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REMARKABLE MOTHER'S AWARD HOLDS MAY 7

By Stanley Ugagbe

After a two-year hiatus, the Remarkable Mother's Awards & Gala (RMA), an initiative of the Nigerian Canadian Newspaper Canada has sensationally returned as organizers have announced that the 5th edition will hold on May 7th, 2023. Recall that the multicultural event was last held in 2019 but was temporarily suspended in the following year due to the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus. Announcing the return of the prestigious event, the initiator of the award who is also the Pub-

lisher of NCNC, Ngozi Ugoh expressed delight that the award is back, stressing that "we are back and better". She clarified that "it wasn't our intention to suspend the award but COVID came and halted every activity around the world". According to her, preparations have been at the top level to make this year's edition more memorable and colorful. "We have lined up series of activities to make the occasion a memorable one. We have seasoned and electrifying entertainers who would dazzle our guests". The NCNC boss congratulat-

ed all the women who have been earmarked for recognition at the event, stressing that they're "deserving awardees". She, however, said the awards should serve as a motivation for awardees to continue to do more in the projects of community development and nation building. She tasked other women to draw inspiration from the awardees and make conscious efforts to become exceptional women in the society. Ugoh called on members of the general public to "join us in this noble event. Come and celebrate with our mothers."

The Remarkable Mothers Award (RMA) Gala event is an annual initiative of the Nigerian Canadian Newspaper Canada which is geared towards honoring the unwavering, passionate impact of women and mothers, who have diligently pursued careers, helped build communities and whose influence transcends the long held social scripture of home keepers. Regardless of culture, religion or race, their impact cuts across the board and this is why we have made it a point of duty to appreciate these special mothers. This noble event will hold at Panamonte Banquet and Convention Centre, 220 Humberline Drive, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 5Y4. For admission, sponsorship, participation, table reservation and enquiries call 416-318-3506 or email ncnc events@gmail.com *see awardees on p(14-15)*

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Dear Agatha - I can't forgive his betrayal
- Pg. 9

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KARINA GOULD: 2023 BUDGET HAS PROVISION FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES



Karina Gould PC MP

Karina Gould PC MP is a Canadian politician who became the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development since October 26, 2021. A member of the Liberal Party, she serves as a Member of Parliament and has represented the riding of Burlington in the House of Commons since October 19, 2015. Lolo Ngozi Ugoh catches up with her recently and she talks about herself, affordable healthcare for Canadians, mental health fund for Black Public Servants, and the budget.

continued on p(25)

N500bn in dormant bank accounts to be utilized by CBN - Pg. 10

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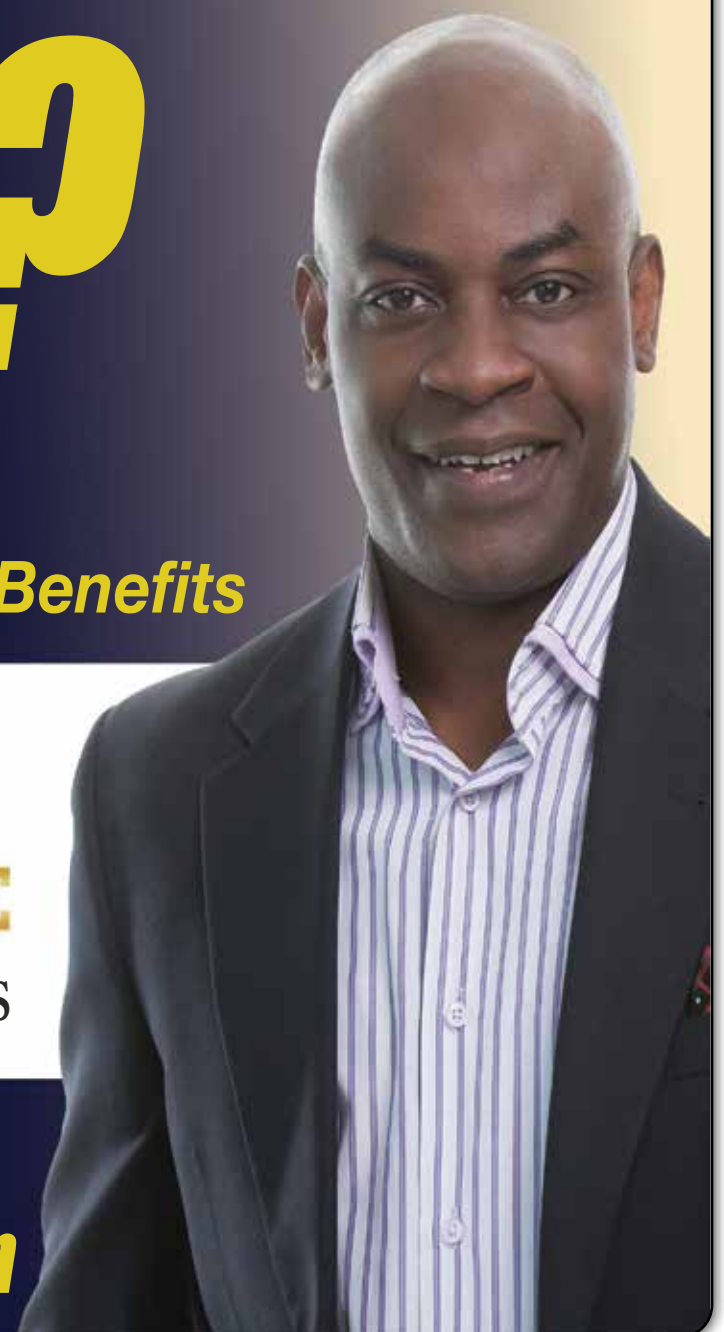


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THE NIGERIAN CANADIAN NEWSPAPER, CANADA

Publisher:
Ngozi Ugoh

admin@nigeriancanadiannews.ca
publisher@nigeriancanadiannews.ca
ncnewsoffice@gmail.com
www.nigeriancanadiannews.ca

Tel: 416-318-3506

Youth:
Dima Ugoh

admin@nigeriancanadiannews.ca

Advertising Executive:
Ogo Anozie

admin@nigeriancanadiannews.ca

Contributors

Oluchi Ugoh
Pastor Amos Dada
Marcel Chukwuka
Dele Akintilo
Stanley Ugagbe
Kolapo (Kola) Abdul
Chief Tola Adeniyi
(Guest Writer)
MBA, FRM, CRISC
Agatha Edo
FR. Stan Ilo
Funmi Adeshina

Graphics & Layout

Mevlana Media Solutions Inc.
Tel: 416-789-9933

computertrusting@gmail.com

AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Tel: 416-318-3506

E-mails:
publisher@nigeriancanadiannews.ca
admin@nigeriancanadiannews.ca
ncnewsoffice@gmail.com

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Tackling Ontario's Housing Supply Crisis

Recent reports have revealed that Ontario's housing supply has reached crisis level. Reports also have it that housing affordability in the province has reached crisis levels. Records have it that home prices and rents in many of its cities are among the highest in Canada, while rental vacancy rates are returning to pre-pandemic lows.

However, what is more worrying is how the housing crisis has sent many into homelessness and many others are standing face-to-face with homelessness. Though the housing supply crisis impacts all Ontarians, reality is that the vulnerable are the most affected.

We are perturbed that this crisis was allowed to escalate to this level in a civilized province as Ontario. Though there are housing issues across the nation,

the level of the crisis in Ontario at the moment is alarming. Experts believe that there are two factors responsible for the housing crisis in the nation: foreign buyers and short term rentals. For many years, foreign buyers were purchasing real estate in Canada because it was seen as a lucrative investment. However, this left many homes unoccupied and reduced the amount of available housing for Canadians.

Experts have recommended that restoring housing affordability will require more housing construction. To build more homes faster, the industry must make use of technology. We must have a streamlined, digitized approvals and e-permitting process that is standardized across all municipalities. We must also embrace modular construction and new technology like digital twinning.

Sadly, reports have it that Canada is lagging when it comes to such innovation. The nation ranks 34 out of 35 Organizations for Economic Co-operation and Development countries in the length of time it takes to secure approval for a general construction project. Also, the World Bank has ranked Canada 64th out of 190 countries in construction permitting. The country also boasts of having the lowest housing supply amongst all G7 countries.

One innovative recommended way of tackling the crisis is modular construction, which is being used with great success in countries like Sweden, Japan and Singapore. Poland and the U.S. are now testing the waters with prefabricated and off-site production.

Meanwhile, digital twinning, allows developers to build a virtual model of a structure in a computer and test what will happen if they make changes to the building. By designing a digital representation of a real-world scenario, they can instantly figure out better ways of building housing.

These are world class recommended initiatives of tackling housing challenges. We call on the government and relevant stakeholders especially developers to be innovative in tackling the housing crisis so as to save the vulnerable from homelessness.

Meanwhile, the report that the Ontario government is investing an additional \$202 mil-

lion annually in homelessness prevention programs to help those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and to support community organizations delivering supportive housing, is a welcome development. This move does not only show empathy, but also demonstrates that the government is committed to delivering dividends of governance.

Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing admitted that "We know Ontario's housing supply crisis impacts all Ontarians, no matter their background or budget," stating that, "That's why we've increased funding for our homelessness prevention programs by more than 40 per cent. These measures complement the bold and transformational change we are implementing to tackle the housing supply crisis and get more homes built faster across Ontario."

Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy had noted that "During a time of economic challenges and change, our government is supporting those who have fallen on hard times and are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, homelessness".

The government clarified that of the \$202 million in additional annual funding, \$190.5 million will be provided each year through the Homelessness Prevention Program, which gives Ontario's 47 service managers' greater flexibility to allocate fund-

ing and make better use of existing resources to focus on reducing and preventing homelessness. The remaining \$11.5 million each year will be invested in the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program, which provides Indigenous-led, culturally appropriate long-term housing solutions and support services to Indigenous people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

"Supportive housing provides people in need with a roof over their heads. It also connects them with services that provide a hand up to improve their circumstances, including mental health support and job training," said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister for Housing.

"Our government met with partners and stakeholders across the province this past fall – we heard their concerns and are addressing their valuable feedback to improve Ontario's supportive housing system. This investment will make a real impact to support housing providers that help vulnerable Ontarians each and every day."

While we laud the government for its efforts in tackling the crisis, we urge relevant agencies not to be lopsided in tackling the housing challenges. We believe that irrespective of color or background, no one should be treated as more equal than others.

More so, the government must continue to improve on funding model that better reflects the current need for homelessness services and supportive housing in community across Ontario, particularly during a time of rising inflation.

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have to crack it to
see what is inside"

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A REALITY CHECK ON VAPING



(NC) Vaping in Canada is on the rise, but it's an activity that is not without risks. There is growing evidence of its harmful effects on both oral and overall health.

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling an aerosol produced by devices, such as e-cigarettes, vape pens, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and e-hookahs. Users may inhale nicotine or THC (a chemical in cannabis), which may be addictive and can have many adverse side effects, including lung damage, dry mouth, cavities, periodontal disease and oral cancer.

Here are the facts:

1. A single vape pod may contain as much nicotine as a pack of 20 cigarettes.
2. Nicotine-containing

ing vaping products may alter youth brain development and can affect memory, concentration, judgement and mood.

3. Vaping may increase your risk of mouth sores, cavities and gum disease.
4. Other vaping dangers include explosions, burn injuries, unintentional poisoning, second-hand vapour and related lung injuries.
5. Coughing, shortness of breath and/or chest pain may be signs of vaping-related illness.
6. Vaping has not been approved by Health Canada as a method to quit smoking.

You can speak with your dental hygienist to understand more about the oral and overall health risks associated with vaping.

GETTING CATARACT SURGERY? WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LENSES

(NC) As we age, our vision changes. One of the most common aging eye conditions is cataracts, which affect more than 3.5 million Canadians every year. People know very little about cataracts, caused by a protein build-up in the eye, and that it can lead to symptoms such as blurred vision and light sensitivity.

When it's time for cataract surgery, many people are unaware that the natural lens will be replaced with an artificial one, called an intraocular lens, during surgery and that there are options when it comes to that lens. One size does not fit all when it comes to lenses, according to Dr. Mahshad Darvish, a Canadian ophthalmologist.

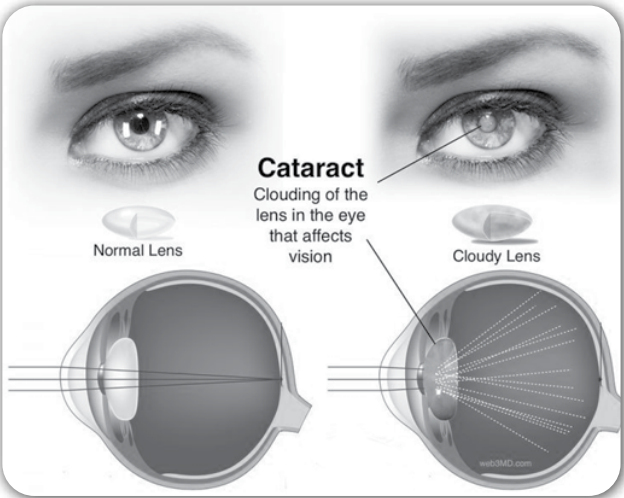
"Your surgeon needs

to understand what you want, the kinds of activities you engage in and your expectations. For example, do you rely on near vision as a bookworm or distant vision as a cyclist? Most people don't realize how much of our everyday activity is done at an arm's length, like working at a computer or putting on makeup. These are important things to think about when choosing a lens."

So what options are available?

Monofocal lenses are designed to provide clear distance vision. You will still likely require glasses for tasks such as reading and potentially for distance vision.

Monofocal toric lenses are designed to provide clear distance



vision while correcting astigmatism, an imperfection in the curvature of the eye that causes blurred vision. It's likely you will require glasses for reading.

Extended depth of focus lenses provide good distance and intermediate vision and functional near vision. You may find you need glasses for reading fine print.

Trifocal lenses deliver good near, intermediate and distance vision. These lenses provide some of the greatest independence from glasses.

Find more information about lens options at seethefullpicture.ca or speak to your eye doctor.

INTO THE WEEDS: WHAT IS IN YOUR CANNABIS?

(NC) If you consume cannabis, do you know what's in your products? Does it matter? Well, with unregulated, illegal cannabis, there are no guarantees and it comes with risks.

In fact, Health Canada warns that illegal and unregulated cannabis products can contain contaminants and health hazards including bacteria, mould, heavy metals, pesticides and fillers cut into cannabis.

They could also contain zero THC – THC being the part of cannabis that gets someone high – or conversely, a very high amount of THC that could make the consumer ill. Sadly, there have been reports of children being hospitalized, particularly after consuming illegal edible cannabis products due to the very high levels of THC.

Legal cannabis products, on the other hand, must state exactly what they contain. They are tested and quality controlled to make sure they have accurate amounts of THC and CBD, and don't contain dangerous levels of contaminants. Though CBD isn't what gets someone high, it can affect the brain and may alter the effects of THC.

To know that your cannabis is legal, purchase it from an authorized retailer and look for these key signs on the package:

- Plain, child-resistant

ing. They can give you the information you need to make a choice that's right for you.

Find more information at dentalhygienecanada.ca/vaping.

CANCER & HEART DISEASE VACCINES TO BE READY BY 2030

By N.Ugoh

Moderna has revealed that it is confident that vaccines for cancer, cardiovascular and autoimmune diseases, and other health conditions will be ready by 2030.

Also, studies into these vaccinations are showing "tremendous promise", with some researchers revealing 15 years' worth of progress has been "unspooled" in 12 to 18 months owing to the success of the COVID jab.

Dr Paul Burton, the Chief Medical Officer of Moderna, said he feels the company would be able to offer such treatments for "all sorts of disease areas" in five years.

Moderna, the creator of a leading coronavirus vaccine, is developing cancer vaccines which target different tumour types.

Burton said: "We will have that vaccine and it will be highly effective, and it will save many hundreds of thousands, if not millions of lives. I think we will be able to



offer personalized cancer vaccines against multiple different tumour types to people around the world."

Also, he said that multiple respiratory infections could be covered by a single injection – giving vulnerable people protection against Covid, flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) – while mRNA therapies could be available for uncommon diseases which have no drugs currently.

Burton said: "I think we will have mRNA-based therapies for rare diseases that were previously undruggable, and I think that 10 years from now, we will be approaching a world where you truly can identify the genetic cause of a disease and, with relative simplicity, go and edit that out and repair it using mRNA-based technology."

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Students First Ontario demands suspension of controversial transgender Oakville teacher's license for two years

By Dele Akintilo

A group of parents, known as Students First Ontario (SFO), feels the controversial transgender Oakville teacher will soon go back to the classroom. As such, the group is demanding that the license of the teacher, Kayla Lemieux, be suspended for two years and abide by certain guidelines before returning.

The group believes Lemieux, a former shop teacher at Oakville Trafalgar High School, is still under-employed by the Halton District School Board (HDSB) but is currently not given any classroom duties.

For many months, Lemieux was the centre of controversy at the school

during her transition. At that time, she portrayed her unusually big breasts and wore a blonde wig and tight clothing. She insisted her breasts were real though most media reports suggest they are prosthetic.

Her appearance triggered many protests at the school as well as bomb threats. Groups such as the SFO later appeared and demanded that the school board remove her from the classroom.

A statement issued by SFO claims that more than 91 percent of survey respondents are concerned that Lemieux will soon return to the classroom. Below 70 people took part in the survey.

Also, the group says most parents are not happy with how the HDSB

handled the situation and are concerned about future reoccurrences. The parents also believe the board is acting too slowly in enforcing a dress code policy that would specify the type of clothing that Lemieux was wearing at school. Therefore, the SFO wants the board to undergo a leadership review of its senior staff over the way they handled the situation.

The HDSB does not respond directly to singular staff issues and has handled the situation as a board-wide operational issue since the start of the controversy last September when Lemieux went back to the classroom for the school year.

The board says it has been carrying out its own survey that deals with the

professionalism policy of the system. According to the board, 8,600 parents, staff and students provided feedback. The result of the survey has not been released by the board.

In a statement made available to the media, the board said it was setting an example for students which shows that it is inclusive, accepting and believes in upholding human rights for every person in the school community.

The statement read: "We recognize there are some select voices in this conversation, but there are other voices too. We have heard from students, parents/guardians and staff who quietly assure us that not everyone feels the same way as some of these voices."

Ontario Unveils New Plans to Support Housing Supply Growth

By Stanley Ugagbe

The government of Ontario has introduced the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act as it "continues to take a responsible, targeted approach to deliver on its plan to build 1.5 million homes by 2031, while laying a strong foundation to make life easier and more affordable for people across the province".

According to the government, if passed, the proposed changes would further strengthen homebuyer protections, support tenants and streamline the rules around land-use planning.

In a statement, Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing said "Our government has made real progress in tackling Ontario's housing supply crisis, with current housing starts remaining above historic averages".

"Like the rest of North America, Ontario is experiencing challenging headwinds that are slowing down new home construction, including inflation, soaring interest rates and labour shortages. Despite these challenges, our government will continue to take action to ensure Ontario is ready to build more homes as market conditions improve."

The Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Plan includes:

- A \$6.5 million investment to appoint an additional 40 adjudicators and hire five staff to improve service standards and continue to reduce active applications and decision timeframes at the Landlord and Tenant Board. This increase more than doubles of the number of full-time adjudicators at the Landlord Tenant Board.

- Further strengthening protections against evictions due to renovations, demolitions and conversions, as well as those for landlord's own use, as well as clarify tenants' rights to install air conditioners.

- Expanding deposit insurance for First Home Savings Accounts to Ontario at credit unions, and exploring a cooling-off or cancellation period on purchases of newly built freehold homes, as well as mandatory legal review of purchase agreements for all new home purchases.

- Freezing 74 different provincial fees at the 2023-2024 level. This includes fees that directly or



Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

indirectly increase the cost of housing.

- Speeding up government approval processes by updating the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 and integrating it with A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe to create a single, provincewide, housing-focused land use planning policy document.

Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Housing said "Our government has been steadfastly focused on Ontario's housing supply crisis since the moment we first took office".

"We have introduced policies that are helping to get more homes built across Ontario, but we know more needs to be done. Today's announcement is the next step in our plan to ensure that Ontario's housing supply continues to grow over the long term, so more Ontarians can find a home they can actually afford."

Also, the government said the province is undertaking a 60-day consultation on the proposed new Provincial Planning Statement until June 5, 2023.

"This new provincewide planning policy document would provide municipalities with more flexibility, reduce duplication, create more homes in urban and rural communities, support local economies and create jobs while continuing to protect the environment (including existing Greenbelt protections), and public safety.

"It would also require coordination between municipalities and school boards to consider school and childcare needs earlier in the planning process, so that families moving to new housing can expect that local schools will be available for their children," the government said in a statement.

The government said it will continue to work with municipal partners to ensure that cities, towns and rural communities grow with a mix of ownership and rental housing that meets the needs of people across the province.

Ontario Moves To Protect The Great Lakes

By Stanley Ugagbe

The Ontario government has disclosed that it is investing nearly \$1 million to support Indigenous-led projects and increased collaboration with Indigenous organizations and youth to help protect and restore the Great Lakes.

David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, disclosed the development at the seventh annual meeting of the Great Lakes Guardians' Council, which Ontario co-chaired with Anishinabek Nation.

He said "Our government is proud to support Indigenous-led projects that are engaging First Nations youth to help protect the Thames River and make eating fish along the northern shores of Lake Superior safer for local First Nations and Métis communities"

"Working together, we will continue to protect, conserve and restore the health of the Great Lakes and support the well-being of communities that rely on them now and for generations to come."

It was stated that six First Nations communities are receiving a combined \$150,000 in funding to lead projects to engage youth in learning how to protect, conserve and restore the health of the Thames River.

According to the government, one Métis community and four First Nations community projects in the Lake Superior Basin are receiving a combined

\$66,500 in funding to lead projects that will provide important information for assessing fish consumption concerns in Areas of Concern in Lake Superior.

Métis Nation of Ontario, Chiefs of Ontario and Anishinabek Nation will receive \$780,400 in funding to enable First Nations and Métis communities to take a more active and collaborative role in the design, development and implementation of Great Lakes protection and restoration efforts, the government said.

It clarified that these 14 projects will also support the delivery of commitments in the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes and Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy.

"We value the opinions and expertise of Indigenous organizations, and we are taking action so that youth involvement will lead to better and safer lakes," said Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs.

"By making investments in Indigenous-led projects that are geared towards protecting the Great Lakes, our government is ensuring their integrity while increasing Indigenous economic participation."

The Minister said the funding is part of the Ontario government's \$14 million in investments annually to further protect, conserve and restore the health of the Great Lakes and support the well-being of communities that rely on them.

Liberal MP McKay: Taiwan's Fight is Canada's Fight

By Bunmi Akintilo

Recently in Taipei, a group of Canadian MPs met with the president of Taiwan to discuss the alleged foreign intervention and military aggressiveness of China.

During the meeting, Liberal MP John McKay talked about the recent Chinese military manoeuvres near Taiwan and said: "Even as we arrived here, there are 160 warplanes flying overhead and they're carrying on naval exercises. We want them to know that Canada is a partner in Taiwan's struggle."

During the meeting, Liberal MP John McKay talked about the recent Chinese military manoeuvres near Taiwan and said: "Even as we arrived here, there are 160 warplanes flying overhead and they're carrying on naval exercises. We want them to know that Canada is a partner in Taiwan's struggle."

Historically, Canada has maintained a delicate balance in its ties with both China and Taiwan. Though



Liberal MP John McKay

Canada recognizes China as the sole legal government of China, it also maintains an unofficial relationship with Taiwan.

Also, Canada has backed Taiwan's participation in international organizations where its membership does not depend on statehood.

In recent years, there have been increased tensions between China and Taiwan, with China taking a more decisive stance on Taiwan and increasing military presence on the island. Some politicians in Canada politicians have expressed concern about the situation, with some urging Canada to take a stronger stance in supporting Taiwan.

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In Loving Memory Of

David Agboola Esho

(1950-2023)



With sadness and heavy hearts, we announce the sudden passing of David Agboola Esho on Monday, March 20th, 2023.

He will be greatly missed by his beloved wife, children, grandchildren, and family here and abroad. As he is welcomed into the kingdom of heaven, he remains in the hearts of all those whose lives he has touched. A pillar of the Nigerian Canadian community, he was involved in many organizations within Toronto's Nigerian diaspora.

Visitation: Thursday, April 13/23, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Brampton Funeral Home & Cemetery, 10061 Chinguacousy Rd, Brampton ON.
Visitation: Friday, April 14/23, 10:00 am to 11:00 am Kennedy Road Tabernacle, 141 Kennedy Rd N, Brampton ON.
Funeral Service: Friday, April 14/23, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Kennedy Road Tabernacle, 141 Kennedy Rd N, Brampton, ON.

Click for more information: <https://www.arbormemorial.ca/brampton/obituaries/david-agboola-esho/101424>

May his soul rest in peace.

BUSINESS

Top 3 small businesses to start in 2023

(NC) With inflation and rising interest rates, many of us are looking for side hustles to help make ends meet. Here are three potential options for you to consider with relatively low barriers to entry.

Become a dog walker or pet sitter

Countless Canadians bought a pet as part of their pandemic coping mechanism. Now, with many humans returning to the office part- or full-time, they need someone to look after their fur babies while they're at work. You can charge a premium for private walks or offer a lower hourly rate and boost your earnings by walking multiple dogs at the same time. Note that some municipalities require professional dog walkers to obtain a licence and put a cap on how many dogs you can walk

at the same time, usually six or less.

Become a sports official

Are you a football fanatic? Bonzo for baseball? Head over heels for hockey? Then you could earn some serious pocket money as a paid official for games. There are recreational leagues for all ages, from young tots to adults, across the country that are always looking for officials to oversee their games.

You'll need an expert understanding of the rules of the game and, depending on the level of players you'll be officiating, you'll most likely need some training and certification. But once you're registered, you can pretty much choose the hours and days that you're willing to work.

Launch a specialty food business

Another way many of us got by during COVID-19 lockdowns was getting creative in the kitchen and trying our hands at whipping up new recipes. If you mastered a niche product – say, hot sauce that your family raves about or a carefully curated spice-rub that your friends can't get enough of – you might be able to turn that pastime into a viable business.

Just keep in mind that there are rules around selling food products in Canada that may apply. Specifically, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR). And if your side hustle really takes off, and you are exporting your products outside of your home province or internationally, you will need an SFC licence. *Learn more about the rules at inspection.canada.ca.*

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Alberta Premier Promises To Stop Tax Increment If Re-Elected

By N.Ugoh

The Premier of Alberta, Danielle Smith, has promised that her United Conservative Party (UCP) will not hike personal or business taxes if re-elected and that the Taxpayer Protection Act will be amended to need a referendum for any future tax increases.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has hailed the proposal and called it one of the strongest laws safeguarding

taxpayers on the continent.

Meanwhile, the move has generated questions about the future of a recent pledge by Finance Minister Travis Toews to establish a panel exploring revenue streams beyond volatile oil and gas revenues.

Toews' pledge which was made over a month ago, was viewed as an opportunity to tap into new revenue streams or potential taxes that may ensure government fund-

ing remains stable irrespective of fossil fuel prices. However, with Smith's latest announcement, the future of the panel and its work is ambiguous. Toews, a former UCP leadership rival, is not seeking re-election.

During a press conference, the Premier was asked if her announcement had "jumped the gun" on Toews' panel. Though she didn't answer directly, she suggested that cutting tax rates could raise revenues.

Anita Anand pledges to keep on making efforts to evacuate citizens from Sudan

By N.Ugoh

Federal Defence Minister, Anita Anand, has announced that efforts to bring Canadians home will continue for as long as possible despite Sudan's increasing violence and worsening safety conditions. A minimum of one evacuation flight is planned by the Canadian military today, making the fifth flight to leave Khar-

toum since Thursday.

221 people, including 68 Canadians and six permanent residents, left Sudan on two aircraft yesterday. Anand disclosed that around 375 Canadians have left Sudan on Canadian-led flights or those operated by allies.

During a recent news conference, she said: "We are going to continue flights as long as possible, but I will say that the situation is dynamic."

Also, Anand disclosed that the government of Canada is weighing all options for evacuation, including efforts by land or sea. Two navy vessels, that were Indo-Pacific region bound, have been redirected to stay near the city of Port Sudan to help with potential future evacuations.

While she refused to comment on other options, Anand stressed that allied countries' actions could inform Canada's efforts.



Ghanaian Musician Takes Drake to Court Over illegal Song Sample

By N.Ugoh

Popular Ghanaian musician, Obrafour, has filed a lawsuit against Canadian rapper, Drake, for unauthorized usage of his song.

In his lawsuit, Obrafour alleges that Drake sampled his song 'Oye Ohene' remix in the track 'Calling My Name' from Drake's album 'Honestly, Nevermind' released in 2022, without getting permission despite being earlier denied.

The lawsuit came after recent high-profile cases like Puff Diddy paying Sting \$2,000 a day for unlawfully sampling his record, and Robin Thicke and Pharell Williams being directed by the court to pay the estate of Marvin Gaye up to \$5 million for sam-

pling his song.

Also, similar cases have emerged in Nigeria, with Danny Young taking Tiwa Savage to court for sampling his song, and Tempoe filing lawsuit against Asa and P.Prime for copyright infringement.

Obrafour's lawyer, Imran Ansari, revealed that Obrafour is the rightful owner of the copyright for the song in Ghana and the United States, and Drake's use of the song was illegal.

The lawsuit was filed in the Southern District of New York, and Obrafour tendered four exhibits to back his ownership claim. Obrafour is seeking several prayers which include damages of not less than \$10,000,000, recognition, respect, and compensation for the use of his creative work.

43 years after, Paris synagogue bomber sentenced to life

By N.Ugoh

A court in Paris has convicted a Lebanese-Canadian university professor, Hassan Diab for bombing a Paris synagogue, more than 42 years ago.

In the recent ruling, the judges decided that 69-year-old Diab was the young man who planted the motorcycle bomb in the Rue Copernic on October 3 1980.

It could be recalled that four people were killed and 38 others wounded in the bombing.

Even though Diab refused to attend the trial, the judges gave him a life sentence.

Prosecutors had argued it was "beyond possible doubt" that he was behind the bombing.

In swift reactions, Diab supporters have expectedly condemned

the trial as "manifestly unfair".

Records have it that the Rue Copernic attack was the first to target Jews in France since World War Two, and became a template for many other similar attacks linked to militants in the Middle East in the years that followed.

According to reports, the decades-long investigation became a byword both for protracted judicial confusion, as well as for the dogged determination of a handful of magistrates not to let the case be forgotten.

It is germane to note that Diab is a Lebanese of Palestinian origin who obtained Canadian nationality in 1993 and teaches sociology in Ottawa.

Local reports have it that he was first named as a suspect on the basis of new evidence in 1999, already nearly 20 years after the killings.

Bell Canada tries to force hearing off Zoom to in-person, but arbitrator says no

An arbitrator has dismissed an effort by Bell Canada to force a hearing to happen in person rather than via Zoom.

Bell asked the arbitrator to hold the in-person meeting, in Toronto, due to the case's human rights allegations and credibility issues. Unifor, the union involved in the dispute, resisted that idea and took the position that a "presumption currently exists in favour of video hearings."

Background

On July 7, 2021, the arbitrator was appointed, and the first hearing began via videoconference, on March 1, 2022. Mediation efforts did not succeed.

Subsequent hearing dates were set for Dec. 7, 2022; Jan. 11, 2023; and Jan. 31, 2023. The arbitrator confirmed that the hearings on those dates "will continue via Zoom."

After the Zoom links were sent, Bell's lawyer asked for the hearing to take place in person.

"With respect to your email below, I discussed with my client (the employer) and it was our recollection that, at the last hearing in March (which turned into a mediation), you had expressed a clear preference for an in-person hearing to the extent that there were going to be human rights components to this grievance," the lawyer wrote.

The union's lawyer, though, said Unifor's instruction "are to proceed virtually by Zoom and not in person for this hearing. The union does not see that there is any real advantage to proceeding in person at this point."

In-person hearings are 'gold standard'

First, the arbi-



trator agreed with Bell's position that in-person hearings "represent the traditional gold standard, for both courts and arbitrators. However, as the legal world has discovered since the start of the pandemic, hearings can take place effectively via video conference."

Second, it pointed out that lawyers have spent "considerable time" establishing best practices for digital hearings.

In Ontario, for example, the Joint E-Hearings Task Force of the Advocates' Society, the Ontario Bar Association, the Federation of Ontario Law Associations, and the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association published a guide entitled Best Practices for Remote Hearings.

Public health situation

Third, while it accepted Bell's argument that the pandemic situation is not as elevated as it was a year ago, the "public health situation remains significantly different from the time when most labour arbitrations took place in person."

Fourth, this arbitration involves the Canadian Human Rights Act. If the matter had been heard by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT), it "presumably" would have proceeded by videoconference.

The CHRT considers the following factors when deciding on the type of hearing: the fairness and accessibility of the form of hearing availability of technology and tools health and safety requirements proportionality: cost, time and effort for the parties and the tribunal relative to nature of proceeding the parties' preferences and interests.

The arbitrator also said that "credibility issues" alone are not sufficient reasons to hold an in-person hearing when a Zoom call can perform the same function.

Additional costs of in-person meetings

It also pointed out there would be "unforeseen additional costs" to both parties if the arbitrator had to travel to Toronto for three separate hearing dates in December 2022 and January 2023.

"Arbitrations in recent years have involved zero disbursements charges," it said. "Had the parties originally contemplated an oral hearing, they may well have chosen an arbitrator

in Toronto to avoid those costs. That consideration disappears for video hearings."

(The arbitrator signed the document in Ottawa, meaning they were presumably based in that city — which is more than 400 kilometres from Toronto.)

Taking all that into account, the arbitrator ruled the hearings in this case would continue via Zoom.

"Both parties mentioned the 'new normal,'" it said. "It remains to be seen whether we will return to a situation where seasonal colds and the flu represent standard risks to the population."

It also emphasized that is decision "only addresses the current reality as of December 2022. That reality could change, especially if the courts and labour tribunals readopt in-person hearings as the default way of proceeding."

For more information, see *Unifor, Local 25 v Bell Canada, 2022 CanLII 114272 (CA LA)* Source: <https://hrlaw-canada.com>



REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

I can't forgive his betrayal

Dear Agatha,

January, last year, I caught my husband in bed with my supposed best friend. For me, it just wasn't the fact that he was unfaithful to me, but that he did it with my best friend. The humiliation was more than I could tolerate.

I felt so bad too because our marriage of three years was yet to produce the fruit of the womb. And this is a friend, he never approved of from the beginning. Although I knew his people were already putting pressure on him, I naively thought our love was strong enough to withstand the pressure.

He was, and still my only love. We met when we were in secondary school. He was in his SSS 3 when I came in as a JSS 2 student. For both of us it was love at first sight and from that early beginning, we knew we would end up as man and wife. Different girls had come and gone in his life, but none of them, threatened my position in his life. Our love was that strong.

He deflowered me on his graduation day. I got pregnant from that incident and we agreed to terminate it. Since then, we took precautions to prevent pregnancy.

Even though we were having difficulties getting a baby after marriage, I thought he would stand by me.

After that incident, I packed out of his life and house. I didn't bother to go to my parents' or any of

our friends'. I instead, went to my childhood's friend place in Abuja. I changed my phone number after calling my parents to appease their anxieties over me and to prevent them arresting my husband over my sudden disappearance. I refused to tell them anything. I was determined not to have anything to do with anybody until I was strong enough to withstand the shame of my best friend taking over my home.

Incidentally, I discovered that I was with child. It was more than enough compensation for me.

It turned out that the pregnancy housed a set of twin boys. My friend was very wonderful all through, giving me both moral and financial support. Knowing how stubborn I could be, she refrained from trying to persuade me to call my husband or family members.

My twins are now over a year and though I had escaped my past, but that is not to be as my husband, his family and my parents came knocking last month begging me to come back home.

I didn't need a soothsayer to know that my husband must have gone through a lot of emotional pain. It was very evident from his haggard appearance. It was also obvious none of them knew about the babies from the surprised looks on their faces when they saw the children.

The twins, who never allow anybody except my friend and I come near them, not only allowed their sobbing

father get close to them but even cried after him when he was leaving.

I still love him, but I cannot forgive what he did. According to him, he didn't know what came over him and swore on his life that he had never been unfaithful to me since our marriage until that day when my friend came in some few minutes after he came in.

I am so confused and don't know what to do. Something tells me he is telling the truth because before the incident, my friend had gotten herself involved with some strange friends, whose ways, I warned her against. I am so confused about everything. I don't know if I should go back to him or continue to stay on my own because I don't want to get hurt again.

Please, tell me what to do; I promise to do precisely what you tell me.

Felicia.

Dear Felicia,
Go back to him. What more do you want? God has vindicated you before his family through those the twins. Besides, they must have found you worthy enough to agree to come with their son to beg you without even knowing about the twins.

I am sure the incident was meant to teach everyone involved some fundamental lessons. Had you listened to your husband's objection over this friend, none of this would have happened. Friendship must be symbiotic to be beneficial to those involved. He must have observed many things

about her you didn't notice on account of being too close to the scene.

Sometimes it pays to listen to the voice of caution of others around us on issue we are very involved in. This is why we have partners. As your partner he is supposed to be on the look out for your interest, protect you against yourself and help you see things differently. I know the tendency is for us to get uppity when our partners find fault with our friends or family. From your experience, you now know that some people we call friends are really nothing but devil's advocates. So, be careful whom you bring into your home as a friend from now on.

Believe me, there is no marriage or situation in life that is problem-free. As a matter of fact, problems are meant to help refine and distill us into better human beings. If you run away from marriage on account of this challenge, what happens when your boys grow into being teenagers and unintentionally make your life a mini-hell during that difficult stage of parenting? Would you also quit motherhood? Give up on them and allow them go wild all because you are too afraid to try?

Fear is one of life's most destructive and limiting weapons. It is a weapon the devil uses to stop people from being happy, fulfilled and joyous in the presence of God. Your marriage and husband are your destinies. It would have been a different kettle of fish if he hadn't taken the steps of coming

to beg for your forgiveness. He has come to ask you to forgive him.

There is no denying the fact that his act humiliated you, caused you endless pains and embarrassment, but he has promised to change. To find you, must have caused him a lot of time and resilience. Remember you didn't make it easy for anybody to find you. It couldn't have been easy for him at all. He failed, realised it and has gone all out to atone for it. Give him a chance to make up for all the pains he has caused you.

We all come with DNA wired deficiencies. No one is perfect. Although you are the one who has been hurt, it doesn't make you the most perfect in this relationship. There are certain things you must have also done in the past that may also have caused him pain, but which he overlooked for the sake of love and your over all happiness.

Marriage is a continuous process of fine-tuning, of re-investment, of sacrifices and being stupidly patient. It is also a process of indulgence and unconditional forgiveness. If you fail to forgive him now, chances are your children too would find it extremely difficult to forgive you for not giving their father a second chance in your life and in their lives.

It is no longer just about you or what you want. Your children not only have a say, but are major stakeholders in this. You must also consider what is best for them. From



Agatha Edo

gataedo@yahoo.com
agatha.edo@gmail.com

their response, they want their father, crave for him and desire to be with him also.

Going back would give these children the chance to be with their father and you, some peace. There is nothing like having the support and love of one's partner in the process of raising children.

He has fallen flat on his face, your duty as his wife, is to set aside your own pain and help him stand up again. Also, don't give your friend the chance to continuously gloat at her ability to destroy your home.

It isn't so difficult once you put your mind to it. There is no running away from the responsibilities and sacrifices that go with your marital vows. This is the time he needs you to be a man again; don't deny him because a time would come down the road when situation like this won't have much meaning. There is no perfect marriage, couple or relationship, but only flawless and unconditional acts of forgiveness.

God will help you get there.

Good luck.

Abuja Judge worried over alarming divorce rate among young couples in FCT

By N.Ugoh

The Judge of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Magistrate Court, Sheikh Ayuba Abubakar, has expressed concern over the alarming rate of divorce among young couples in the FCT.

Abubakar voiced his concern while speaking at the recent Annual Ramadan Lecture.

He said: "As a judge, we are having a high rate of divorce, especially the rate in the FCT is so alarm-

ing, young couples in two years, three years marriage, dragged themselves to courts. And we discovered that in so many of it there is no other way than to just separate them to live in peace.

"The implication is that if we don't follow the Islamic regulation by making prayers to Allah for guidance and follow the Islamic teaching, there will be domestic problems. This teaching is for the husband to know his duty and his rights and for the wife to lower her duty and

rights and by the time you think of those rules, it is to bring harmony in our homes."

Abubakar urged parents to take a lead role in the decision of their children in taking a life partner. He said this would help guide their choices and ensure the couple lives together happily thereafter.

According to him, if a woman is religious, it gives you 70 percent guarantee that the choice of their children in marriage will not be biased.

Tobechukwu becomes first black valedictorian in U.S school's 125-year history

By NCNC Staff

The list of Africans breaking limits globally has again appreciated as an exceptional Nigerian girl, Tobechukwu Tobi Phillips has graduated from Alvin High School in Texas, United States as the first-ever black valedictorian in the school's 125-year history.

Remarkably, Tobechukwu broke the school's record after securing an outstanding 6.9 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale, placing her at the top of the class. The history maker is one of the only 86 black students out of the school's 2,800

students.

Harping on the feat, she stated that maintaining her position at the top of the class was not easy. "Maintaining the highest GPA in my class is a difficult task. It truly takes time management but more importantly acknowledging what you do it for. I know that I am no longer just representing myself," she said.

Tobechukwu is not only good in the classroom. She plays volleyball, runs track and is a Sunday School teacher at her church. She's also a member of the Rho Kappa Honor Society, the president of the

National Honor Society and an AP ambassador.

Following her academic exploits, she is one of the 16 students selected from 4,000 applicants to receive a Full-Ride Forty Acre Scholarship to attend the University of Texas at Austin, United States.

However, her journey so far has not been a bed of roses she had to deal with a number of challenges and jeers from her peers. But, she managed to brace all these odds and achieve her goal.

She plans to one day own her own clinic as a

continued on p(25)

President and Board of Directors of Trudeau Foundation Resign

By Bunmi Akintilo

The President of The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation has resigned. His resignation was not unconnected with the foundation's involvement in the ongoing foreign interference controversy.

The foundation said that a \$200,000 donation in 2016 from a businessman linked to the Chinese government "has put a great deal of pressure on the foundation's management and volunteer board of directors, as well as on our staff and our community."

"The circumstances created by the politicization of the foundation have made it impossible to continue with the status quo, and the volunteer board of directors has resigned, as has the president and CEO," the statement said.

The president and entire board of directors at the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation resigned because of what they call 'politicization,' partly linked to a 2016 donation from a Chi-



nese donor.

"The Trudeau Foundation is a foundation with which I have absolutely no intersection," Trudeau told a news conference.

"It is a shame to see the level of toxicity and political polarization that is going on in our country these days, but I am certain that the Trudeau Foundation will be able to continue to ensure that research into the social studies and humanities at the highest levels across Canadian academic institutions continues for many years to come."

Former governor general David Johnston was appointed by Prime Minister Trudeau as a special

rapporteur to investigate foreign interference in Canadian elections and institutions.

Three directors will remain on an interim basis while a new board is appointed.

Its president and CEO, Pascale Fournier, had been in the position for almost five years.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre reacted to the news of the resignation by calling for an investigation into the charity.

"We need to investigate the Beijing-funded Trudeau Foundation," Poilievre tweeted.

"We need to know who got rich, who got paid

and who got privilege and power from Justin Trudeau as a result of funding to the Trudeau Foundation."

Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet said the resignations make the 2016 donation look more suspicious. The leader called on the government to begin a public inquiry into the interference.

"Nothing else will do," Blanchet said in a French statement.

The foundation made a statement saying that 'the circumstances created by the politicization of the foundation have made it impossible to continue with the status quo.'

"What we've seen from both the Liberals and the Conservatives, they're more interested in scoring political points, pointing fingers at each other," Singh told a news conference.

"When it comes to something as serious as our democracy, the goal shouldn't be to score points ... We've been saying we need a public inquiry to get to the truth, to give Canadians confidence."

N500bn in dormant bank accounts to be utilized by CBN

By Bunmi Akintilo

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has given new guidelines to commercial banks on how to operate dormant accounts that have received no deposit or withdrawal for over one year.

The new guideline is contained in the CBN circular to commercial banks issued recently.

According to the CBN, it shall open a pool account to warehouse all remaining funds in dormant savings and current and domiciliary accounts.

NIBSS data reveals there were 191.4 million bank accounts in Nigeria, out of which 133.5 million were active as of December 2021.

By implication, there are 57.9 million inactive bank accounts both savings and current in Nigeria. A report revealed that around N500 billion has been left by account owners in dormant bank accounts as of January 2021.

The CBN said it would invest the warehoused funds in Treasury Bills and other interest-yielding ventures and give the profits to the owners of the accounts upon reactivation of the accounts.

As far as the circular is concerned, the dormant accounts will be reopened and the funds, including interest rates, paid to the owners upon request within two days. Also, the circular directed commercial banks to keep paying interest into dormant accounts and maintain periodic communications with account owners through

emails, text messages, and other necessary mediums.

CBN noted that dormant and unclaimed accounts are what fraudsters target, hence the move to warehouse the funds in a joint account known as "Unclaimed Balances Trust Fund Pool Account."

CBN said: "The continuous maintenance of such accounts results in the accumulation of huge unclaimed balances at the disposal of the financial institutions for which the depositors may not be adequately compensated. In addition, dormant and unclaimed balances are increasingly susceptible to fraudulent transactions or abuse."

The apex bank said it would create a management committee to oversee funds from the accounts and disburse them accordingly. The bank also stated that a bank account should be deemed dormant if it has not done any transactions for one year.

It said: "A bank account shall be classified as dormant if there has been no customer or depositor-initiated transaction in it for one (1) year after the last customer or depositor-initiated transaction."

"The bank shall institute controls consistent with its precautionary policies, including surveillance procedures and 58-level authorization. To make such account active, the customer is to provide satisfactory evidence of account ownership, means of identification, and present place of residence."

"Unclaimed funds shall be categorized as Proceeds of stale local and foreign currency drafts not yet presented for payment by beneficiaries. Funds received from a correspondent bank without sufficient details as to the rightful beneficiary and/or a recall of funds made to the remitting bank to which the Nigerian bank's account had not been debited; and a judgment debt for which the judgment creditor has not claimed the amount of judgment award."

The bank said it is backed by the provisions of Section 72 (11) of the bank and other financial institutions to carry out the guideline.

Alberta demands equalization reforms

By Dele Akintilo

Days after it was revealed that Ottawa plans to lock in the current regime, Alberta's government has released a series of proposals to reform Canada's equalization system, including a combination of measures that if imposed immediately would slash the pool of money redistributed among the provinces by about 80 per cent.

Records have it that Alberta and Saskatchewan have been among the existing system's most vocal critics. The conservative leaders of the two provinces argue the program largely favours Quebec at their expense.

It is germane to clarify that the equalization program, which is entrenched in the Constitution, is designed to ensure provinces across the country enjoy comparable levels of service at comparable levels of taxation.

The program tries to do this by distributing varying amounts of federal tax dollars to provincial governments. The amounts are based on estimations of each province's "fiscal capacity," meaning those that are more capable of self-funding receive less money. Alberta and Saskatchewan are among four provinces that receive none at all.

The nation's equalization formula expires next March. recently, the federal government tabled an omnibus motion related to the budget that included a five-year extension to the current equalization calculation.

Even though the Alberta government has no power to change equalization unilaterally, Premier Danielle Smith recently released a campaign video promoting her United Conservative Party's proposed reforms to the program. The proposals are also detailed in a position paper.

In a video statement, Smith said "We have just released a fully costed, practical plan to end the costly, unfair, equalization gravy train".

According to officials, the size of the current equalization program is tied to the three-year moving average of Canadian nominal GDP growth. In some years, that means the pool of cash available exceeds the amount necessary to bring the have-not provinces up to par. When this happens, the Alberta government's position paper notes, the federal government makes "floor payments" to recipient provinces, beyond what would be necessary to make them equal to richer provinces.

Meanwhile, the provincial government is pro-

posing distributing excess money in the program based on population, rather than triggering the floor payments, for the first four years of a new regime.

More so, in the fifth year, it wants Canada to do away with calculating equalization payments based on fiscal capacity, in favour of a system focused on macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP per capita.

It was reported that Alberta also wants Canada to target 95-per-cent fiscal equality between the provinces, rather than the current target of 100 per cent, within a decade of adopting a new system. It is also suggesting the country

consider calculating the national average GDP per capita based on six provinces rather than 10. The paper suggested dropping the two strongest and two weakest provinces.

According to the province's calculations, if Canada immediately implemented the provincial government's most dramatic proposals, the equalization pool would shrink to \$4.67-billion in 2023-2024, compared to \$23.96-billion under the current system. Even the most generous combination of measures, if enacted now, would reduce the program to \$16.77-billion in 2023-2024, according to Alberta's math.

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FOOD & RECIPES

The ultimate avocado guide

(NC) Did you know that avocados are native to Mexico? That's right, known for their exceptional nutritional value and deliciously creamy texture, this little green gem is also in season in the country all year round. Thanks to its unique climate, it is the only place in the world where avocado trees bloom four times a year. Here's how to make the best of avocados, from January to December.



How to pick

The choice of the perfect avocado depends on when you want to use it. If the avocado skin is very green, the avocado will be ripe in a week. If the avocado skin is dark, but firm to the touch, it is not quite ripe and will need about two more days. Finally, if the skin of the avocado is dark and yields to a slight pressure, then it is time to enjoy it.

How to ripen

Have an avocado that's as hard as its pit? Here's the trick: put the avocado in a paper bag with a banana for three to five days and check its condition daily. If the avocado is slightly soft to the touch, it's ready to be eaten.

How to prep

First, cut the avocado in half with a chef's knife by cutting along the length of the fruit, from

the narrow part of it, and open it in half. Gently whack the pit with a sharp knife, embedding the blade slightly in the seed and twisting to release it from the flesh. With a spoon, gently scoop the flesh from the skin. Then, you are the chef: slice, cube, or crush with a fork to eat as is or add to a favourite recipe.

How to cook with avocados

As an excellent source of "good fats," avocados are easy to incorporate into savoury, sweet or spicy dishes, and they can be baked, fried, grilled or eaten raw. They can easily replace fatty culinary bases such as butter in desserts, like in moist brownies, or mayonnaise in sandwiches and wraps.

In the morning, the fruit can be a strong

ally in a vitamin-packed smoothie.

For a quick and nutritious snack, try a halved avocado and your favourite seasoning to sustain you until the next meal. For salads and pastas, its creamy base rounds out healthy sauces and dips.

Finally, during barbecue season, try grilling with a little olive oil for three to five minutes.

How to keep them fresh

You can slow down the process of avocados going brown, called oxidation, with a few drops of lemon juice or avocado oil. Keep it in the refrigerator for three days, wrapped in cling film.

Find more avocado tips, tricks and recipes at avocadosfrommexico.ca/avo-101/tips-and-tricks.

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2. Owning a home allows you to build equity and establish credit for future financial endeavors.

3. You have the freedom to personalize and decorate your home to your liking.

4. You can make lasting memories with family and friends in your own space.

5. Owning a home provides stability and security for you and your loved ones.

6. North America has a strong and stable housing market, making it a reliable investment.

7. You can take advantage of tax benefits when owning a home.

8. You have the option to rent out a portion of your home for additional income.

9. North America has a high standard of living with access to quality healthcare and education.

10. A home can serve as a foundation for building a family and raising children.

11. You can create a sense of community and belonging in your neighborhood.

12. Owning a home can give you a sense of pride and accomplishment.

13. North America has a variety of housing options to fit any budget and lifestyle.

14. You can build wealth through homeownership over time.

15. A home can serve as a hub for social gatherings and entertainment.

16. You have control over the maintenance and upkeep of your property.

17. Owning a home can provide a sense of independence and autonomy.

18. North America has a strong job market with numerous employment opportunities.

19. You can take advantage of low mortgage rates and favorable lending conditions.

20. A home can provide a sense of stability and routine in daily life.

21. You have the freedom to make changes and renovations to your home as desired.

22. North America has a diverse population and multicultural communities.

23. Owning a home can serve as a long-term investment for retirement.

24. You have the option to build and create your dream home from scratch.

25. A home can provide a sense of safety and security in times of crisis.

26. North America is a beautiful and scenic continent with stunning natural landscapes.

27. You can create a space that is uniquely yours and reflects your personality.

28. Owning a home can provide a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

29. North America has a strong and reliable infrastructure for transportation and communication.

30. You have the freedom to host guests and visitors in your own space.

31. A home can provide a sense of privacy and personal space.

32. You have the option to invest in real estate for passive income and financial growth.

33. North America has a diverse range of cultural and recreational activities to enjoy.

34. Owning a home can serve as a legacy for future generations.

35. You have the ability to create a space that is environmentally sustainable and ecofriendly.

36. North America has a strong and stable legal system for property ownership and protection.

37. You can establish roots and become a part of a vibrant and thriving community.

38. A home can provide a sense of comfort and refuge during difficult times.

39. You have the option to customize and design your home to fit your specific needs and preferences.

40. North America has a diverse range of culinary experiences and dining options.

41. Owning a home can provide a sense of belonging and connectedness to a community.

42. You can take advantage of government programs and incentives for first-time homebuyers.

43. A home can provide a sense of stability and routine in life.

44. You have the freedom to adopt pets and animals in your own space.

45. North America has a strong and reliable banking system for financing and mortgages.

46. You can take pride in being a homeowner and contributing to the local economy.

47. Owning a home can provide a sense of financial security and stability.

48. You have the ability to create a space that is conducive to productivity and creativity.

49. A home can provide a sense of accomplishment and achievement.

50. North America has a strong and diverse economy with numerous opportunities for growth and success.

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BEAUTY OZIEGBE
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LUCY RUTH
Lifetime Achievement Award



DAYANA STANISLAUS
Community Service Award



LISA OGBOLE
Ray of Hope Award



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Outstanding Black's Mentor Award



MICHELLE JOHN
Community Excellence Award



DESIREE T. SMITH
Professional Excellence Award



GWYNETH CHAPMAN
Community Builder Award



STELLA ADENERIBA ALUZE-ELE FCIM
Enterprise Business Award

BRAMPTON HONOURS MARYAM MURITALA WITH INSPIRATIONAL AWARD



By Stanley Ugagbe

The city of Brampton has earmarked Nigerian-born internationally Trained Legal professional, Maryam Muritala for this year's Inspirational Award, having met the criteria pegged for the category.

The Inspirational Award recognizes Brampton residents who advocate or practice humane action, or who have had an inspirational influence on others.

According to the organizers, the criteria for the award are: establishing a charitable

organization, while not receiving remuneration of any kind; helping to better the lives of others; rendering significant support or assistance to an individual or group in need; or an individual or group who has performed an exceptional humanitarian act that inspires good will in others.

Maryam was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2008. She worked in the Corporate Sector with various companies with a huge focus on Business and Technology law before relocating out of Nigeria. She is also a seasoned and Award winning Entrepreneur, who has helped individuals launched successful businesses across different Continents.

When she got to Canada in 2016, she realized there was a gap in the Canadian BIPOC Business Community, for a structured platform to connect businesses and provide visibility. In 2017 she launched Canada Vendors in the City of Brampton; it is a Business Development and Advertising Hub which creates structured visibility for business owners using Digital marketing tools, business networking events and Customized marketing campaigns.

During the World-wide Covid-19 Pandemic, when business owners in the BIPOC Community were struggling with visibility and integrating technology into their business operations, she successfully created and hosted a virtual BRAND EXPO to connect Entrepreneurs across Canada which resulted in structured visibility for over 2500 Business owners. During the Country-wide lockdown, she interviewed over 500 micro to small business owners on Instagram, giving them structured visibility on the platform.

She created and launched a mini-series on youtube in 2021 titled "THE ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY" spotlighting business

owners across communities in Canada through personalized interviews. In 2021 when the Provincial lockdown was lifted in Ontario she relaunched "BRAND EXPO" into a successful business networking event that allowed entrepreneurs and members of the community to interact.

She was recently awarded one of the Top 100 Black women to watch in Canada in 2022 by Canada International Black Women Excellence for her contributions to the Business Community in Canada.

She is currently building a Business Directory App/Software to create further visibility for businesses in Canada. She also launched the Entrepreneur Awards in 2020 during the pandemic to spotlight Micro, Small, and large businesses across Canada. Remarkably, all the programmes and events launched during the Pandemic are currently thriving well. She also serves as member of the Mayor's Black Advisory board in the city of Brampton. She is also a member of the Rotary Club of Brampton. Maryam also Volunteers at several programs in the city and was awarded Business Innovation Award for the Year 2023 due to her positive contributions to several businesses in the city of Brampton. She is also a recipient of CIBWE Top 100 Black Women Award for 2022. She is also a recipient of several awards across Canada.

It is germane to note that since 1974, the City of Brampton has been proud to offer a community recognition program that has honoured over 3,500 outstanding residents in the community in the areas of sports, arts, and community service.

Each year, the City of Brampton recognizes and celebrates outstanding citizens in the community who have achieved milestones in the past year, in the different categories.



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BOOKS

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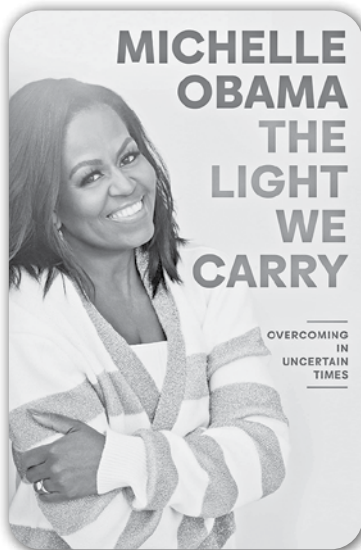
When Women Pray:
10 Women of the Bible
Who Changed the
World through Prayer



By Prince Harry The Duke of Sussex

It is a story that chronicles Harry’s journey with raw, unflinching honesty. A landmark publication, Spare is full of insight, revelation, self-examination, and hard-won wisdom about the eternal power of love over grief. Sometimes, when ‘life happens,’ it can change many things. Before losing his mother, 24-year-old Prince Harry was known as the carefree one, the happy-go-lucky Spare to the more serious Heir. However, grief changed everything. He struggled at school, struggled with anger, with loneliness—and, because he blamed the press for his mother’s death, he struggled to accept life in the spotlight. Harry joined the British Army at 21. The discipline gave him structure, and two combat tours made him a hero at home. But he soon felt more lost than ever, suffering from post-traumatic stress and prone to crippling panic attacks. Above all, he couldn’t find true love. Real drama started when he met Meghan. The world was swept away by the couple’s cinematic romance and rejoiced in their fairy-tale wedding. But from the beginning, Harry and Meghan were preyed upon by the press, subjected to waves of abuse, racism, and lies. Watching his wife suf-

The Light We Carry:
Overcoming in
Uncertain Times

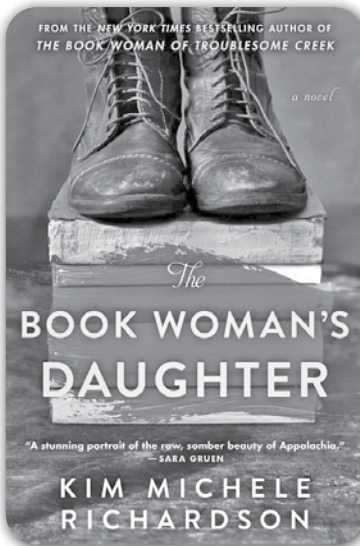


By Michelle Obama

It is a practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today’s highly uncertain world. Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us better navigate change and remain steady within flux. She walks us through a frank and honest dialogue with listeners, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much? She provides a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress. Drawing from her experiences as a mother, daughter, spouse, friend, and First Lady, she shares the habits and principles she has developed to successfully adapt to change and overcome various obstacles—the earned wisdom that helps her continue to “become.” More remarkably, she

fer, their safety and mental health at risk, Harry saw no other way to prevent the tragedy of history repeating itself but to flee his mother

The Book Woman’s
Daughter



Kim Michele Richardson

As the daughter of the famed blue-skinned Troublesome Creek packhorse librarian, Honey Lovett and her family have been hiding from the law all her life. However, when her mother and father are imprisoned, Honey realizes she must fight to stay free, or risk being sent away for good. Treading on her mother’s old packhorse library route, Honey begins to deliver books to the remote hollers of Appalachia. She is looking to prove that she doesn’t need anyone telling her how to survive. But the route can be treacherous, and some folks aren’t as keen to let a woman pave her own way. Guess what! If Honey wants to bring the freedom that books provide to the families who need it most, she’s going to have to fight for her place, and along the way, learn that the extraordinary women who run the hills and hollers can make all the difference in the world. How did it turn out? Find out. chronicled her most valuable practices, like “starting kind,” “going high,” and assembling a “kitchen table” of trusted friends and mentors. With trademark humor, candor, and compassion, she also explores issues connected to race, gender, and visibility, encouraging listeners to work through fear, find strength in community, and live with boldness. It is a highly recommended read. country. Over the centuries, leaving the Royal Family was an act few had dared. The last to try, in fact, had been his mother. . . .

Someday, Maybe



Onyi Nwabineli

It is a stunning, witty debut novel about a young woman’s emotional journey through unimaginable loss, pulled along by her tight-knit Nigerian family, a posse of friends, and the love and laughter she shared with her husband. It is a masterfully woven exposition on love and loss. It is an excellent choice for book clubs and for readers who enjoy thought-provoking, deeply emotional fiction. If you are someone who gravitates toward emotional gut punch reads, we strongly recommend this spectacular book for you.



By Toni Morrison

Sometimes, the tiniest of issues could really pose a serious challenge to one. Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl who is mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, prays everyday for beauty. She yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in.

Take My Hand



By Dolen Perkins-Valdez

It is about a Black nurse in post-segregation Alabama who blows the whistle on a terrible injustice done to her patients. Fresh out of nursing school, Civil Town send intends to make a difference, especially in her African American community. At the Montgomery Family Planning Clinic, she hopes to help women shape their destinies, to make their own choices for their lives and bodies. However, when her first week on the job takes her along a dusty country road to a worn-down one-room cabin, Civil is shocked to learn that her new patients, Erica and India, are children—just eleven and thirteen years old. Neither of the Williams sisters has even kissed a boy, but they are poor and Black, and for those handling the family’s welfare benefits, that’s reason enough to have the girls on birth control. While Civil grapples with her role, she takes India, Erica, and their family into her heart. Until one day she arrives at their door to learn the unthinkable has happened, and nothing will ever be the same for any of them. Years later, with her daughter grown and a long career in her wake, Dr. Civil Townsend is ready to retire, to find her peace, and to leave the past behind. But there are people and stories that refuse to be forgotten. It is a recommended read.

However, as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. The book is a powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity that asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender.

YOUTH
CORNER

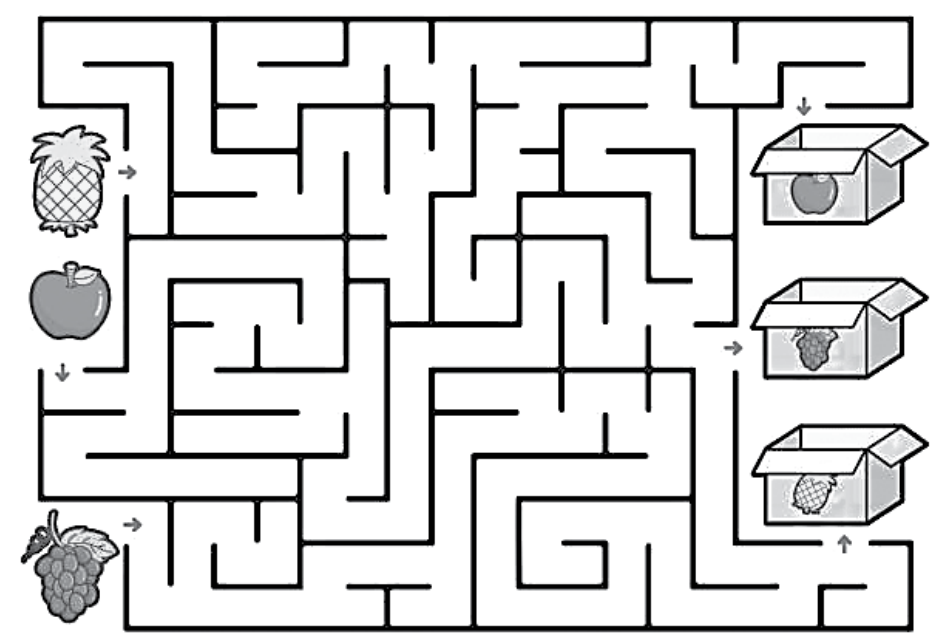
..... Oluchi Ugoh



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MAZE

Can you move each fruit through the maze into the right box



Name.....

ANSWERS ON P(25)

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

A

SAMPLES:

2

10

4

8

3

12

3

9

(7)

16

3

12

(8)

7

21

14

(9)

6

18

2

(10)

5

5

25

SOLUTION TO SAMPLES: 2 X 4 = 8, 8 + 2 = 10
3 X 3 = 9, 9 + 3 = 12

ANSWERS ON P(25)

B

4

12

3

19

5

25

5

35

Study the samples above and solve the following

(1)

5

20

4

(2)

0.5

?

10

?

(3)

7

21

?

?

Solution: using sample 1: 4 x 3 = 12.

Add all the numbers on the left hand side to get the figures in the circle on the right thus: 4 + 12 + 3 = 19

Sample 2: 5 x 5 = 25; 5 + 25 + 5 = 35

ANSWERS ON P(25)

VERBAL APTITUDE

Read the sentences correctly and decide which one should come first, second and third

A

1. A paper fell into it

2. The paper got wet

3. There was water in the bucket

B

1. He is clever

2. I like him a lot

3. Jim is my friend _____

C

1. I went to be bed early

2. I was very tired

3. I worked hard throughout yesterday _____

ANSWERS ON P(25)

WORD PLAY

All the words in each line have the same or similar meaning except one, underline the one with a different meaning

Example: Excellent splendid <u>awful</u> marvelous			
1. Get	release	obtain	acquire
2. Rejoice	decline	reject	disallow
3. Study	examine	learn	dismiss

ANSWERS ON P(25)

ANAGRAMS

Out of these ten letters, find one six-letter word, three five-letter words, and five four-letter words.

V M G E N U R G V O

ANSWERS ON P(25)

VOLUME 18 • ISSUE 4 • APRIL 22, 2023

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Taiwan to reverse ban on Canadian beef imports from cattle older than 30 months

By N.Ugoh

Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced that it would lift the ban on importing Canadian beef from cattle that are older than 30 months. The revocation of the ban

was provided in advance recently, giving a 30-day period for public input. While talking about the development, FDA Food Safety Division head Cheng Wei-chih, said the exact date that the ban will be lifted has not been decided. He said Canada obtained "negligible risk



status" for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) from the World Organization for Animal

Health in February.

After field inspection and risk assessment, the FDA decided in a meeting with experts to lift the ban. The decision to allow Canadian imports came after a government source revealed that the ban had become an obstruction in talks on a proposed bilat-

eral foreign investment promotion and protection agreement between Taipei and Ottawa. An official who spoke under anonymity said earlier discussions on a potential agreement progressed "very smoothly" until the beef issue arose.

Florida government bans abortions after six weeks of pregnancy



By Dele Akintilo

The Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, has signed a bill that bans abortions after six weeks, hours after the measure was labelled

"extreme and dangerous" by White House. In a statement, Desantis said: "We are proud to support life and family in the state of Florida." The bill prohibits women from having an

abortion in Florida after six weeks of pregnancy unless the pregnancy is induced by rape or incest and does not exceed 15 weeks, puts the health of the mother in danger or the fetus is not viable. The White House condemned the move, saying it "flies in the face of fundamental freedoms and is out of step with the views of the vast majority" of Americans. In a recent statement, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said: "This ban would prevent four million Florida women of reproductive age from

accessing abortion care after six weeks — before many women even know they're pregnant." Florida's legislature passed the text hours earlier with 70 votes to 40. This is the second time Florida will cut the legal term for abortion in a year. In April 2022, DeSantis signed a bill that reduced it from 24 to 15 weeks, with no exceptions for rape or incest. The new bill's text will not take effect until the Florida Supreme Court rules on an appeal filed by many asso-

ciations against the 15-week limit, arguing that the law contravenes a state privacy clause. DeSantis is denting his conservative credentials with the bill as he considers a run for his party's 2024 presidential nomination. Advocates of the new abortion deadline claim it is important to protect the lives of innocent children. The Democratic opposition and activists in support of abortion rights say Florida should not interfere in private decisions and warn about the negative effects of the

limit for many women. "This bill bans abortion legally, but it will not ban it in reality," said Democratic Congresswoman Lindsay Cross during the debate in the Lower House. "Abortions will be performed in private, without medical supervision and with increased risk to women's health, physical and mental well-being." According to a survey by the nonprofit Public Religion Research Institute, sixty-four percent of Floridians feel abortion should be permitted in all or most cases.

DR Congo's military tribunal sentences six to life in prison over Italian envoy's murder



By N.Ugoh

A military tribunal in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, has

sentenced six men to life in prison for killing Italy's ambassador in 2021. Death penalty had originally been sought for the six accused by public prosecutors who called them members of a "criminal gang". Luca Attanasio was among the three people that were shot dead on February 22, 2021,

when a United Nations convoy was attacked in the DRC's troubled east. Mustapha Milambo, a driver, and Italian police officer Vittorio Iacovacci were the other fatalities. While talking to AFP, the lawyers of the six Congolese men said they would appeal the life terms. Five of the men are

currently held in prison in Kinshasa, while the other is on the run. The prosecution cast the defendants as criminals who had initially intended to kidnap the ambassador and demand a \$1 million ransom during the hearings. The defendants were arrested in January 2022, denied any

wrongdoing and said their initial confessions were made under torture. Also, their lawyers argued that the prosecution did not offer evidence in support of the murder charges, and pushed for acquittal. The military tribunal also awarded damages of \$2 million dollars to Italy.

58 bodies exhumed from mass graves in a land belonging to Kenyan Pastor who told members to 'starve to meet Jesus'

By Marcel Chukwuka

At least 58 have been exhumed from mass graves in a land belonging to Pastor Paul Makenzi of the Good News International Church, in coastal Kenya, who was arrested for telling his followers to

fast to death. According to his followers, they were starving on the pastor's instructions in order to "meet Jesus". In a statement, Malindi sub-county police chief John Kemboi said that more shallow graves have yet to be dug up

on the land belonging to Makenzi, who was arrested on April 14 over links to cultism. The embattled end time pastor was also fingered in the death of two children who were starved and strangled to death by their parents "to please God".

It was gathered that the discovery of the bodies was made after a tip off from members of the public led police to raid the pastor's property in Malindi, where they found 15 emaciated people, including four who later died. More so, police had

been told there were dozens of shallow graves spread across Makenzi's farm. Recall that the pastor had been arrested twice before, in 2019 and on March 22, this year, in relation to the deaths of children. However, each time,

he was released on bond, and both cases are still proceeding through the court. As of the time of filing this report, police have asked a court to allow them to hold Makenzi longer as investigations into the deaths of his followers continue.

Guyana clamps down on parents who let their children roam the streets



By Marcel Chukwuka

Guyana’s Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Vindhya Persaud has revealed that her ministry is ramping up its cracking down on parents who leave their children unattended to wander Guyana’s streets. The Minister who disclosed this develop-

ment in an interview with the Department of Public Information (DPI), enjoined parents to take their responsibility seriously. She said “On the streets, we’ve been working with children, picking them up. We’ve managed to remove over 40 of those children... This year we are going to have zero tolerance for children on the streets”.

In her words, Child Care and Protection Agency (CCPA) has found that most of the children taken off the streets are not orphans.

“We have found that 99 per cent of those children have homes, have

parents and they are on the streets for one reason or the other. We want the parents to understand that this is not to punish you, but this is to make you recognise you have a duty to your children and you should be cognizant of that,” she said.

She explained that her ministry is consulting with parents to address the social scourge and will be using the ‘Street Light’ initiative to tackle the problem.

Local reports have it that as part of the initiative, CCPA officials and Guyana Police Force officers patrol communities to ensure children are kept off the streets.

Canada, Mercosur to resume trade deal talks



By Marcel Chukwuka

CNN Brazil has reported that the agreement talks between Canada and Mercosur to eliminate tariffs on industrial and agricultural goods, services, intellectual property, and government purchases are set to resume after over three years. The initiative was halted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The South American bloc of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay started negotiating with Canada in 2018 when other

priorities took centre stage. Three years later, a team of Canadian negotiators will be in Brasilia for the first round of discussions in the first week of May.

Brazilian media reported that the idea is to reach an agreement that covers not only the elimination of tariffs on industrial and agricultural goods but also services, investments, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, intellectual property, and government purchases, among other items.

In 2022, Brazil exported US\$5.4 billion to Canada and imported US\$5.2 billion with the major exports being gold, aluminium, semi-finished steel products, sugar, coffee, and Embraer aircraft.

Meanwhile, reports in Buenos Aires have it that Argentine leader Alberto Fernández, who is in charge of Mercosur’s pro-tempore presidency, will produce four documents to

progress with the free-trade agreement between the European Union (EU) and Mercosur that was signed in 2019.

Basically, these documents have to do with the value chain and environmentalism, in addition to products with designation of origin. It was explained that these new documents “give new meaning to the agreement going forward” and “will be made available to Mercosur.”

Zimbabwe To Ban Foreign Recruitment Of Health Workers

By N.Ugoh

The Vice-President of Zimbabwe, Constantino Chiwenga, has disclosed that the country intends to introduce a law that would make it illegal for other nations to recruit its health workers.

According to the government, the move is

targeted at preventing the loss of valuable healthcare professionals to other countries, which has been a long-standing issue for Zimbabwe’s healthcare system.

The VP who doubles as the health minister noted that the loss of healthcare professionals is comparable to human trafficking.

Chiwenga announced stricter penalties for those who he alleged had deprived the nation of its human capital.

He said, “If one deliberately recruits and makes the country suffer, that’s a crime against humanity. People are dying in hospitals because there are no nurses and doctors. That must be taken seriously”.

“Zimbabwe frowns at this heinous crime which is also a grave violation of human rights,” he added.

Reports have it that more than 4,000 nurses and doctors have left Zimbabwe since February 2021.

Records have it that the UK’s National Health Service has been an attractive destination for Zimbabwean doctors and nurses as wages are far higher than those paid back home.

Recall that recently, the UK halted the recruitment of Zimbabwean health workers after the southern African country was placed by the World Health Organisation on the red list, which denotes countries facing serious

health personnel challenges.

According to the Zimbabwe Medical Association, the country has about 3,500 doctors for a population of 15 million people.

The nation is currently facing an economic crisis characterized by high inflation that has significantly reduced wages.

Embattled Mauritanian Ex-President Pleads not Guilty on Illicit Enrichment Charges

By NCNC Staff

The immediate past president of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz has pleaded not guilty to charges of illicit enrichment on which he began to be questioned by a Nouakchott court.

The nation’s embattled former leader faces charges

of “abuse of office”, “influence peddling”, “illicit enrichment” and “money laundering” along with two former prime ministers, former ministers, and businessmen.

It could be recalled that the 66-year-old man took the reins of Mauritania following a coup in 2008 before being elected the following year and reelected in 2014.

In his defense, Aziz claimed he is “the victim of a plot” hatched by people who opposed him during his tenure.

The former Mauritania’s number one man challenged the charges as being “baseless”, putting forward the Constitution, which he said prohibits trying a president for acts committed in office.

Recall that in February, Reports have it that since the opening of the trial on January 25, it has been a series of arguments about the court’s jurisdiction, whether or not to maintain Aziz and his 10 co-accused in detention, and the rights of the defense.

Recall that in February, Aziz was the 8th President of Mauritania, in office from 2009 to 2019. A career soldier and high-ranking officer, he was a leading figure in the August 2005 coup that deposed President Maaouya Ould Sid’Ahmed Taya, and in August 2008 he led another coup, which toppled President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi.

Following the 2008 coup, Abdel Aziz became

the court decided not to rule on challenges to its jurisdiction until the end of the proceedings.

President of the High Council of State as part of what was described as a political transition leading to a new election.

He resigned from that post in April 2009 in order to stand as a candidate in the July 2009 presidential election, which he won. He was sworn in on 5 August 2009.

He was subsequently re-elected in 2014, then did not seek re-election in 2019. He was succeeded by Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, who assumed office on 1 August 2019.

Tanzania pens \$667 mln deals for rare earth and graphite projects

By Stanley Ugagbe

The government of Tanzania has signed agreements worth \$667 million with three Australian companies to mine rare earth minerals and graphite, part of the president’s drive to

fast-track negotiations on long-pending mining and energy projects.

Chairman of the government’s negotiating team, Palamagamba Kabudi said under the deals with Evolution Energy Minerals (EV1.AX), Ecograp Ltd (EGR.AX) and Peak Rare Earths (PEK.AX), Tanzania will have a 16% stake each in jointly established companies to operate the projects.

Reports have it that the U.S. government and allies including Australia, which has some of the world’s largest rare earths producers outside of China, are scrambling

to reduce their reliance on China.

It is germane to clarify that rare earths are a group of 17 minerals used in consumer electronics, electric vehicles, smart phones, renewable energy and military equipment.

Reports said under Tanzania’s agreement with Peak Rare Earths, the minerals will be mined in the southwest of the country in Ngualla.

According to Kabudi, Evolution Energy Minerals and Ecograp would mine graphite in southern and eastern Tanzania. Ecograp will

also mine for the mineral in the north.

Graphite is a mineral used for the negative end of a lithium-ion battery, known as the anode. Records have it that around 70% of all graphite comes from China, and there are few viable alternatives for batteries.

SPORTS

Dangote set to acquire French football club Valenciennes



By Bunmi Akintilo

According to reports, Africa’s richest businessman, Aliko Dangote, is set to acquire a 60% stake in Valenciennes, a French Ligue 2 football club.

This is the latest move by the Dangote Group to expand its investment tentacles to the sports industry, after its failed attempt to buy Arsenal, a Premier League team.

The Dangote Group is the biggest industrial conglomerate in Africa. The Group has a presence in many sectors including petroleum, cement and agriculture. The Group’s interest in sports is a strategic move towards varying its investment portfolio and enlarging its presence in the global sports industry.

Valenciennes, a football club based in the northern French town of Valenciennes, was founded in 1913. The club currently plays in Ligue 2, the second tier of French football and plays its home games at the Stade du Hainaut.

Valenciennes’ acquisition by the Dangote Group will offer a fresh injection of funds and expertise to the club. Also, it will offer an opportunity for the club to gain from the global network and resources of the Dangote Group.

Napoli set Osimhen’s price



By N.Ugoh

According to reports, Napoli are planning for the departure of Manchester United target and Super Eagles striker, Victor Osimhen, this summer and have valued him at £150 million.

Osimhen has been heavily linked with a move away from the Serie A side and Manchester United are eager to add to their attacking options.

Osimhen has scored 26 goals in 31 games for Napoli across all competitions this season and is one of the best strikers in world football.

Manchester United are still trying to find a long-term replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo, who departed from the club in November.

United have scored 46 times in the Premier League this season, which is below Arsenal’s 77 goals and Manchester City’s 78.

Osimhen is also reportedly wanted by Real Madrid.

Tunisia football club shuts after players move to Europe



By Stanley Ugagbe

The president of Avenir Sportif de Rejiche, a Tunisian fourth-division football club has disclosed that the club has suspended its activities after 30 of its players emigrated illegally to Europe.

Speaking with newsmen, President Jamil Meftahi said no fewer than 32 players have illegally moved to Europe over the past three years.

“We stopped the activity and suspended the matches 20 days ago,” he added.

He blamed the exodus on “a lack of financial resources” for the club and the players, stressing that “We can’t buy equipment, jerseys and sports shoes” and the players “don’t get financial subsidies”.

In his words, most of the players, aged between 17 and 22, have traveled to Europe “either by sea or by going to Serbia (a country for which Tunisians did not need visas until recently, editor’s note) and then illegally crossing the borders to other countries”.

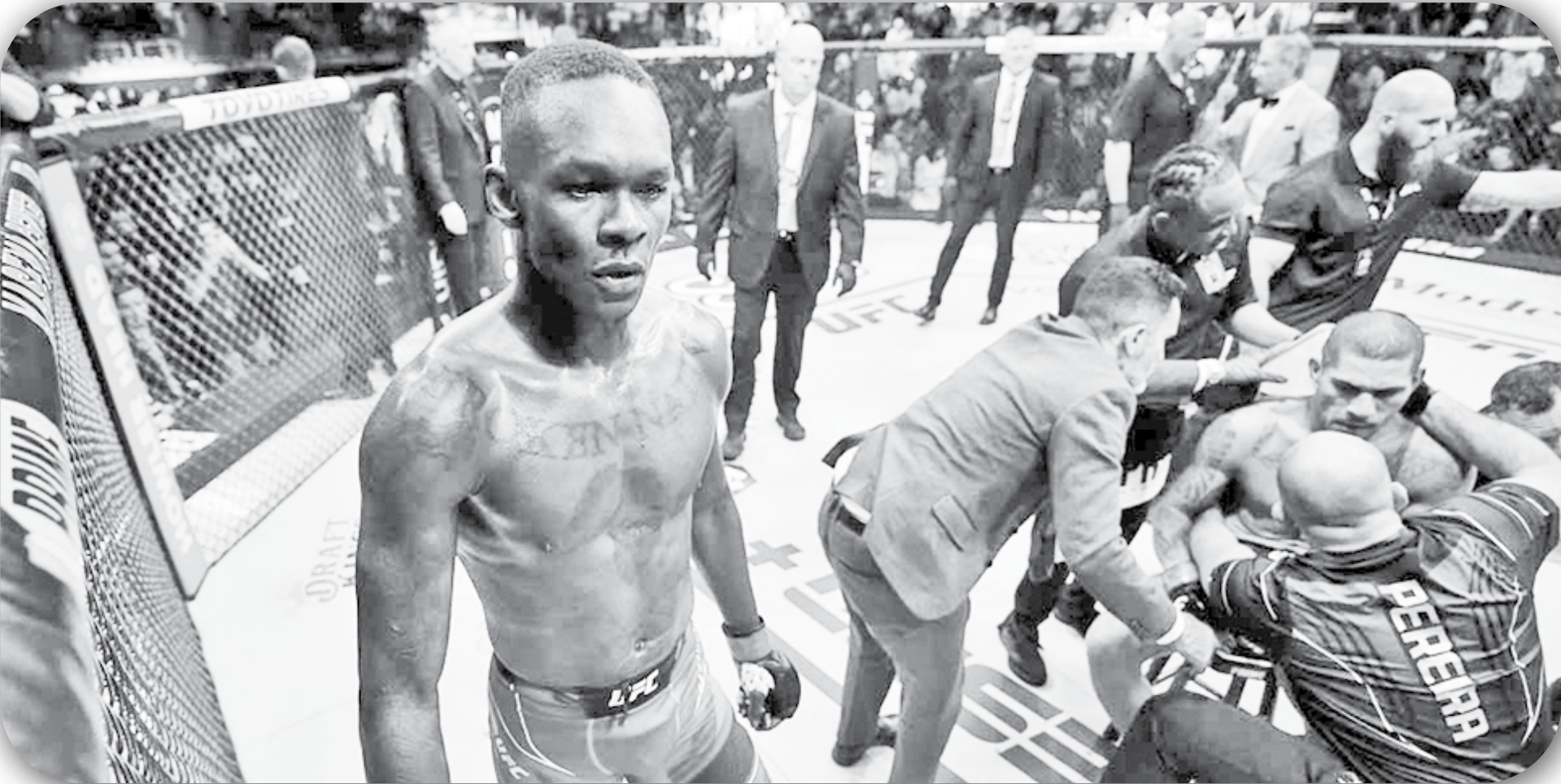
He added that the suspension of the club’s activities will continue “until we find a solution with the Tunisian Football Federation”.

Recall that in mid-February, the Avenir Sportif de Rejiche club announced that its substitute goalkeeper, Khalil Zaouli, a 19-year-old, had emigrated illegally to Italy because of “the club’s financial difficulties”.

Records have it that in recent years, faced with an economic and social situation that has deteriorated further since the coup de force a year and a half ago by President Kais Saied, thousands of Tunisians have also left the country illegally by sea.

The Italian Interior Ministry revealed to newsmen that more than 14,000 migrants have landed in Italy since the beginning of the year, compared to just over 5,300 in the same period last year and 4,300 in 2021.

Israel Adesanya knocks out Pereira to regain UFC middleweight belt



By N.Ugoh

Israel Adesanya has knocked out his bitter rival, Alex Pereira, in Miami to regain the UFC mid-

dleweight belt. Adesanya, who came out for revenge against Pereira who gave him a Technical Knock Out and stripped him of his middleweight belt in

the final round last November, bounced back from his last defeat and became UFC middleweight champion again by knocking out Pereira in the sec-

ond round. The fight was the fourth clash between Adesanya and Pereira and it was watched live by former U.S. President Donald

Trump, Mike Tyson, UFC President Dana White, and many others. While reacting to his victory during his post-fight

interview inside the octagon, Adesanya said: "This is a sweet sweet victory and you know I have a sweet tooth. The hunter is now the hunted."

Karim Benzema become the fourth highest goal scorer in La Liga record with hat-trick against Almeria



By Bunmi Akintilo

Karim Benzema's hat-trick during Real Madrid's victory over

Almeria not only returned the team's return to winning ways, but also helped him smash a record as he overtook Hugo San-

chez to become the fourth highest scorer in La Liga history with 236 goals. The 35-year-old player was in impres-

sive form, scoring two close-range goals after cutbacks from Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo, before he converted a penalty

to complete his first-half hat-trick. Though Almeria scored a goal back before half-time and even scored another goal early in

the second half, Real Madrid were dominant throughout the match. Benzema's great goal-scoring feat is only surpassed by Lionel Messi (474), Cristiano Ronaldo (311), and Zarra (252). Real Madrid will hope to carry on with their winning streak as they prepare for their Champions League semi-final clash against Manchester City on May 9. Despite Almeria's great effort, which saw them score two goals against the defending champions, Real Madrid were able to secure a convincing victory. The fact that Eduardo Camavinga and Rodrygo both had diving headers ruled out for offside did not deter the team's performance.

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RELIGION

Can rejection be a blessing?

By Pastor Amos Dada PhD;
P. Eng

"But when they opposed and insulted him, Paul shook the dust from his clothes and said, 'Your blood is upon your own heads—I am innocent. From now on I will go preach to the Gentiles.'" Acts 18:6

Rejection is the dismissing or refusing of a proposal or idea. It is the spurning of a person's affections. Feeling rejected is the opposite of feeling accepted. But being rejected (and we all will be at times) doesn't mean someone isn't liked, valued, or important. It just means that one time, in one situation, with one person, things didn't work out. Rejection hurts. But it's impossible to avoid it altogether.

What the Holy Spirit is teaching us today is that rejection may be good for you. Sometimes rejection,

opposition, insults pushes you to fulfill destiny!

Let us look at three people in the Bible that rejection pushed to fulfill destiny.

Paul

In Acts 9 : 15 "But the Lord said unto him, (Ananias) Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"

God wanted Paul to bring the message of salvation to the Gentiles. He was pushing himself to preach to the Jews until this happened!

"But when they opposed and insulted him, Paul shook the dust from his clothes and said, 'Your blood is upon your own heads—I am innocent. From now on I will go preach to the Gentiles.'" Acts 18:6

Joseph

The story of Joseph is well known. He had the dream to be a leader. Shared it with his brothers. They rejected him, sold him to slavery:

"And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams." Gen 27:18-20

As a slave in the house of Mr. & Mrs Potiphar, he suffered another rejection which led him to prison but, he went from prison to the palace:

"And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt." Gen 41:41

Jesus

Jesus suffered what

we can call the mother of all rejections. But the most crucial rejections was when Pilate was to make a decision between releasing Jesus who committed no sin and Barabbas a notorious murderer:

"So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, 'Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah? Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified'" Matt 27:17,22.

Fast forward: Jesus was crucified, died, buried and on the third day he arose. He died so that he can be a ransom for our sins. He fulfilled destiny. "And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him." Mark 16:6

You will not pass every interview. Some people may not allow you to marry the person you love. That boy/ girl may walk out on your wedding day! You may not get a particular contract. You may not secure visa to the country you wanted to go or get visa at all. Some church members may walk out on you because you preached holiness and integrity. You may not win that election. Your parents may reject you (Psalm 27:10). You may suffer divorce. The list is endless.

However; "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom 8:28

Conclusion: Paul, Joseph and Jesus's rejections were stepping stones to their successes. Should I now be praying for rejection? Maybe, maybe not.



Pastor Amos Dele Dada

Someone prayed - "May your ways be rough" Is it a good prayer? Maybe, maybe not. The likelihood you will not be rejected at one point or the other in life time is slim. Here is my counsel, like Paul will say, I have not received this directly from the Lord, but I speak as someone with His spirit. - Whenever you are rejected, ask the Lord what do you want me to learn from this. See every rejection as a learning curve, a time of reflection, re- thinking. Use rejection to your advantage. Most importantly don't kill yourself because you are rejected- rejection may be a rough path to your glorious destiny- embrace it. Shalom

Outrage as Quebec Bans Prayer Rooms in Schools

By Stanley Ugagbe

The move by Education Minister Bernard Drainville to ban public schools in Quebec from making rooms available for students to pray has sparked outrage in the province as leaders in the Muslim community throughout Quebec have rejected it.

Reacting swiftly to the development in a joint statement, representatives from several mosques with the Table de Concertation des Organismes Musulmans expressed their indignation at the decision.

The state said "We are also outraged that this decision is made in the middle of the month of Ramadan, a month of blessings, fasting, meetings with all fellow citizens and prayers for the Muslim citizens of Quebec".

Some of the persons who signed the statement are representatives from the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec, the Islamic Association of Rimouski, the Islamic Cultural Association of Estrie, the Association of Muslims of Greater Lévis, Mac-Québec, the Association socioculturelle islamique Louperivoise and BelAgir-Québec.

A day earlier, Drainville had announced that



Education Minister Bernard Drainville

he will send a directive to all school service centres to ban prayer rooms on the premises of public schools in Quebec.

Justifying the move, the father of the Charter of Values when he was in the 2012-2014 Parti Québécois government, Drainville said he had been told of at least two cases of schools in Laval where students could gather in a room to pray, thus contravening, according to him, the spirit of the law on secularism.

More so, the PQ MNA for Matane-Matapédia, Pascal Bérubé, said that a third school, in Vaudreuil, was doing the same.

However, in their reaction, Muslim leaders said they were "shocked and surprised by the allegations" of young people praying in schools. They describe the students as

"people who are clean in their minds and devoted to their studies and above all far from the delinquency that we know."

"We are also outraged that the minister is attacking the young people, who are our future for all of us," they said.

"We say to the minister that you are not offering us the path of dialogue, but you are pushing us to assert the right recognized by the Canadian and Quebec charters of rights and freedoms, to fight against this decision."

According to them, it would have been wise of Drainville to meet with Muslim leaders to explore solutions "without disturbing either the young people or the institutions of the education sector."

They conclude by emphasizing that they are "willing to work with the authorities so that solutions are found without making waves or animosity."

Meanwhile, the members of the National Assembly unanimously adopted a motion specifying that "the establishment of places of prayer, regardless of confession, in the premises of a public school is against the principle of secularism."

Pope defends late John Paul II over harassment allegations

By N.Ugoh

Leader of the Catholic Faith, Pope Francis has come to the defence of the late Pope John Paul II who was accused in a recent documentary film of ignoring allegations of abuse by priests and protecting them by transferring them.

Speaking at St. Peter's Square in Rome, Francis opined that the former pope, who was born Karol Wojtyla in Poland, is "these days the object of insulting and unfounded insinuations."

However, he did not specify which accusations he was referring.

Recall that in March, a documentary film caused an uproar in Poland, as the movie accused Wojtyla of knowing about allegations of priests' abuse in the 1960s and 1970s, when he was archbishop of Krakow.

According to the



Pope Francis at the Regina Caeli on April 16, 2023 (L) and a tapestry of St. Pope John Paul II from his canonization on April 27, 2014 (R). | Vatican Media

film, the late Wojtyla protected perpetrators by transferring them.

It was gathered that Italian and Vatican media, however, related Pope Francis' statement to remarks made by the brother of Emanuela Orlandi, who disappeared almost 40 years ago.

Reports have it that the Papal State's judiciary has been investigating the case since January.

Meanwhile, prosecutors want to pursue suspicions and lead that Orlandi, the daughter of

a Curia employee and a Vatican citizen, was abducted or murdered.

Records have it that the teenage girl never returned home on June 22, 1983, after a music lesson in Rome's old town, and sadly, a body was never found.

Her brother, Pietro recently spoke about the case after a meeting with the Vatican's chief prosecutor.

Pietro said he was convinced that Pope John Paul II as well as Benedict XVI and Francis knew or know what happened at that time.

COVER STORY

Karina Gould: 2023 budget has provision for Black communities

continued from p(1)

Check out the interview below:

NC News: I learnt that you will be coming to Toronto this afternoon for a special event.

KARINA GOULD: Yes.

NC News: To start with, tell us more about the event.

KARINA GOULD: Yes. Sure. So, I was named one of the Top 25 Women of Influence in Canada for this year and so I am on my way to Toronto right now for this award ceremony.

NC News: Congratulations.

KARINA GOULD: Thank you.

NC News: Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

KARINA GOULD: I am a Member of the Parliament and I am the Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. I am the youngest woman to be appointed to youth cabinet in Canada's history and the thing I am working on right now that I am most proud of is the delivery of affordable child care for Canadians.

NC News: tell us more about it.

KARINA GOULD: So, as of December, child care fee under li-

censed childcare has been reduced by 50% for families in Ontario. That could be between 6,000 and 8,000 dollars less. Manitoba and Newfoundland childcare is 10 dollars a day.

NC News: Does this apply to only government owned childcare centers?

KARINA GOULD: It is for anyone who is licensed. They could be private or Not-for-Profit so long it is licensed.

NC News: Must one be between a certain age bracket to be qualified?

KARINA GOULD: No.

NC News: How does one qualify?

KARINA GOULD: It is available to anyone who has a space in a licensed childcare center.

NC News: According to the budget, 45.9 million dollars will be invested over 3 years starting from 2023 to create a mental health fund for Black Public servants and establish educated career development program to prepare Black Public servants and service leaders for executive positions. Judging from the issue of systematic racism that has remained prevalent in the nation, don't you think that having a separate mental health

fund for Blacks will further escalate the discrimination? Are there feasibility of the government establishing dedicated career development program for blacks? Why wait till now? Also, do you think there are adequate provision for blacks in budget?

KARINA GOULD: My understanding is that the mental health support listed in the budget for Black Public Servants is in response to the ask from the Black Public Servants community as well as additional professional development support recognizing that systemic racism has had detrimental impact on mental health of Black Public Servants but also has limited their career growth not because of their capability but because of systemic racism that is present.

It should have been in place for a long time but because of systemic racism that has been present for such a long time. It is only now that we are acting on it.

NC News: Do you think the budget covers enough developmental issues? What are the other areas you think the government should look at?

KARINA GOULD: I think what's important about this budget is that it has important context because for example, in last year's

budget, we spent 10 billion dollars for housing. We don't have a lot on housing for this year because the 10 billion from last year's budget was not for one year. It was for over a number of years. Same thing can be said for childcare. There is additional money for childcare in this budget because in 2021, we put 30 billion dollars for five years in to the budget.

This budget is really focused, which is on affordability, with regard to healthcare and increasing the house transfer as well as introducing a Canadian benefit plan that focusses on a couple of key initiative benefits that fits into the broader objectives of the government of Canada.

NC News: We know that this budget is titled 'Made-in-Canada plan strong middle class affordable economy

healthy future.' The government applies several plans for the betterment of the country. Did the government make any special plan for your Ministry? What are the challenges your Ministry is facing and hope to tackle with this budget?

KARINA GOULD: For my Ministry, one of the big programs in here is the 25 million dollars for supporting Black Canadian communities. That's a program I am responsible for and I am really proud of and that's an important initiative in my department and there is also a considerable support for providing services to Canadians. I am also responsible for Service Canada so that's an important endorsement to make sure that we can continue to deliver services to Canadians in an effective and efficient way

and in terms of challenges, this is a difficult time for Canadians as the world is currently battling inflation, there is war in Ukraine and so on. We are certainly not immune to any of that in Canada or in my department. So, just looking at how we can continue to be there for Canadians and one of the exciting things in the budget is the new Canada dental benefit which will provide dental care to children who are under the age of 18, seniors, and people with disabilities who meet the income criteria and do not have insurance.

NC News: Thank you for your time, we hope to do a detailed interview with you soon.

KARINA GOULD: Thank you for having me, I am available anytime.

YOUTH ANSWERS – PAGE 19

Arrange the sentences

A) 3, 1, 2; B) 3, 1, 2; C) 3, 2, 1

Quantitative reasoning

ANSWERS: A) 4, 2, 12, 30; B) (1) 29 (2) 5 and 15.5 (3) 3 and 31

Word Play

Answers: Get, rejoice, dismiss

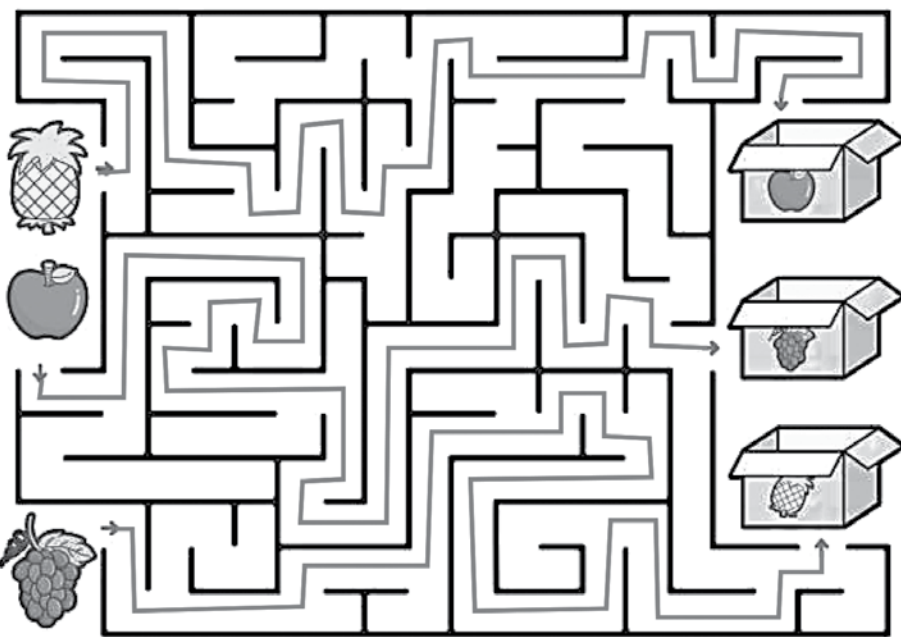
Anagrams

Six-letters: GOVERN, MUGGER, GRUNGE, MONGER, VOGUER, REGNUM

Five letters: VENON, MOVER, VOGUE, VOMER, GNOME, GROVE, GUNGE, MOURN, GORGE, ROGUE

Four letters: OVUM, GRUM, GERM GONG, MOVE, MUNG, MENU, NEUM, OVEN, MORN, NEMO, NORM

Maze



TOBECHUKWU BECOMES FIRST... – PAGE 9

pediatric nurse practitioner. As a valedictorian, Tobi had a useful word of advice for other youths like her.

The history maker said "My biggest advice to other scholars of color is to truly adopt the mindset of

Rosa Parks — 'No.' Do not conform to the stereotypes that have held us under thumbs for so long. Do not be discouraged when someone speaks out against you, simply allow what they say to fuel your fire. But more

than anything, do not remain tight-lipped. Stand up for what you believe in and take it upon yourself to be the change you've always wanted. Say 'No' to the ways of the world and stick out."

UPCOMING TRAVEL PLANS? HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE



(NC) Whether it's exploring a new destination, sightseeing with friends or taking a family vacation, many Canadians are eager to travel again this year.

However, as much fun as travel can be, careful planning can go a long way towards helping your trip be successful. Here are some tips presented by TD Insurance that could help you prepare for your upcoming travels.

1. Well ahead of your trip, make sure you have all required

documentation including your passport and booking confirmations. Remember to check your passport's expiry date and any visa or entry requirements specific to your destination.

2. If you are travelling outside your province of residence in Canada or internationally, you may want to consider purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance policies can include coverage for trip cancellation, trip interruption or emergency medical costs.

3. Before travelling, select a travel insurance plan that fits your needs and carefully review your coverage, including any limitations and exclusions so you understand what you're covered for. Remember, the cost of medical bills, travel interruption or cancellation expenses could outweigh the cost of travel insurance.

To learn more about travel insurance options visit tdinsurance.com/travel.

EXTINGUISH HOME FIRE FEARS

(NC) Fire extinguishers are an integral part of your home fire safety plan. Here are some expert-recommended tips to keep in mind:

EQUIP YOUR HOME

"Fire extinguishers should be placed on every level of your home and in common spaces like the kitchen, laundry room and garage," says Ashley Gocken, a First Alert fire safety expert with Resideo Technologies. "Make sure to store extinguishers in easily accessible places, like under the kitchen sink or mounted on the wall."

KNOW YOUR ABCS

Fire extinguishers have specific ratings that indicate what kind of fire(s) they are designed to stop.

- Extinguishers with a Class A rating can put out fires caused by wood, paper, fabric and other common materials.
- Class B rated extinguishers are intended for fires fueled by flammable liquids such as gasoline.
- Class C rated extinguishers are meant for fires caused by electrical equipment, such as frayed cords.

For reliable protection, a multi-purpose, or ABC-rated, extinguisher is recommended, such as a rechargeable home model from First Alert.

REMEMBER TO PASS



Using a traditional fire extinguisher is simple if you remember the acronym PASS:

- Pull the pin. You hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- Aim low. Point the nozzle of the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

ASSESS THE FIRE

In the case of a fire, assess the situation before using your extinguisher. If the fire is big or uncontrollable, evacuate your home and call 911 immediately. If the fire is small enough for you to manage with a fire extinguisher, use the

PASS technique to put it out. Remember, the most important thing is that you and others safely evacuate the home.

INSPECT EXTINGUISHERS REGULARLY

Regularly examine your fire extinguishers to help ensure they will function properly in the event of a fire emergency. Check your extinguisher's pressure gauge. If the pointer is in the green zone, your extinguisher is properly pressurized and ready for use. If the pointer is in the red zone, your fire extinguisher should be serviced or replaced. Remember, a fire extinguisher that has been discharged should never be stored without proper recharging by a certified professional.

SPOT THE LATEST SCAM SEPARATING YOU FROM YOUR MONEY

(NC) We never want to fall victim to a scam, but with fraudsters using more sophisticated tactics it can be harder to tell when a scam is right in front of you.

The undercover investigation scam has become more successful in recent years according to Kevin Purkiss, vice president, fraud management at RBC. Here's how the scam works:

A criminal, posing as a legitimate source, like law enforcement or your bank, reaches out to you to get your help -

and your money - for a fake criminal investigation.

While there are many variations of the scam, it often involves the fraudster saying they are investigating an employee at a bank branch. They claim they need you to withdraw a large sum of money from your own account so that it can be used as evidence in the investigation. The scam will often happen over multiple days and you are told not to tell anyone you are involved. The

scammer promises your money will be returned after the investigation is complete, but once it's handed over it's gone.

"If you are ever contacted to take part in an undercover fraud investigation, it's probably a scam," says Purkiss. "A legitimate business, government agency and your bank will never ask you to participate in an undercover operation to prevent fraud."

Find more fraud prevention tips at cba.ca/phony-bank-inspector-scam.

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