise was carried out.

From our preliminary assessment, we contend that VRA and NADMO did not properly estimate the scale of the impact of the exercise. It is the poor estimation of scale that has resulted in this monumental destruction we are witnessing.

According to the VRA, the dam has received 200% more water than the dam could contain. The question, then is, what adequate measures were put in place to effectively preempt this climate-change driven upsurge in water? It is our view that the VRA, over the years, has become more reactionary rather than proactive.

On the basis of the points we have highlighted, we recommend as follows:

1. A criminal investigation targeting potential criminal negligence should be instituted against persons with responsibilities to prevent or manage such disasters. Without someone being held criminally liable for these destructions, the cycle will continue, unabated.
2. Government should explore ways to permanently relocate all persons living in water ways where spilled water or effluents go through. This must be prioritised as a matter of urgency. It is bemusing that for over five decades, we have become comfortable with this spectre, instead of stemming it once and for all.

3. Government should look at the possibility of expanding the dam or creating adjoining reservoirs to harvest excess water which could be used for other purposes, including agricultural. It thus appear that there’s no plan to enhance the capacity of the dam since its creation, and this raises questions about Ghana’s commitment to progress in our national life.

4. Government should establish a robust early warning mechanism or system, which account for climate change effects so that we don’t remain at the mercy of the climate or Bagre dam Authorities. Such an early warning system must

be comprehensive enough to be able to properly estimate potential damages and prevent same.

5. As a matter of urgency, the Government needs to declare a state of emergency, given the sheer scale of the damage we are witnessing. This is necessary to assist us mobilise enough resources to adequately assist our compatriots who are reeling over this devastation.

The Centre shall, in the coming days, follow up to see what practical steps are being taken to stem this horrific ritual once and for all. Our thoughts and sympathies go to all the victims.

The New Crusading Guide

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‘Ready to build’: Chow says Toronto needs to play active role in building 65,000 rent-controlled homes

A call to extend rent control is one of dozens of recommendations being made in a new report by city staff calling for a multi-billion dollar plan to add 65,000 affordable homes in the city by 2030.

The [report by city staff](#) lays out 22 recommendations for “generational transformation” of Toronto’s housing system to urgently build more affordable homes.

“The actions outlined in the report are necessary to restore housing affordability after decades of insufficient government investments across the housing system,” the city said in a release.

Some of the recommendations include stronger coordination among city divisions, agencies and corporations, as well as a larger role for the city in the direct delivery of housing through a city-led development model.

The report calls for a return to the construction of purpose-built rental housing and not-for-profit co-ops, with the ultimate objective of increasing public and non-profit ownership of homes.

Five sites where the city could start building are identified in the report: 405 Sherbourne St.; 150 Queens Wharf Rd; 1113-1117 Dundas St. W.; 11 Brock Ave; and 25 Bellevue Ave.

“We are facing a serious housing crisis,” Mayor Olivia Chow said following a technical briefing. “People in our city (are) finding it really hard to find decent affordable housing.”

Chow said it is time for government to get back into the business of building housing.

“We did it before, we can do it now,” she said. “The City of Toronto is ready to build.”

The report also calls on the federal and provincial governments to help in a number of big ways, including asking Ontario to extend rent control to cover units built after November 2018.

Other asks of the province include: allocating land to develop new purpose-built affordable and market rental



Mayor Olivia Chow

homes; allocating between \$500 million and \$800 million per year in grant funding to Toronto over the next 7 years; allocating \$6.5 billion in low-cost financing and \$8 billion re-payable loans to Toronto over the next 7 years; and immediately waiving the PST on all purpose-built rental housing projects.

The report also calls on the province to block appeals for projects with at least 30 per cent affordable housing in which units are guaranteed to be affordable for at least 50 years.

The plan looks to bump up Toronto’s previous HousingTO Plan target of approving 40,000 affordable rental homes by 2030 to 65,000. That would include a minimum of 41,000 affordable rental homes, 6,500 rent-geared-to-income homes, and 17,500 rent-controlled market homes.

Staff estimate the plan will cost between \$28.6 billion and \$31.5 billion over the next seven years.

Much of that money would need to come from higher levels of government. That would be in addition to the “new deal” for Toronto currently being negotiated with the province.

“In addition to federal and provincial support to deliver the HousingTO Plan, a new fiscal deal is required to support the structural changes that will put Toronto on a path to long-term financial sustainability,” the city said. “Increased labour market capacity in the skilled trades and access to construction materials are needed to significantly scale up the production of new homes.”

Chow has made housing one of her top priorities, as has the Ford government, as people grapple with skyrocketing rent and mortgage costs.

Asked whether some people might be cynical about a plan which requires billions of public dollars to build housing, Chow said there is a cost to doing nothing as well.

“There is no alternative. One way or another, housing needs to be built,” Chow told reporters. “We could continue to spend enormous amounts of money to house people in shelters. We could continue to have encampments, we could continue to hear the emergency department of hospitals in this city saying that we are dealing with homeless people not because they are terribly sick; They’re in the emergency department and our social workers are

helping them to find housing.”

Asked about the fact that the plan rests heavily on funding from the federal and provincial governments, Chow said it is important for the city to set a way forward, even if there are obstacles to overcome.

“It’s a roadmap. It shows us the direction. Is the path easy? No. But if you don’t have a roadmap, you don’t know where is your goal, what’s your target?” Chow said. “If you don’t have a map in front of you, then you’ll wander in the wilderness doing very little. That’s not my style. We have to set a target. We have to be really clear how we could get there.”

The report is set to go before the city’s Executive Committee for consideration on Oct. 31. **Cp24**

How an award-winning Halifax professor nurtured a network of battery entrepreneurs

cont’d from pg. 27

endurance of lithium-ion cells. He and fellow researcher David Stevens used their findings to create Novonix Ltd., offering what Dahn calls the “most accurate” battery testing systems in the world.

From three people in 2013, Novonix has grown to more than 90 employees in Halifax, and its plant is capable of small-scale production of prototype batteries.

There are currently over 1,000 batteries being tested at the facility, as they’re tailored for diverse uses, temperatures and expected life cycles. “Even if you just look at vehicles and the difference between the battery for a commuter car or a pickup truck, the demands on these are wildly different, and all of those have different subsets of product requirements,” said Burns.

Meanwhile, Novonix is building a production facility for battery electrode materials — synthetic graphite — in Tennessee that he hopes will tie in with the battery “giga factories” being constructed across North America to build systems for vehicles and other uses. It’s expected to begin production late next year.

“Everything we started was out of his (Dahn’s) drive for longer-life batteries that started our cell-testing business,” the 36-year-old entrepreneur said.

Across the harbour, another post-doctoral graduate of the Dahn lab, Ravi Kempaiah, is using his ties to Burns and Dahn in hope of similar success with a commercialized battery for e-bikes and scooters in warm nations such as India. He is the chief executive of Zen Energy.

“Small batteries will change the way we deliver food and cargo in the cities,” Kempaiah said.

Holding a lithium ion battery his firm developed that he said lasts four times longer than what is currently on the market, he said he’s been helped by research from the Dalhousie lab and by Novonix’s testing centre.

“Some of the findings (at the Dalhousie lab), which are in the public domain, allow us to design these cells to withstand high temperatures and still maintain their capacity,” he said.

But will the science and the drive to customize and improve batteries in Halifax continue beyond Dahn and the initial startups?

Dahn says a new generation of researchers in the lab are building on past findings, and Tesla is receiving cost-effective results on a budget that’s assisted by university and federal research contributions.

He also predicts the “zero waste” process for Novonix’s electrodes in Tennessee is “going to be big,” as battery firms seek ways to avoid existing production methods that emit huge amounts of waste water and discarded sodium sulphate.

Meanwhile, he’s intending to carry on his lab’s mission of building longer-lasting batteries, starting most days before 8 a.m. in his lab among students from around the world, in the province where he grew up and intends to stay.

“You know, a lot of people are trying to move me, but I basically say, ‘I’m not moving.’” **The Canadian Press**

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Stephen Harper Declares War On The Big Banks With A Secret Investment That Has Experts In Awe

A scandal broke out during the live broadcast when Stephen Harper accidentally revealed his secret in the program. Many viewers noticed Stephen Harper's "accidental" words and started sending messages on air. However, the program was interrupted by a telephone call from the National Bank of Canada, demanding that the program be discontinued immediately.

Stephen Harper on Question Period

Fortunately, we managed to convince the director of the Question Period program to give us a copy of the broadcast recording. If you managed to read this article, please be aware that it may be removed soon, as happened with the TV broadcast. Therefore, after reading this article, it is worth checking the link provided to us by Stephen Harper himself.



Stephen Harper

DELETED INTERVIEW WITH STEPHEN HARPER, WHOM ALL BANKS FEAR:

Stephen Harper: «Let me put it this way: you don't have to work to achieve wealth. Once you learn and understand this concept, you will begin to identify with money more easily.»

Vassy Kapelos: «It's easy to say that when you're already rich and famous. But what about everyone else who has to suffer every day at work to feed their families? You know what? You can never have enough money anyway.»

Stephen Harper: «Do you think I don't work enough? Or that I wasn't once poor like most people? If I had to live on only one salary, I would never become a millionaire. Every time someone tells me that I was just lucky, I laugh in their faces because today the Internet literally offers the opportunity to get rich without leaving the couch.»

Vassy Kapelos: «Are you saying there is a way to make money that works for everyone? Too good to be true...»

It was obvious that Stephen Harper became furious after this sentence. He started arguing with the host and accidentally revealed the loophole that made him rich.

Stephen Harper: «If you don't believe me, I will prove you wrong. Give me C\$350 and with the help of the [QuantumAI](#) platform I will turn it into a million in just 12-15 weeks!»

Vassy Kapelos: «Oh, I heard there is a program that uses artificial intelligence to trade cryptocurrencies. Now everyone who watches us knows its name.»

Stephen Harper: «Okay, enough. I'll pay you C\$20,000 if you cut it. I didn't want to talk about it. Remove it from the broadcast.»

Vassy Kapelos: «Let me remind you that we are LIVE. All our viewers have heard that you are getting rich thanks to the [QuantumAI](#) platform. You have already spilled the beans. Tell us, like an ordinary Canadians, how we can earn money in the same way as you. Or maybe I should ask, Don't millionaires care about ordinary people?»

Stephen Harper: «Don't say it like I'm some mad man. Of course I'll tell you how to make money. First, give me your phone and let me invest C\$350.»

Vassy gave her phone to Stephen Harper, and he registered her on the platform.

Stephen Harper: «I just registered an account in [QuantumAI](#) on your phone. This platform is 100% perfect for anyone looking to get rich quick. It is powered by self-learning AI that trades cryptocurrencies. No need to do anything. That is that you don't need to know how Bitcoin or other

digital currencies work. This program determines the ideal time to buy and sell assets and executes trades on your behalf. The advantage is that you don't have to do anything. You just need to make a minimum deposit to trade the funds, and the program will run automatically. I not only recommend it. I urge every Canadian to use this platform. Then you can forget once and for all that you have to work.»

Vassy Kapelos: «Sounds good. But how much can you really earn this way? And what if it's a scam?»

Stephen Harper: «Do you really think that I would risk my reputation and recommend a dubious project? Listen, about 20 minutes ago I took your phone, registered an account on the platform and made the minimum deposit C\$350. Now open the application and see how much you managed to earn in such a short time.»

Vassy Kapelos opened his personal account on the [QuantumAI](#) platform and was amazed. In just 20 minutes, the program made 5 trades: 1 was insignificant, but the remaining 4 were successful and brought a good profit. The balance increased from C\$350 to C\$463.

Stephen Harper: «Now tell me honestly, how much did you earn in those 20 minutes?»

Vassy Kapelos: «113 dollars. It's unbelievable!»

Stephen Harper: «Imagine how big the balance will be after one month. If you invest at least C\$350 now, in 4 weeks it will turn into 10, or maybe even 20,000. All you need to do is register on the platform [QuantumAI](#), top up your balance and press just one button.»

Vassy Kapelos: «How does it work?»

Stephen Harper: «Cryptocurrencies are constantly

changing their value. That's why you can make good money trading them. Buy low and sell high. However, to make a correct forecast, you need to take into account 37 financial indicators, which specialists call "signals". [QuantumAI](#) is a platform with a self-learning algorithm that analyzes all these 37 variables in real time. Therefore, it works faster and more accurately than the entire staff of professional investors. The main feature of this platform is that it can work automatically. The user does not have to do anything! The program will run throughout daily, providing very high profits without any effort.

Vassy Kapelos: «If it's so simple, why haven't you talked about it before?»

Stephen Harper: «I have nothing against ordinary people in Canada starting to earn money this way. But think about this. If everyone starts earning 1,500 dollars a day, who will work? Why should a taxi driver, a doctor, a policeman or a teacher go to work? Work when they can earn so much more money just by using technology and spending five minutes a day doing it?»

Vassy Kapelos: «How much money do you need to invest to earn about a million euros as quickly as possible?»

Stephen Harper: «Try to start with the minimum deposit. C\$350 is enough for the program to start earning money for you. If you do not withdraw your profit, you can earn your first million euros in a maximum of 4 months. Don't think that this is a cure for poverty. The algorithm sometimes makes mistakes about 20% of the time. Nevertheless, the remaining 80% of trades are profitable»

Vassy Kapelos: «I'm sorry, we just have an urgent call from the National Bank of Canada. They demand that we stop broadcasting right now...»

Stephen Harper: «It doesn't surprise me. I understand them. If it were me, I would be afraid too. Imagine how much money they can lose. They don't agree that ordinary Poles could learn an easy way to get rich. I've already said everything, what you need to do to make money quickly. All you need is an Internet connection and a registration link. Don't think that this is a cure for poverty. The algorithm sometimes makes mistakes, in about 20% of cases. Nevertheless, the remaining 80% of transactions bring profits.»

I don't know how long you can use this loophole. I hope you take advantage of it before they close it. By the way, I heard that in a few days there will be a fee to register on the platform, so I recommend creating an account now.»

After this sentence, the broadcast was interrupted again. The investigation into the Question Period program continued. The program editor decided to check out [QuantumAI](#) himself and later wrote a detailed report.

1 in 4 Ontarians could be without a family doctor in 3 years due to 'worsening crisis': survey

A family doctor in the Toronto area says she feels like she is "drowning" with the seemingly insurmountable piles of paperwork she has to complete for her patients.

Family physician and GP anesthetist Dr. Nadia Alam, who has been practicing for about 15 years, made the comment during an interview with CTV News this week.

Her comments came ahead of the release of a new survey from the Ontario College of Family Physicians, which warned that one in four people in the province could be without a family doctor by 2026 due to a "worsening crisis" that has many overburdened medical professions considering leaving the field or scaling back their hours.

"The funding, or the underfunding, of family medicine, the administrative burden, the lack of resources to help me do a proper job taking care of my patients – that is what is beginning to drag me down, and I'm not alone," Alam told CTV News in an interview Tuesday. "Over the past year, I began thinking, 'Maybe family medicine isn't for me anymore.' Not because I don't love the medicine – I actually do – it's all that other stuff."

While Alam still finds joy in spending one-on-one time with her 600 patients during her clinic hours, she said that she feels "dismayed" as soon as they leave – leaving her behind with a mountain of paperwork that she needs to complete on her own.

Toronto police charge 228 people, recover more than 1,000 vehicles worth \$60 million during year-long theft probe

Toronto police have recovered more than 1,000 vehicles worth an estimated \$60 million during a year-long investigation into the thefts of autos and catalytic converters in the city's west end.

Dubbed "Project Stallion," it was launched in on Nov. 7, 2022 and largely focused on neighbourhoods in Etobicoke in 22 and 23 Division. The probe concluded on Sept. 24.

During a Wednesday afternoon news conference at the Toronto Police College in Etobicoke, Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw stood in front of five of the recovered vehicles to announce that police have laid 553 charges against 228 people, including several minors.

Police said vehicles, mostly high-end ones, were stolen from the driveways of homes, from hotel and airport parking lots, and from local attractions, like Woodbine Casino.

Project Stallion was supported by Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario, a partnership between the provincial government and the law enforcement community that aims to identify and tackle organized crime across Ontario.

So far in 2023, Toronto police said they're aware of 9,747 vehicles stolen in the city, including more than 3,500, which were stolen in 22 and 23 Divisions during the joint investigation.

Aside from releasing the probe's final results, Demkiw also assured the public that Toronto Police Service is "continuing to take action against rising auto thefts in our city."

"I want to note that this project represents only one of the strategic and intelligence-led initiatives that service has undertaken to tackle the ongoing problem of auto thefts in our city and across the Greater Toronto Area. We are not only taking action to recover stolen vehicles, but are working collaboratively with our partners to disrupt the networks responsible for auto thefts, which are becoming increasingly violent and high risk," he said.



One of those efforts, he said, is a new a provincial carjacking joint task force, which was announced last week. Demkiw said that this initiative has already resulted in the arrest of 24 people who are facing a total of 116 charges related to carjackings, home invasions, assaults, or other forms of intimidation.

"The level of violence being used in the commission of these crimes represents a new and evolving threat to public safety," he said.

"This level of threat and crime is unacceptable to me as the chief of police. As a service, we are committed to the safety and well being of our residents above all else and we will continue to work in alignment with our law enforcement partners and other external agencies including the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario to address this serious issue."

Police are also implementing various crime prevention efforts in every division, said Supt. Ron Taverner, the district commander of 22 and 23 Division.

Taverner noted that since 2019 the number of auto thefts across Toronto has more than doubled and is a "significant issue" for police, one that they are continuing to tackle.

"These results demonstrate how seriously we're taking this issue, but we recognize that for many people in the city their vehicles may never be recovered and more importantly, their feelings of safety and security have been compromised," he said.

"This can happen as a result of having your car stolen out of your driveway, but even more so if you've been a victim of carjacking or other violence, which can be incredibly traumatic to victims and their loved ones."

Taverner went on to say that curbing auto theft "remains a top priority" for the service and its partner policing agencies. CP24

Where to get free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests in Toronto

Getting your hands on a COVID-19 rapid test is going to be a little more difficult this winter now that the tests are no longer being distributed to Ontario grocery stores and pharmacies.

Earlier this year, the province discontinued its rapid test distribution program to retail stores, leaving many to wonder where they can find a test as cold and flu season approaches.

Here is a look at where rapid tests can be found across Toronto:

Libraries:

The city is distributing rapid antigen tests (RATs) to all Toronto Public Library branches and the tests are free to the public.

Tests are also available downtown at Metro Hall and city hall.

Pharmacies and grocery stores:

While the province is no longer distributing tests to pharmacies and grocery stores, many locations still have tests leftover. These tests are being handed out to the public for free for as long as supplies last.

Contact individual stores to inquire about rapid test availability before venturing out.

Dental and medical clinics:

Select dental clinics across Toronto have rapid tests available, including:

- 80 Bond Street (Dental Clinic)
- Bathurst-Finch Hub (Dental Clinic)
- Black Creek Community Health Centre (Dental Clinic)
- Etobicoke Civic Centre (Dental and Breastfeeding Clinics)
- Fairview Community Health Centre (Dental Clinic)
- The Hub – WestHill Hub (Dental Clinic)
- Crossways Clinic (Sexual Health Clinic)
- The Jane Street Clinic (Sexual Health Clinic)
- L.A.M.P. Community Centre (Dental Clinic)
- Rexdale C.H.C. – Rexdale Community Centre

(Dental Clinic)

- Rexdale Community Health Centre Hub (Dental Clinic)
- Rexdale Community Health Centre (Dental Clinic)
- Scarborough Sexual Health Clinic
- Stonegate Community Health Centre (Dental Clinic)
- TAIBU Community Health Centre (Dental Clinic)
- Unison Health and Community Services (Dental Clinic)
- Unison Health and Community Services – Lawrence Heights Community Centre (Dental Clinic)

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- Cloverdale Mall
- East York Civic Centre
- Etobicoke Civic Centre
- North York Civic Centre

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How 650 new bean varieties could help feed people across Africa

The Pan-African Bean Research Alliance is getting more nutritious beans to markets across Africa. These beans are on sale in Rwanda, which has one of the highest bean consumption rates on the continent. Stephanie Malyon

A resilient crop that packed with fiber and minerals, beans are a vital source of protein for millions of Africans, and a key source of income for farmers. But climate change means this staple is under threat.

Up to 60% of areas that grow beans in sub-Saharan Africa might not be suitable by the end of this century, according to a 2016 study.

In an effort to future-proof and maximize the potential of this essential crop, the Pan-African Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) has facilitated the research, development, and distribution of over 650 new bean varieties across Africa.

In September PABRA was awarded the \$100,000 African Food Prize, for its work to improve food security, and incomes for farmers.

From sugar beans in Zambia, to snap beans in Nigeria, 32 countries across Africa have seen improved and varied beans reach their markets, according to PABRA. It says that not only are these new beans more nutritious, but they are also more resilient, efficient and profitable for farmers. Better beans

In Ethiopia, beans with shorter harvest times have more than doubled productivity, says Jean Claude Rubyogo, director of PABRA, which was founded in 1996.

"It means you can get food before other crops have harvested, you can sell these beans to bring the cash when you don't have any other crops," Rubyogo explains.

PABRA's beans also use less water and are more resilient to increasingly irregular weather patterns. Better able to withstand prolonged dry and wet periods, it means more income for the 37 million farmers who grow them across the continent.

The group research is mostly conducted in Cali, Colombia, and then shared with national programs in Africa, with certain bean types selected and developed based on consumer demand.

It says that 300 million people across the continent eat its beans regularly. These beans have 22-23% protein, so it is a very good source of protein for those who cannot afford other sorts. They provide fiber, carbohydrates, and very little lipid (fat compounds), says Rubyogo. They are also high in iron and zinc, deficiencies in which affect more than two billion people worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

PABRA says that more than five million households across 10 countries have seen a 30% increase in their income as a result of its beans, and that farmers who grow, eat and sell its beans are 6% more likely to be food secure and 6% less likely to be poor. Diversifying crops

Providing a set of resilient, diverse beans is crucial for Africa agricultural development and future, according to Chike Mba, deputy director of plant production and protection at the UN Food and Agricultural Organization.

He says that a fifth of sub-Saharan Africa is malnourished and food insecure, and that to address this, farmers must grow a wider range of crops, including beans.

The higher the diversity of crops you have on a farm, the higher the resilience of that cropping system - it enhances the ability to withstand shock, says Mba.

He notes that the Coronavirus pandemic and war in Ukraine both impacted Africa, with less rice coming from Asia in 2020 and drops in grain imports from Eastern Europe.

If it [Coronavirus] had continued, we would have had hunger and starvation on a massive scale. There is a need for African countries to diversify, to enhance their own ability to produce food, he says.

Government policy needs to be supportive for research and for partnerships within the region and globally, adds Mba. It needs to be supportive for farmers to access technologies and finance.

PABRA says that governments are heavily involved in its work. Rubyogo explains that while his organization facilitates connections between developers and consumers, the national programs themselves are run by a research institutions set up by governments.

The motivation is there for states to introduce improved beans to their markets, Rubyogo adds. They need to improve nutrition - they need to empower women economically, they need to develop their economy.

Looking ahead, PABRA is researching how to reduce the cooking time of beans by up to 30%. Boiling beans can take between two to three hours. This takes up time and energy, says Rubyogo. He estimates that if the research is successful it could save consumers \$1.5 billion a year.

But Rubyogo notes that adapting increasingly extreme weather patterns is crucial. Climate change remains a key issue so we need to invest into deep, deep research, he says. We really see a change when these products are in the hands of the vulnerable. CNN



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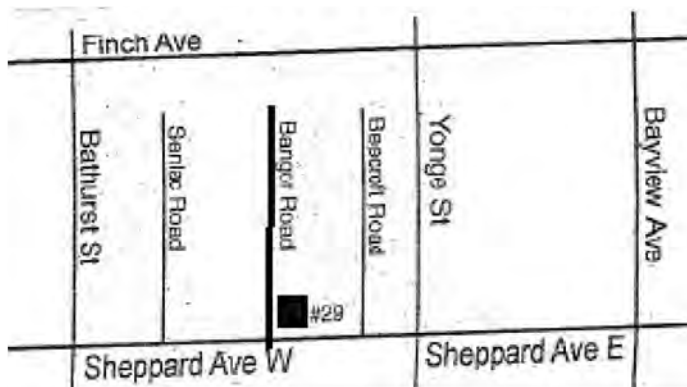
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Where to get free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests in Toronto

cont'd from pg. 41

- 410 Progress Avenue, Unit D3 (near Scarborough Town Centre)
- Scarborough Civic Centre

The city has said more locations will be added to the list soon.

SELF-ISOLATE IF POSITIVE:

The province says if you test positive for COVID-19, you should stay home and self-isolate until symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours, you do not have a fever, and you have not developed additional symptoms.

For those who test positive on a rapid antigen test, you do not need a PCR or rapid molecular test to confirm your result “unless directed by a health care provider,” the province says.

PCR tests are reserved for a select group of people who are at increased risk of severe infection.

ALL TORONTONIANS ELIGIBLE TO BOOK UPDATED COVID-19 SHOT ON WEDNESDAY

All Torontonians will be eligible to receive their updated COVID-19 vaccine an annual flu shot at the same time at fixed-site vaccination clinics, pharmacies, or with a primary health care provider starting on Oct. 31 and appointments can be booked for all groups starting on Wednesday.

Toronto Public Health’s fixed vaccination clinics can be found at Cloverdale Mall, located at 250 The East Mall, Metro Hall on Wellington Street, near John Street, in the city’s downtown core, the North York Civic Centre at 5100 Yonge Street, and 410 Progress Avenue, near the Scarborough Town Centre. **Cp24**

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‘An embarrassment to the health-care system’: Nurses reveal issues they see on the job

New data shows that errors are growing in Canadian hospitals, as one in 17 hospitalizations from March 2022 to March 2023 involved a patient experiencing harm, according to a new report from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

That is an estimated 145,000 Canadians who went in for treatment and may have ended up with an infection, pneumonia, medication error or bedsore.

“This is the third year in a row that we have seen an increase in the wrong direction,” Kate Parson of the CIHI told CTV News.

“The numbers may be surprising to some folks. But ultimately, we want to get this information out there in order to drive change.”

Compared to the previous year, the report says there was a 20 per cent increase in hospital-acquired urinary tract infections, and a 25 per cent increase in aspiration pneumonia, where patients inhale fluids or food leading to lung problems. In addition, the report found a 50 per cent increase in pressure ulcers or bedsores, a rise that may also be linked in part to better data keeping.

The report for the first time provided data showing that hospitals relied heavily on overtime and agency staff to provide patient care, with the measured harms linked closely to staffing levels.

There was a 17 per cent increase in sick time from nurses that removed the equivalent of 6,500 nurses from the health-care system, and approximately 14 million hours of overtime clocked by nurses in 2022-23 --- a 50 per cent increase over the data from 2021-22.

Much of it is forced overtime, says Deb Lefebvre, a registered nurse in Kingston, Ont.

“We don’t have enough nurses and we are unable to leave our patients without adequate oversight,” Lefebvre, who is also a board member of the Registered Nurses of Ontario, told CTV News. “According to our legislation, it would be known as abandonment if we were to leave our patient, so yes, we are trapped.”

It’s led to an exodus of nurses, those in the industry say, citing exhaustion and high levels of burnout. Those who remain are stretched, and some admit it is putting patient care at risk.

“We’re so understaffed and the pace is so fast,” said Miryam, a nurse working in an Ontario hospital, in an interview with CTV News.

Miryam is a pseudonym. She asked not to be identified, saying she feared losing her job. She said she spoke out because she wanted Canadians to know there aren’t enough nurses to care for all the patients properly, and that she is seeing the harms reported in the CIHI report grow.

Bedsores develop when a blood supply is cut off from the skin due to prolonged pressure. They typically develop in older and less mobile patients when nurses don’t have the time to monitor their skin or turn patients to prevent pressure injuries. In the past year, Miryam has seen two of her own patients die, and says pressure injuries were a likely factor in these deaths.

“The interventions need to be swift and they need to be aggressive. But there’s no time for that because every service is strapped,” she adds. “My mental health has taken a nosedive ... I take it very seriously but this is my role. And when we don’t provide the best care ... I grieve the loss of opportunity.”

Complaints to managers, she said, are usually dismissed.

“I’ve even been told to, like, ‘walk away’ and to not let it bother me and things like that...because I think it’s not in their wheelhouse of concern, I guess,” said Miryam.

Although she contemplates resigning, she says, she instead works longer hours of unpaid overtime to help vulnerable patients.

“I kind of feel like in my job, I’m not allowed to get mad, so I just end up feeling sad,” Miryam said.

When told this story, Linda Silas, president of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, bristled.

“She’s seeing the bedsore grow and grow and grow because of a lack of proper nursing care, and that’s an embarrassment to the health-care system,” said Silas.

USE OF AGENCY NURSES UP 80 PER CENT

The CIHI report also found that there was an 80 per cent increase in the hours billed by private or agency nurses and health workers working in hospitals in 2022-23, compared to the previous year.

While the numbers made up a small part of the total volume, about one per cent, paid hours grew from 850,000 in 2020-21 to 1.5 million hours in 2021-22

But the growing presence of agency nurses didn’t lower the rates of harm to pre-pandemic levels.

Nurses have told CTV News that there is often little teamwork when they are on duty, as well as a mismatch between their skills and the demands of the hospital job. One study published in the journal BMJ Quality and Safety reported that nurses who are called up from agencies “are not effective substitutes for RNs who regularly work on the ward.”

“These agency nurses are literally flown in and flown out. (It’s) breaking this continuing duty of care. This means patients are missing important nursing care,” said Silas.

It boils down to safety, Silas said, adding that patients are as important as passengers on aircraft.

“Pilots will have limits on how many hours they can do but there are no limits on hours nurses can do and mistakes, omissions and patient errors happen,” she said.

SOLUTIONS

The CIHI report says the key to reducing harm to patients is keeping staff nurses at work.

That includes offering flexible working hours and filling more staff positions to ensure there are enough nurses familiar with the hospital systems with the time to treat a set number of patients.

In the U.S., some states have begun to pass legislation to ensure there must be a minimum number of registered nurses on duty for various patient loads, called the RN-to-patient ratio.

California, for example, has had mandated RN-to-patient ratios since 2011. Data showed there were lower rates of hospital-acquired infections and lower rates of patient readmission after discharge because of problems, along with improved satisfaction among families.


Advocates say the costs of increasing and retaining hospital staff will be offset by reduced harms and the longer hospital stays those harms cause.

“It’s very important that Canadians pay attention to this data,” said Lefebvre. “If we do not make the investment in our health-care system, if we do not ensure that there are adequate nurse professionals at the bedside, these numbers will only worsen.”

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Biden's Middle East trip has messages for both global and domestic audiences

U.S. President Joe Biden's decision to travel to an active war zone and the scene of an unfolding humanitarian crisis spoke volumes, even before his arrival.

The White House has stated that Biden's purpose is to "demonstrate his steadfast support for Israel" after Hamas' "brutal terrorist attack" on Oct. 7, 2023. But Israel wasn't meant to be his only stop.

The president was also scheduled to travel to Amman, Jordan, to meet with Jordanian King Abdullah II, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. However, the meeting was canceled with Biden already en route to Israel.

The trip is a bold but risky move, a carefully orchestrated display of Biden's belief that the United States should take an active leadership role in global affairs. It is a strategy Biden has used before, most notably in his February 2023 surprise visit to Ukraine.

As a scholar of U.S. presidential rhetoric and political communication, I have spent the past decade studying how chief executives use their international travels to reach audiences at home and abroad. I see clear parallels between Biden's trip and similar actions by other presidents to extend American influence on the world stage.

Roosevelt sits in the cab of a large steam shovel

President Theodore Roosevelt, center, is seated on a steam shovel in the Panama Canal Zone during the first trip abroad by a U.S. chief executive, in November 1906. New York Times photo archive/Wikimedia

A paramount duty

Prior to 1906, no U.S. president had ever traveled abroad while in office. A long-standing tradition held that the U.S. had left the trappings of monarchy behind, and that it was much more appropriate for chief executives to travel domestically, where Americans lived and worked.

President Theodore Roosevelt, who had an expansive view of presidential power, bemoaned what he called this "ironclad custom" and ultimately bucked it. In November 1906, Roosevelt visited the Panama Canal Zone and posed at the controls of a giant steam shovel to shore up public support for constructing the canal. Beyond pushing this megaproject forward, the trip enabled Roosevelt to see and be seen on the international stage.

Other presidents followed suit as the U.S. began to take a more active role in global affairs. Just before Woodrow Wilson departed for the 1919 Paris Peace Conference at Versailles, where world leaders convened to set the terms for peace after World War I, he stated in his annual message to Congress that it was his "paramount duty to go" and participate in negotiations that were of "transcendent importance both to us and to the rest of the world."

During World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt embraced this idea of bearing a moral responsibility to speak to, and for, both U.S. citizens and a global audience. Images of FDR seated between British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin at Tehran and Yalta symbolized global leadership – a robust vision that endured after the U.S. president's untimely death.

Three world leaders seated side on the porch of a building

Soviet leader Josef Stalin, U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill on the portico of the Russian Embassy in Tehran, Iran, during their conference, Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 1943. Library of Congress

Embodying US foreign policy

Going global quickly became a deliberate rhetorical strategy during the Cold War, as presidents from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan used trips abroad to symbolize American commitment to important places and regions. By choosing to visit certain destinations, presidents made clear that these places were important to the U.S.

This is exactly what Biden no doubt hopes to accomplish through his visit to Israel. When he

condemned the Hamas attack on Israel as "an act of sheer evil," he also declared: "We stand with Israel." Traveling to an active war zone embodies this pledge far more clearly than words alone.

And this is how Israelis have interpreted the visit. Tzachi Hanegbi, the leader of Israel's National Security Council, described the visit as "a bear hug, a large rapid bear hug to the Israelis in the south, to all Israelis, and to every Jew."

Addressing both sides

But Biden must also acknowledge the very real plight of Palestinians who are trapped in dire conditions in Gaza as Israel prepares for a ground invasion. This is no doubt the reason his team sought a face-to-face meeting with Abbas.

I expect that Biden will demonstrate U.S. support for Israel while also drawing a clear distinction between Hamas and the Palestinian people. And Biden will likely draw on his friendship of many years with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to urge moderation in Israel's military response.

President Joe Biden's trip will embody U.S. commitment to Israel while giving the president an opportunity to moderate its actions.

The home audience

Biden's trip also has important meaning for U.S. electoral politics. A former chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Biden has long maintained that the U.S. must take an active role in the world. In the 2020 presidential campaign, he argued that Donald Trump's policy of "America First" had left "America alone" by undercutting relationships with critical U.S. allies.

For Jewish voters, the president's visit offers tangible evidence of an enduring U.S. commitment to Israel, especially after some far-left Democratic lawmakers refused to criticize the Hamas attack. And Biden's willingness to condemn Hamas as a "terrorist organization" may also speak to Republican voters, who are much more likely to back Israel.

Defining an appropriate role for the U.S. in world affairs is certain to be an important issue in the 2024 presidential election, especially with active conflicts in Ukraine and now in the Middle East. Biden has consistently called for U.S. engagement abroad – not only in words, but by showing up in places like Kiev and Tel Aviv.

Author: Allison M. Prasch Associate Professor of Rhetoric, Politics and Culture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1 in 4 Ontarians could be without a family doctor in 3 years due to 'worsening crisis': survey

cont'd from pg. 40

"It's tearing me apart. I had thought of myself as a family doc, through and through, as one who would practice right up until retirement," Alam said, teary-eyed. "To leave family medicine because of paperwork and because of a lack of resources, feels very much like I'm abandoning my patients ... (My patients) bring my so much joy, and even through the heartache, I love being their doctor." The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) revealed in its survey that the province could see a mass exodus of family doctors leaving their clinics – or reducing their hours – with about 65 per cent planning to do so within in the next five years. In the survey, 94 per cent of family physicians said they "overwhelmed" by the administrative work as it can take up to 40 per cent of their time each week.

It is a finding that doesn't come as a big surprise to doctors like Alam, who woke up a few hours earlier on Tuesday to try to catch up on some of her administrative responsibilities.

"I'm so behind, I know things are slipping through the cracks, and that's actually really hard for me to admit. I got up, started working, it took me half-an-hour to do one form. I clicked on a result, had to deal with it right away, had to fill out form, after form, to – not just to figure out what I need to do with the patient – but what's happened to the patient," Alam said, adding she was filling out these forms to get one of her patient's disability insurance that would permit her return to work.

"How ridiculous is that? She wants to go back to work. She's ready to go back to work, but I have to fill out a fairly extensive form saying that she is ready to go back to work – a fact that both she and I and her supervisor, as well as the insurance company, already knows."

ONE IN FOUR ONTARIANS COULD BE WITHOUT A DOCTOR BY 2026

On Wednesday, the OCFP said the Doug Ford government needs to urgently act as it forecasts one in every four Ontarians will be without a family doctor in just three years. This means about 4.4 million Ontarians could be without a family physician by then.

The college says this new data reflects a "worsening crisis" in the province, as in 2022 it forecasted one in five Ontarians would be without a family doctor by 2026.

Data, collected by INSPIRE-Primary Health Care earlier this year, found more than 2.2 million Ontarians are already without a family physician. In Toronto alone, 415,000 people – or just over 14 per cent of the city's population – are lacking continued care from a family doctor.

Alam is part of the Ontario Union of Family Physicians (OUFP), a group of more than 1,000 family doctors calling on the province to stop defunding their practice so patients can receive proper care.

In September, they penned a petition pleading with the province to provide fair compensation and implement measures to attract graduates toward primary care practice. The petition has over 22,700 signatures at the time of this article's publication.

"Family medicine is a business model that is failing, and it's not just because of underfunding," Alam said, quoting Dr. Ramsey Hijazi who is an organizer of OUFP. "He said, 'We actually have enough family doctors graduating in Ontario,' and we do, statistics show that we are graduating more family physicians than ever before. The problem is, they're not choosing to work in family medicine."

The Ontario College of Family Physicians on Wednesday called on the provincial government to address the issue, including introducing simple measures so family doctors can instead spend the 19 hours a week spent on administrative tasks to care for their patients.

"It's such a waste of my time, and it's such a waste of time for all family physicians," Alam said.

The toll of the excess administrative responsibilities has Alam feeling she cannot continue with her practice for much longer.

"A lot of family doctors have left family medicine without being able to find anyone to take over and their patients struggle for care. Again, feels like a betrayal, feels very much like I'm abandoning them even though I feel like I'm drowning all the time," Alam said.

"I've got maybe three months left in me, maybe. I'm hoping if I can get a locum to keep going, it's got to get better. It cannot get any worse than this."

How the ‘laws of war’ apply to the conflict between Israel and Hamas

The killing of Israeli civilians by Hamas and retaliatory airstrikes on the densely populated Gaza Strip by Israel raises numerous issues under international law.

Indeed, President Joe Biden made express reference to the “laws of war” in comments he made at the White House on Oct. 10, 2023, noting that while democracies like the U.S. and Israel uphold such standards, “terrorists” such as Hamas “purposefully target civilians.” Speaking the same day, the European Union’s top diplomat Josep Borrell condemned Hamas’ attack but also suggested that Israel was not acting in accordance with international law by cutting water, electricity and food to civilians in Gaza.

But international law and the very nature of the conflict itself – along with the status of the two sides involved – is a complex area. The Conversation turned to Robert Goldman, an expert on the laws of war at American University Washington College of Law, for guidance on some of the issues.

What are the ‘laws of war’?

The laws of war, also known as International Humanitarian Law (IHL), consist of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, their two Additional Protocols of 1977, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, as well as certain weapons conventions.

Simply put, these instruments seek to spare civilians and others who are no longer active combatants from the effects of hostilities by placing restrictions and prohibitions on the conduct of warfare.

It is important to understand that modern IHL is not concerned with the reasons for, or the legality of, going to war. Rather, that is governed by the United Nations Charter and a member state’s own practice.

It is also important to note that violations of the laws of war are notoriously hard to prosecute and can be frustrated by lack of cooperation by the parties involved.

What is the nature of the conflict between Israel and Hamas?

The answer to this question is by no means clear.

Many humanitarian law experts would argue that Hamas and Israel are engaged in what is known as a “non-international armed conflict.” In other words, it would be classified the same way as a civil war that pits the armed forces of a state against an armed non-state actor, rather than an international conflict between two or more sovereign states.

If that were the case, the conflict would not be governed by the entirety of the laws of war, but instead by the more limited Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions along with numerous customary law rules, which derive from general practices accepted as law. Common Article 3, which applies to civilians and those no longer fighting, prohibits practices such as torture, summary execution and denial of a fair trial. But Prisoner of War status only applies to conflicts between states so would not apply.

But some international observers, including the United Nations, view Israel as, in effect, occupying Gaza – a view predicated on the fact that Israel controls Gaza’s borders and airspace and it supplies most of its electricity.

If that is the case, then the recent outbreak of hostilities between Hamas and Israel would trigger the entirety of laws of war.

That said, I do not believe that Israel is an occupying power in Gaza under a strict reading of the law. This is because Israel ceased governing and pulled its forces out of Gaza in 2005. Since 2007, Hamas, after expelling the Palestinian Authority, has in effect governed Gaza.

Is the bombing of Gaza illegal under international law?

Today the rules governing the conduct of hostilities in both international and non-international armed conflicts are essentially the same.

The foremost requirement in all conflicts is that combatants must always distinguish between civilians and combatants, and that attacks can only be directed at combatants and other military targets.

A plume of smoke rises above the building of a city.

Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on Gaza on Oct. 14, 2023. Abed Rahim Khatib/Anadolu via Getty Images

Protecting civilian populations caught in warfare essentially depends upon three factors:

Civilians must abstain from fighting;

The party in control of the civilian population must not place them at heightened risk of harm by using them as human shields; and

The attacking force must take precautions to avoid or minimize excessive civilian casualties when attacking lawful targets.

Not only are civilians in Gaza not lawful targets, they are also protected under IHL by the rule of proportionality. This rule prohibits an attack against a military target which foreseeably could cause civilian casualties that are excessive, or disproportionate in relation to the advantage anticipated from the target’s destruction.

In the case of Gaza, this rule requires that before launching an attack, the Israeli military analyze and determine the likely effect on civilians. If it appears that such an attack will cause disproportionate civilian casualties, then it must be suspended or canceled.

Given Gaza’s urban density, it will be extremely difficult for the Israelis to avoid substantial civilian casualties even when using precision weapons.

And this task will be nearly impossible if Hamas, as it has consistently done in the past, uses civilians and now hostages to shield military targets.

While Israel bears primary responsibility to avoid excessive civilian deaths in its bombardment of Gaza, Hamas’ ability to claim the bombardment constitutes a war crime would be weakened if it deliberately places its own people in harm’s way.

And while Israel is complying with its duty to give an advanced warning of an attack in north Gaza, the problem remains: Where do 1 million people go to seek safety when borders are closed and military targets are being hit throughout Gaza?

Is Israel’s siege of Gaza illegal?

Unlike in the past, total siege warfare now is unlawful regardless of whether the warring parties are involved in international or non-international hostilities.

Blocking the entry of all food, water, medicines and cutting off electricity – as appears to be happening

in Gaza – will disproportionately affect civilians, foreseeably leading to their starvation. This is a banned method of warfare under customary and conventional IHL.

No matter how horrific the actions of Hamas, IHL does not permit an aggrieved party to respond in kind. Violation of the law by one party cannot, in principle, justify or sanction actions by the other that violate established prohibitions in international humanitarian law.

What are the status and obligations of Hamas under IHL?

IHL rules apply equally to all the warring parties irrespective of the nature of the conflict. This means that Israeli and Hamas combatants have the same rights and duties.

If, however, the conflict is non-international, then Hamas will be regarded as an armed non-state actor and its combatants ineligible for Prisoner of War status upon capture. Accordingly, Israel can try them for all their hostile acts whether or not Hamas complies with the laws of war.

Masked men in black hold aloft rifles.

Masked militants from the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, a military wing of Hamas. AP Photo/Adel Hana

But even if the conflict is an international one, then Hamas’s fighters would still be debarred from Prisoner of War status. They are not the armed forces of Palestine – which is recognized as a state by 138 nations and has the Palestine Authority as its government.

Rather, Hamas combatants are an irregular armed group. To be eligible for Prisoner of War status under Article 4A(2) of the Third Geneva Convention, members of an irregular armed group must adhere to very strict standards, both collectively and individually. These includes distinguishing themselves from civilians and complying with the laws of war. Manifestly Hamas has not and does not meet these standards. As such, Israel could lawfully deny them Prisoner of War status upon capture.

Israel, the U.S. and others label Hamas fighters as terrorists. Hamas’ recent acts – indiscriminately firing thousands of rockets into Israel, targeting, killing and taking civilians as hostages – are acts of terrorism in warfare and qualify as war crimes.

The Conversation Canada

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Toronto's Christ Redeemed Church sees Pastor Eric Maxwell Amoah Ascend to Bishop

By Ebenezer Amankwah, Toronto, ON

The Christ Redeemed Church in Toronto has witnessed the ordination of its resident minister, Pastor Eric Maxwell Amoah, as a Bishop.

The ordination and consecration ceremony took place on the church grounds, presided over by Arch-Bishop Vandyke Kofi Noah of the Miracle Redemption Christian Center International, USA.

Arch-Bishop Vandyke emphasized in his sermon that human efforts are futile without God's power. With this elevation, the newly ordained Bishop Amoah, now possessing greater power, is encouraged to aspire to make a significant impact.

He further advised Bishop Amoah not to be satisfied with winning a certain number of souls for the Lord but to strive for more each day, as soul-winning is an endless endeavour.

Bishop Eric Maxwell Amoah, a native of Kumasi, Ghana, is married to Mrs. Felicia Amoah. Mrs. Amoah also received her ordination as a pastor during the same ceremony.



Bishop Eric Amoah receiving blessing from the Bishops



Arch-Bishop Vandyke Kofi Noah of the Miracle Redemption Christian Center International, USA.



Bishop Eric Amoah



New Bishop Eric Amoah receiving advice



Arch-Bishop Vandyke Kofi Noah (right) introducing Bishop Eric Amoah the new Bishop



Mrs. Amoah displaying certificate



Church Choir



Cross section of congregation



Clergy and congregation



Cross section of congregation



Some of the invited guests and Clergies

Safe Haven Cancer Support Society initiate Breast Cancer Awareness with its Annual 5K Walk



Group picture of Team Canada at Pickering City Hall after the Walk



Ghana Team for the Walk



Participants

Joint Retirement service for Elder Akuamoah Boateng & Elder Kwasi Arhin

By Emmanuel Ayiku, Toronto, ON

A special joint retirement service was held on Sunday October 15th 2023 at the Church of Pentecost, McKeown Worship Center, North York. The retirement service was for Elder Akuamoah Boateng who is also the church choir

master for his service to the church since 1995. The second person honored was Deacon Kwasi Arhin, a base guitarist of the music ministry also for his long service to the church. Friends, family members and the church were on hand to support them as they wished them happy retirement.



FOOD AND RECIPES

Traditional African Dishes

Compiled by Nana Ama, Toronto, ON

KOOSE

Ingredients

- 3 cups beans
- 1 onion
- 3 tattase
- 2 tarugu
- 1 pepper
- Pinch salt
- 1 satchet of green onga
- 3 cups oil



Cooking Instructions

1. In a bowl wash your beans and remove the bag
2. Allow to soak for 20 minutes
3. Add in the onions tattase and tarugu
4. Grind in to smooth past
5. Beat and add the small pinch of salt Ghana pepper powder
6. Deep fry in moderate hot oil

Serve and enjoy



SHITTO

INGREDIENTS

- 2 liters of oil of vegetable frying
- 3 large yellow or white onions sliced (1.5 kg)
- 5 large ginger pieces sliced (210 grams)
- 1 ½ heads of garlic about 12 garlic cloves, 85 gram
- 8 scotch bonnet or habanero peppers 70 grams
- 115 grams of dry shrimps
- 1 bags of dry mickerel
- 200 grams tomato paste
- 3-4 bouillon cube
- 1 teaspoons anise
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 4-6 tablespoons cayenne
- 3 bay leaves
- 4 teaspoons allspice
- 2 tablespoons rosemary ground



INSTRUCTIONS

Make Dried Mackerel and Shrimp

Place dried mackerel and shrimp in blender and blend into a powder. Set aside. You should have about 115 grams of dried shrimp.

Prep Your Shito Ingredients

In a very large pot add your quart of oil.

Blend Aromatics: Blend your onion, garlic, ginger, scotch bonnet together until very smooth. You can add oil into your blender to help you blend all these ingredients together but remember, you are adding oil just to assist you with blending, you still want the general blended mixture ot be thick.

Deep Fry Shrimp: In a pot with oil, deep fry 1 bag of peeled raw shrimp until it is dark brown and overcooked. make sure to watch so it does not burn but you want your shrimp to turn brown which may take sometime.

Blend your fried shrimp and dried mackerel together, adding oil to the blender to help you get a thick paste. Try and get the paste as smooth and you can but it may not be perfectly smooth.

Add your tomato to a pot of oil. Use the same oil you deep fried your shrimp in. Fry tomato paste until it is fully mixed into oil, stirring constantly.

Add your onion, ginger, garlic and scotch bonnet blended mixture to the oil. Stir periodically until it is all combined. Simmer on low stirring every 10 minutes for about and hour and a half until the mixture drakers and reduces in volume.

Add your mackerel + fried shrimp pasted. Stir to combine.

Add your shrimp powder. Stir to combine.

Simmer for an additional hour stirring every 10 minutes so it does not burn. Your mixture will turn very dark after an hour or simmering.

Add all your seasoning after the hour. Bouillon cube, hot chili powder, paprika, rosemary, anise and allspice. Note: you can just add salt instead of bouillon cube if you do not want to use those.

Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary.

At this point your shito should be very dark in colour with lots of oil on top, and well seasoned. If your shito is very light in color, cook on low stirring often until it is a deep dark brown almost black in color. Make sure you keep stirring so it does not burn but cooks slowly.

Once your shito is done, allow it to cool completely and store in a glass jar. There should be alot of oil in your shito and this is to preserve the shito. Top each jar with a good amount of oil. Let the shito cool before closing the jar.

Once you open the jar and use any of the shito, store in fridge.

Remember to always use a clean dry uncontaminated spoon when using your shito.



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Church Service: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Jericho Hour Prayer Meeting - 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday Mid-day Prayer - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Friday: Bible Teaching/Prayer Meeting 8:00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Saturday Organizational Meeting: 6.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
Sunday Brampton Prayer Meeting 8:00 p.m.

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778-237-7339

Redemption Methodist Church

Location: 955 Wilson Ave., Unit 12, North York, ON

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Online Bible Study: Thursday 7 pm - 8:30 pm, Prayer Meeting Friday 7:30 pm - 9 pm
Divine Service, Sundays 10 am - 12:30 pm
Contacts: Agnes Donkor - 647-881-4808, Felicia Owusu - 647-533-1093, Grace Kubi - 647-608-5373

Ottawa Methodist

613-315-3443

Peniel Methodist Church Vancouver

#2322 1248 82 Ave.
Surrey, BC, V3W 3E9

Sister Comfort T. Owusu
647-895-7131

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9 am to 10:30

Holy Trinity Methodist Church, Montreal

Place of Worship: 455 Church Street - Beaconsfield Qc H9W 3S6

Day and Time of Worship

Sunday Divine Service: 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday Prayer Meetings: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Contact: Bro. Joselin Twumasi 438-881-6640

Ebenezer Methodist Church

Stoney Creek United Church (Chapel)
1 King Street West, Stoney Creek,
Hamilton

Contact: Bro. Kofi Bonsu 289-684-6074

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FOOD FOR LIFE

Bringing the Gospel to our Community *By Rev. Isaac De-Graft Takyi*

THE CHRISTIAN IN 2023: GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING: OH, GIVE THANKS

“I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual.”
– Henry David Thoreau

“What if, today, we were grateful for everything?” – Charlie Brown

“Be present in all things and thankful for all things.” – Maya Angelou



THE PALMIST DECLARES:

¹ Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! ² Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. ³ Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his.^[a] We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.⁵ For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation. Psalm 100:1-5 (NLT)

Thanksgiving Day in Canada offers citizens, particularly believers the opportunity to express our gratitude to the Almighty for His abundant blessings. Thanksgiving is a time to pause, reflect, and offer our thanks for all the goodness and grace that fills our lives. As we delve into the Word of God today, we find inspiration in the Psalms, particularly Psalm 100, which beautifully encapsulates the spirit of Thanksgiving.

THE PSALMIST GIVES THE FOLLOWING INSIGHTS:

I. Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving (Psalm 100:4) Let's turn our attention to Psalm 100, a psalm of thanksgiving and praise. It begins with a powerful reminder: “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

A. Gratitude as an Entryway

Thanksgiving is not just an emotion; it's an entryway into the presence of God.

As we come before God in thankfulness, we acknowledge His sovereignty and provision.

Gratitude softens our hearts and opens the door to a deeper relationship with the Creator.

B. Acknowledging His Goodness

God is worthy of our thanks because of His goodness.

We are invited to enter His presence with a heart full of gratitude, recognizing His countless blessings in our lives.

II. Know that the Lord is God (Psalm 100:3) The next verse of Psalm 100 says, “Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”

A. Acknowledging God's Sovereignty

Thanksgiving reminds us of our rightful place as God's creation.

Recognizing His lordship over our lives brings humility and gratitude.

B. Being His People

We are not just random beings; we are His people.

Our identity is rooted in our relationship with God, and Thanksgiving helps us remember that.

III. His Steadfast Love Endures Forever (Psalm 100:5) The concluding verse of Psalm 100 reads, “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

A. Thanksgiving in Light of God's Character

Thanksgiving is not just about what God does but who He is.

His goodness, love, and faithfulness endure eternally.

B. Passing on Thanksgiving.

As we gather in thanksgiving, let us remember that this tradition is to be passed down through generations.

We are to teach our children and grandchildren the importance of gratitude.

CONCLUSION:

Dear friends, as we celebrate Thanksgiving as a lifestyle, may we remember Psalm 100 as a guide for our hearts. Let us enter His gates with thanksgiving, know that the Lord is God, and rest in the assurance that his steadfast love endures forever. Let us not only give thanks for our material blessings but also for the spiritual riches we possess through Christ. May

our hearts overflow with gratitude, and may our lives be a living testimony to the goodness, love, and faithfulness of our Heavenly Father. Let us go forth from this place, not only with full stomachs but with hearts full of thanksgiving, ready to share God's love and grace with all those we encounter. Enjoy the poem:

ON THANKSGIVING

In autumn's gentle, golden glow, We gather close, our hearts aflow, To celebrate the gifts we've known, In gratitude, our love is shown.

What is this day we hold so dear? A time to cherish, year by year, For blessings vast, both great and small, We count them one, we count them all.

Who gathers 'round the table's grace? Families, friends, in warm embrace, A tapestry of love and care, Together, thankful hearts we share.

When does this cherished day arrive? In early October, we contrive, To pause amid our busy lives, And offer thanks as fall arrives.

Why do we celebrate this way? To ponder blessings day by day, To cultivate a thankful heart, And from our gratitude, ne'er depart.

How shall we offer thanks, you ask? With open hearts, an easy task, We bow our heads, we share our feast, In joy and love, our thanks increased.

So, on this day of thanks, we see, The beauty of humility, For in our gratitude, we find, A bond of love that's unconfined. In what, who, when, why, and how we see, the essence of Thanksgiving's plea, To treasure blessings, great and small, And with grateful hearts, to cherish all.

The Lord Bless you as you live a life of gratitude.

LIVINGWORDAG.TO

REV. ISAAC DE-GRAFT TAKYI
LEAD PASTOR

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The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Amen.
John 10 :10-11

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THE GHANAIAN NEWS
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Assemblies of God Ghana to host 2026 World Congress Fellowship

The Ghana chapter of the Assemblies of God Church has been selected to host the 2026 World Congress of World Assemblies of God Fellowship in Accra, the General Superintendent of the Church, Rev Stephen Wengam has announced.



Rev Stephen Wengam

According to him, “the baton for organizing the conference was handed over to Ghana at the just ended Congress held in Madrid, Spain.”

“We have great news for the people of Ghana. And the news is that Assemblies of God, Ghana has been chosen to host the World Congress of Assemblies of God Fellowship in Ghana in 2026,” he said at a press conference on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

The World Congress to be held in Accra will be the first in Africa.

The historic event, Rev Wengam said would make Ghana the spotlight of global attention which would not only

enhance our international profile but also contribute significantly to the country’s tourism drive and economic uplift,

He added that the event would boost the economy owing to the thousands of foreign nationals who will attend and spend hard currencies here, saying, “As for the spiritual dividends, they are simply immeasurable.”

The Assemblies of God Church World Fellowship is made up of 85 million members across the globe, made up

of 53 adherents and 32 associates.

But Rev Wengam said the Madrid Congress admitted new members to its fold which includes United Denomination of Lighthouse Churches, headed by Bishop Dag Heward-Mills of Ghana.

He said the Church at its Congress in Spain, also adopted MM33, an initiative to plant 1 million churches by 2033.

The Madrid Congress, he noted attracted more than 5,000 participants from 170 countries under the theme: SHINE, Called to Influence, Impacting Positively with the Word of God.

In addition to that, new Officials were also elected to steer the affairs of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship.

The new officers were Rev. Dominic Yeo, General Superintendent of the Singapore Assemblies of God, who was elected President of the

World Fellowship, with Rev. Doug Clay, General Superintendent of the US Assemblies of God, who was elected Vice President.

While expressing his eternal gratitude to God for the incredible honour and favour lavished on the Church in Ghana in particular and the nation as a whole, Rev Wengam urged both the government and religious organizations to provide the necessary support as Ghana prepares to welcome the world to Accra.

“We humbly appeal for optimal support of all relevant state agencies, the Christian community, the general public and the mass media to make the World Congress of Assemblies of God World Fellowship in Ghana a huge success,” he said.

The Assemblies of God, Ghana, under the leadership of Rev. Stephen Wengam, stands as a beacon of hope and support during this trying time.

African Centre for Mission Mobilization & Research signs MoU with Centre for Study of Early African Christianity

The purpose of the MoU is to facilitate the provision of comprehensive education and training

The African Centre for Mission Mobilization & Research (ACMMR) and the Centre for the Study of Early African Christianity (CESEAC), a part of the Akrofi-Christaller Institute for Theology, Mission & Culture (ACI), are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on supporting and promoting their respective objectives.

With Africa being home to the largest number of Christians in the world today, ACMMR aims to mobilize the continent for the mission of God in a knowledge-based manner. On the other hand, ACI, recognizing the shift in the center of gravity of Christianity towards the continent, seeks to develop academic programs and research opportunities focused on African Christianity and its contribution to the world.

The Interim Director for ACMMR, Dr. Yaw Perbi, who is also a Lausanne Movement catalyst, stated that the objective of the MoU is to foster a synergistic partnership between ACMMR and ACI’s CESEAC to achieve the following goals: Provide a reputable and sustainable platform for total mission mobilization through various media channels; facilitate credible academic research and dissemination on missions in Africa; develop evidence-based tools and resources tailored to the African context.

“The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate the provision of comprehensive

education, training, and development opportunities in Africa. Additionally, it aims to establish strategic partnerships with other institutions on the continent and globally, to further enhance the direction and impact of our work,” he remarked.

Again, it aims to offer cutting-edge training and development opportunities for both general missional living and specialized missionary careers; provide accredited missional education, training, and development for the African church; and establish a base for furlough, contemplation, and solitude for returning missionaries.

Dr. Perbi further explained that under the MoU, CESEAC will provide logistical and technical assistance to support ACMMR’s activities in missions research and mobilization. This includes hosting ACMMR’s physical office space in Ghana and utilizing ACI’s library, archives, residential, and other facilities as a furlough base for missionaries.

ACMMR commits to raising funds to cover operational costs with the support of CESEAC. Both ACMMR and CESEAC will actively promote each other’s work on their respective platforms and within their spheres of influence.

The MoU, co-signed at the Akropong campus of ACI following an inaugural colloquium on ‘Mission Research and Scholarship in Africa Today: Prospects for Academics and Practitioners’, is now operational and will initially be in effect for two years.



Rev. Prof. B.Y. Quarshie (Rector of ACI) and Dr. Rudolf K. Gaisie (Director of CESEAC) signed on behalf of ACI/CESEAC while Rev. Dr. Solomon Aryeetey (Board Chair of ACMMR) and Dr. Yaw Perbi (Interim Director of ACMMR) did so on behalf of ACMMR. Regular coordination meetings between ACMMR and CESEAC staff will ensure effective implementation of activities. Addenda to the MOU will outline specific technical, operational and financial activities, including roles and responsibilities.

Sharing their thoughts on the development, a number of academics and missionaries present, in-person and online, commended the two institutions for the partnership, which they believe will highlight and enhance the vast contribution of Africa to the Christian faith. They expressed conviction that it will also help strengthen the work of local missionaries while equipping

them with the requisite knowledge, attitudes and skills for global mission.

About African Centre for Mission Mobilization & Research (ACMMR)

ACMMR seeks to mobilize the most numerically Christian continent this century for the mission of God through a knowledge-based approach. It provides platforms and resources for mission mobilization, research, and training. It is the flagship initiative of the Send Africa Network.

About Centre for the Study of Early African Christianity (CESEAC)

CESEAC is a research center within the Akrofi-Christaller Institute for Theology, Mission & Culture (ACI). It focuses on studying and promoting early African Christianity and its relevance to contemporary African and world Christianity.

Source: ACMMR/CESEAC

1 in 3 Canadians don't know the difference between heart attack and cardiac arrest, poll finds

Despite 50 per cent of Canadians having been affected by heart disease and stroke in some capacity according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, a much smaller proportion understand critical information related to the health issue.

This is according to a new Heart and Stroke poll which also found that one in three Canadians do not understand the difference between cardiac arrest and a heart attack, nor do they know that men and women exhibit different signs when having a heart attack.

“The most troubling [research finding], from my perspective, would be that a third of Canadians think that it’s difficult to recognize the signs of stroke if you’re not a trained healthcare professional,” Lesley James, Heart and Stroke spokesperson and director of health policy and systems, told CTVNews.ca. “The signs of stroke are easy to recognize and everyone needs to know that. It’s very important because stroke can happen to anyone at any age.”

The online poll conducted by Environics Research Group, asked 2,003 Canadian residents aged 18 and older about their understanding of heart conditions. The data was collected between May 29 and June 9, 2023.

KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEART CONDITIONS
While some might think the terms cardiac arrest and heart attack can be used interchangeably, they are in fact two different health conditions.

According to Heart and Stroke, cardiac arrest is when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. Meanwhile, a heart attack is when the blood flow to the heart is slowed or blocked.

One in three Canadians don't know that these are two different conditions, according to the survey.

“There hasn't been enough education and awareness about the differences between the two. So that's why we're hoping to raise awareness and increase people's understanding,” James said. “Both are medical emergencies and require immediate medical attention.”

A stroke on the other hand, is caused by a blockage in blood flow to the brain.

According to Dr. Robert Fahed, a neurologist at The Ottawa Hospital, heart attacks and strokes come as a result of the same underlying vascular risk factors, which include smoking, diabetes, cholesterol, hypertension, obesity and lack of physical exercise. Those factors cause the majority of strokes and heart attacks in Canada, Fahed told CTVNews.ca in an interview.

SIGNS OF HEART ATTACK ARE DIFFERENT FOR WOMEN

There is also a difference between how

men and women show signs that they are having a heart attack, a fact one in three Canadians are unaware of.

“What we perceive as a heart attack are most likely the ones that happen in men. But women experience a heart attack differently—they may not have that true ‘Hollywood’ heart attack, where someone has chest pain and crushes their chest,” James said.

• **Your health headlines all here**

Instead, women may experience shortness of breath, pressure, or pain in the lower chest or abdomen, dizziness, upper back pressure or extreme fatigue.

Meanwhile, the poll revealed that these symptoms often go unrecognized for half of Canadian women, as the symptoms often don't have the visible severity of men's symptoms.

“What needs to happen in this regard is really raise awareness about what the signs of heart attack are, across both sexes,” James said.

As for why women experience different symptoms, Fahed has some ideas.

“We know that women's physiology is slightly different, because women produce more estrogen, which have different effects on the heart and the vessels,” Fahed said. “So women can have heart attacks at a different age than men with a different severity, they can be more or less severe.”

Fahed adds that many women have the tendency to underestimate the seriousness of their own symptoms, resulting in the risk of irreversible damage, or even death.

“Women are often underrepresented in the stroke and heart attack studies and trials. And because of that, we do not have a clear understanding of all the underlying mechanisms. And there is probably a lot of work to do about this to develop appropriate drugs, medications and care for women who suffer from these diseases.”

LOW SURVIVAL RATE FOR CARDIAC ARREST OUTSIDE OF A HOSPITAL

According to Heart and Stroke, 90 per cent of people who go into cardiac arrest outside of a hospital, do not survive.

One in three Canadians are not aware of this fact, researchers said.

The poll also found that one in three Canadians think they should immediately drive someone suffering from a stroke to the hospital. When in reality, they should call 9-1-1 right away, according to Heart and Stroke.

As for cardiac arrest, James said, “Driving someone to the hospital delays time when intervention could be used right there on the spot with an AED [automated external defibrillator], and with CPR.”

Instead, if you see someone suddenly

collapsing on the floor, Fahed says call 9-1-1 immediately.

“Without even waiting a single second,” Fahed said. “For heart arrest,

heart attack and stroke, the sooner medical attention is called, the sooner the patients are cared for by appropriate health care workers to better the prognosis.” CTV News

The Guinness World Records has crowned Pepper X as the hottest chili pepper in the world, dethroning the Carolina Reaper chili pepper after 10 years.

For comparison, a habanero pepper typically hits 100,000 Scoville heat units, but Pepper X registers at 2.69 million units.

Breeder and grower Ed Currie created both record-breaking peppers.

As a proprietary pepper, Pepper X pods and seeds will not be sold.

Mr. Currie cultivated Pepper X for a decade on his South Carolina farm, but remained tight lipped about his project to protect his intellectual property.

“This was a team effort,” Mr. Currie said in a statement. “We knew we had something special, so I only let a few of my closest family and friends know what was really going on.”

In lab tests at Winthrop University in South Carolina, Pepper X registered an average of 2,693,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU), which is more than one million units hotter than Mr. Currie's previous innovation, the Carolina Reaper which averaged 1,641,183 SHU.

In 1912 pharmacist Wilbur Scoville invented the Scoville Scale, which measures how many times capsaicin needs to be diluted.

Capsaicin is the chemical that gives humans that burning sensation of peppers - which can release dopamine and endorphins into the body.

After overcoming drug and alcohol addictions, Mr. Currie started growing peppers as a hobby and says peppers act as a natural high.

Though people tend to believe the spice of a pepper comes from its seeds, capsaicin is contained in the placenta, the tissue which holds the seeds. Because of Pepper X's curves and ridges there is more surface area for the placenta to grow, according to the Guinness World Records.

Mr. Currie is one of only five people who has eaten an entire Pepper X. “I was feeling the heat for three and a half hours. Then the cramps came,” Mr. Currie told the Associated Press.

“Those cramps are horrible. I was laid out flat on a marble wall for approximately an hour in the rain, groaning in pain.”

Mr. Currie said Pepper X is a crossbreed of a Carolina Reaper and a “pepper that a friend of mine sent me from Michigan that was brutally hot”.

Mr. Currie's lawyer said 10,000 products used the Carolina Reaper name, without permission.

In an effort to protect his intellectual property and see profits this time, Pepper X pods and seeds will not be released.

The only way to taste Pepper X will be through sold hot sauces. **BBC**

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Lifestyle

This column is devoted to answering your questions on health and discussions of diseases which are common among the African Canadians.

Ask The Doctor By: David Yaw Twum-Barima, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Working during pregnancy: Do's and don'ts

Most women can continue working during pregnancy. Being pregnant, however, may present challenges at the workplace. To stay healthy and productive on the job, understand how to alleviate common pregnancy discomforts — and know when work tasks might jeopardize your pregnancy.

Easing nausea and vomiting

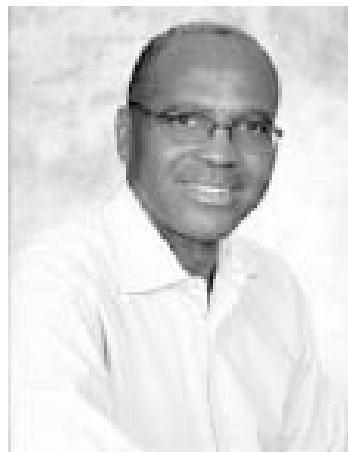
It may be called “morning” sickness, but pregnancy queasiness can hit at any time. To ease nausea at work:

- **Avoid nausea triggers.** Things that you craved every morning before pregnancy or the smell of foods reheated in the break room microwave may now make your stomach flip-flop. Steer clear of anything that triggers nausea.
- **Snack often.** Crackers and other bland foods can be lifesavers when you feel nauseated. Keep a stash at work for easy snacking. Ginger ale or ginger tea may help, too.
- **Drink plenty of fluids.** If you don't drink enough fluids, your nausea may get worse. Keep a water bottle at your desk or in your work area and sip throughout the day.
- **Take it slow in the morning.** Allow yourself extra time to get out of bed and get ready for work. Rushing around can contribute to nausea.

Handling fatigue

You may feel tired as your body works overtime to support your pregnancy — and resting during the workday can be tough. It may help to:

- **Eat foods rich in iron and protein.** Fatigue can be a symptom of iron deficiency anemia, but adjusting your diet can help. Choose foods such as red meat, poultry, seafood, leafy green vegetables, whole-grain cereal and pasta, beans, nuts, and seeds.
- **Take short, frequent breaks.** Getting up and moving around for a few minutes can reinvigorate you. Spending a few minutes with the lights off, your eyes closed and your feet up also can help you recharge.



- **Cut back on activities.** Scaling back can help you get more rest when your workday ends.
- **Keep up your fitness routine.** Although exercise may be the last thing on your mind at the end of a long day, physical activity may help boost your energy level — especially if you sit at a desk all day. Take a walk after work or join a prenatal fitness class, as long as your health care provider says it's OK.
- **Go to bed early.** Aim for seven to nine hours of sleep every night. Resting on your left side will improve blood flow to your baby and help prevent swelling. Placing pillows between your legs and under your belly may increase your com
- As your pregnancy progresses, everyday activities such as sitting and standing can become uncomfortable. Remember those short, frequent breaks to combat fatigue? Moving around every few hours can also ease muscle tension and help prevent fluid buildup in your legs and feet. Try these other strategies, too:

When sitting use, a firm seat and back cushions, and good lower back support can make long hours of sitting much easier — especially as your weight and posture change. If your chair isn't adjustable, improvise. Use a small pillow or cushion to provide extra support for your back.

Prolonged standing can cause blood to pool in your legs, which may lead to pain or dizziness. It also puts pressure on your back. If you must stand for long periods of time, put one of your feet up on a footrest,

low stool or box. Switch feet every so often, and take frequent breaks. Wear comfortable shoes with good arch support. Consider wearing support hose, too.

- **Be careful during bending and lifting.** Proper form can spare your back, even if you're lifting something light. Bend at your knees, not your waist. Keep the load close to your body, lifting with your legs — not your back. Avoid twisting your body while lifting. Ask for help when lifting heavy objects.

Avoid stresses as much as possible. Stress on the job can inspire you to push hard, but it can also sap the energy you need to care for yourself and your baby. TRY to minimize workplace stress by prioritizing

your tasks, talking things out with colleagues and above all relax.

Certain working conditions may increase your risk of complications during pregnancy especially if you're at high risk of preterm labor, therefore avoid: — exposure to harmful substances, excessive working hours, prolonged standing, heavy lifting, heavy vibrations, such as from large machines.

Activities that require agility and good balance may become more difficult later in pregnancy.

If you're concerned about any of these issues, mention it to your health care provider. Together you can decide if you need to take special precautions or modify your work duties during your pregnancy.



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Tottenham youngster Persis Martha Oteng receives maiden Black Princesses call-up after ditching England for Ghana

Tottenham Hotspur's rising star, Persis Martha Oteng, has earned her first-ever call-up to represent the Black Princesses of Ghana following thanks to his impressive efforts in England.

The talented 17-year-old forward made headlines last year when she decided to prioritise playing for Ghana over England as reported by Ghanasoccernet.com.

Persis Oteng's inclusion in Coach Yusif Basigi's squad for the third round of the U-20 Women's World Cup qualifiers against Eswatini is a testament to her emerging talent and the high hopes the national team has for her.

Although born in Oberhausen, Germany, Persis moved to London at the age of 11 in the summer of 2017.

She has been making waves in the world of women's football, starting her journey with SC Buschhausen, a boys' team in Germany, before finding her way to Tottenham Hotspur, where she has been steadily rising through the ranks.

Despite growing up in Europe, Persis Oteng has a strong connection with Ghana with both of her parents hailing from the West African country- with her father holding the esteemed title of



Martha Oteng

Omanhene of Twifu Hemang traditional area in the Central Region, and her mother originating from Kwahu.

As "P" affectionately known by her club mates, receives her first call-up, her journey exemplifies the increasingly global nature of football and the rich blend of talent from diverse backgrounds. **Ghanasoccernet**

Former Ghana coach Kwesi Appiah aims to lead Sudan to 2026 World Cup qualification

Former Ghana coach Kwesi Appiah has taken on the role of Sudan's national team coach with a clear mission in mind. He aims to guide Sudan to qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and secure a place in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Appiah's ambitious goals were disclosed in an interview with Asempa FM, where he emphasised the importance of building a competitive team to achieve these milestones.

"The target I have been given is to build a team and ensure the team qualify for the 2026 World Cup and the next edition of the Africa Cup of Nations," he said.

"The only challenge is that there is no ongoing league due to the ongoing war which has forced them to operate from Saudi Arabia but I hope order and peace will be restored in the country," he added. However, he acknowledged a significant obstacle in Sudan's football landscape – the suspension of the Sudanese league due

to the ongoing internal conflict, which has forced the Sudan Football Association to operate from Saudi Arabia.

Despite this challenge, Appiah remains hopeful that peace and order will be restored, enabling Sudan to pursue its football ambitions.

Appiah is no stranger to the World Cup, as he was the first Ghanaian coach who successfully led the Black Stars to qualify for the FIFA World Cup.

He achieved this remarkable feat in 2013. Appiah's commitment to Sudan's football future and his extensive coaching experience make him a valuable asset to the Sudanese national team.

Appointed as Sudan's coach in September, he signed a three-year deal with the Sudan Football Association. With his track record of World Cup qualification and his clear vision for Sudan's footballing success, Kwesi Appiah is poised to lead the Sudanese team on an exciting journey to the global stage. **Ghanasoccernet**

Top Ghanaian referee Daniel Nii Laryea selected for FIFA U17 World Cup in Indonesia

Elite referee Daniel Nii Laryea has been selected for the upcoming FIFA U17 World Cup final tournament in Indonesia, starting from November 10 to December 2, 2023.

Laryea is the only Ghanaian match official and amongst 11 Africans to make the final list of referees for the youth football tournament.

The 34-year-old has vast experience in officiating, having handled some top continental matches in the CAF Champions League and Confederation Cup.

Laryea will be one of the 18 Video Assistant Referees in Indonesia during the tournament.

Laryea has been in charge of the Africa Cup of Nations and FIFA

World Cup qualifications.

He handled last season's CAF Champions League semi-final first leg match between Wydad AC and Mamelodi Sundowns in Casablanca, which ended 0-0.

His last competitive assignment was the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualification match involving Egypt and Guinea in June this year.

Laryea was a Video Assistant Referee during the 2022 CHAN tournament, which took place in Algeria earlier this year.

He was appointed to for the final between host country Algeria and Senegal at the Nelson Mandela Stadium on February 4, 2023, in Algiers.

Ghanasoccernet

Italian giants Juventus to outdoor football academy in Ghana on October 27

Italian Serie A side, Juventus are set to open a football academy in Ghana on Friday, October 27, 2023.

The Juventus Academy Ghana will be located at the SMAC Sports Center in Accra, which was built in collaboration with former Juventus player Kwadwo Asamoah.

The academy will scout players from Ghana for the Italian Serie A side.

The opening of the academy is a significant event for Ghanaian football,

as it will provide young players with the opportunity to learn from and be trained by some of the best coaches in the world.

The Juventus football academy is one of many academies that the club has opened around the world.

The establishment of the academy is expected to attract lots of investors in the country when it comes to football.

Former Juventus players and top trainers are expected to also occasionally visit the academy. **www.ghanaweb.com**

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'Ghana Union' Mobilizes Funds for Heritage Centre

By Ebeneser Amankwah, Toronto, ON



Emmanuel Duodu, GCAO President

The Ghanaian-Canadian Association of Ontario (GCAO), also known as Ghana Union recently held a fundraising dinner to gather resources for the construction of a versatile Heritage Centre, aimed at bolstering the association's efforts.

The Heritage Centre would serve as a hub to preserve and promote the history, culture, and contributions of the Ghanaian community in Ontario and Canada. It would also likely provide resources and programs to support the welfare of Ghanaian Canadians within Canada's multicultural landscape.

Emmanuel C. Duodu, the President of the

Association, expressed gratitude on behalf of the executives and the Fundraising committee to all attendees who contributed towards the goal of establishing a Heritage Centre for the Ghanaian Community in Ontario and Canada at large.

He acknowledged that financial constraints have delayed the project but assured that the current executives are committed to securing additional funding.

The event witnessed generous donations from all dignitaries present.

The event saw participation from various cont'd on pg. 63



Dr. Odame presenting an award to The Apostles' Continuation Church Int'l



Eld. Appiah Kubi (left) and Stephen Agyekumhene, MCs



Community members



Wesley Girls



H.E. Anselm Sowah presenting an award to Okyemman Assoc.



Asanteman Association



Community members



Asanteman



Oyerepa Group

'Ghana Union' Mobilizes Funds for Heritage Centre

cont'd from pg. 62

Ghanaian traditional leaders, associations, clubs, clergy, businesses, and representatives from Ghana's High Commission in Canada.

The GCAO, established in the 1970s when groups of Ghanaians migrated to Canada for education and work, has been supporting the community through various challenges.

The GCAO is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the welfare of Ghanaian Canadians within Canada's multicultural framework. This is achieved by collaborating with community agencies and government at all levels to influence social policies and develop programs that improve the quality of life for all Ghanaian residents in Canada.



Emmanuel Duodu and Fundraising Organisers



H.E. Anselm Sowah, Ghana High Commissioner to Canada and staff



Some of the GCAO Executives



Nananom



H.E. Anselm Sowah presenting an award to Dormaah Association



St Andrew's Catholic Church Ghanaian Congregation



Nana Kwame and guest



Justice Kofi Barnes and guest



Okuapemman



Emmanuel Quaye and wife





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