

Canada contributes \$50M at start of regional summit to discuss Haiti's future

MIKE BLANCHFIELD
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA
Canada is committing an additional \$50 million in humanitarian aid to help embattled, poverty-racked Haiti, International Development Minister Harjit Sajjan said Friday.

Sajjan announced the new funding at the start of an online meeting convened by Canada to help the Caribbean nation, which has been roiled by unrest since the summer, when President Jovenel Moise was killed in a shooting at his house that also injured his wife.
"In line with our feminist

international assistance policy, it means focusing on the empowerment of Haitian women and girls," Sajjan said in opening remarks of the online meeting where he was joined by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly.

"These projects will support security, health, economic growth, and humanitarian assistance for the people of Haiti," Sajjan added.

The new spending will include \$12 million for humanitarian services and food security for people still feeling the effects of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake last August, one month after the country was rocked by the

assassination of its president. Haiti's National Police Academy will receive another \$15 million to help "support for professional and inclusive policing," said Sajjan.

"These projects aim to increase the participation of women in policing and increase integrity. Because we all know that when women are involved, it improves peace and security."

In opening remarks, Trudeau spoke about the need to improve security in the Caribbean nation.

"In order to address Haiti's humanitarian needs, we must also address the challenging security situation. The increase in violence is only worsening

the already precarious humanitarian situation," Trudeau said.

Trudeau and Joly stressed the importance of bolstering Haiti's police in the face of rising violence and corruption.

"Clashes between armed gangs are making an already precarious humanitarian situation worse. They're making the delivery of aid to the most vulnerable populations more difficult," Joly said.

Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry was also scheduled to speak at the virtual summit.

Joly is convening the online event while she is in the midst of a three-country European trip to talk with leaders there about the Russian military buildup on

the Ukraine border. The U.S. State Department said Thursday it was looking forward to a productive meeting with Central American leaders and Joly on the future of Haiti. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman represented the U.S. at the meeting.

On Tuesday, U.S. President Joe Biden said Los Angeles would play host this June to the Summit of the Americas, where leaders from across the two continents and the Caribbean gather every three years to talk about shared priorities.

The causes of — and potential solutions to — irregular migration will be a priority item on the agenda.

PHA of Canada involved in 'error' on trucker vaccine rules: sources

MARIE WOOLF
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA
Turmoil and confusion over whether truckers would remain exempt from the vaccine mandate last week stemmed from bureaucrats misinterpreting policy in more than one federal agency — including the one that co-ordinates Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The trucking industry was caught by surprise Jan. 12 when the Canada Border Services Agency sent a statement to media saying that unvaccinated and partially vaccinated truck drivers crossing into Canada from the United States would remain exempt from the vaccine mandate that had long been expected to come into force last weekend.

The federal government reversed itself again the next afternoon with a statement that said the information shared the day before had been sent "in error." The exemption would still end Jan. 15, meaning truck drivers would need to be fully vaccinated if they wanted to avoid a two-week quarantine and pre-arrival molecular test for COVID-19 before crossing into Canada.

The government provided no more explanation for the botched messaging, which one trucking industry association said had prompted some unvaccinated big-riggers to be dispatched across the border during the period of time when everyone thought Ottawa had backed down.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his government had been consistent that the exemp-

tion would end this month.

"There was a miscommunication from an official last week that contradicted that, that was quickly corrected," he said.

The Canadian Press has learned the miscommunication went beyond one official and even beyond one department, stemming from confusion among officials over whether a key government order-in-council on COVID-19 mandates covered truckers or not. An order-in-council lays out decisions made by cabinet, such as regulations or appointments.

Four federal government sources with direct knowledge of what happened behind the scenes shared the details on the condition they not be named, as they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The confusion spilled into the public realm after a spokeswoman for the Canada Border Services Agency issued a statement on the evening of Jan. 12.

"I am reaching out to you today to provide an update on our previous response," she wrote, adding that she could now say unvaccinated truckers crossing into Canada from the U.S. would remain exempt from testing and quarantine requirements. That spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment about the statement.

One of the sources said the border agency only issued that statement after it consulted with the Public Health Agency of Canada, which told them that day that truckers would retain their exemption from the vaccine mandate beyond Jan. 15.

In fact, the Public Health Agency

of Canada had drafted a similar statement to be issued on Jan. 12. That statement, which has been viewed and verified by The Canadian Press, said: "Unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated, Canadian truck drivers arriving at the border (would) remain exempt from pre-arrival, on arrival and post-arrival testing and quarantine requirements, as crew members."

It also mentioned the United States would require Canadian truckers to provide proof of vaccination to enter that country beginning Jan. 22.

Attached to the statement were multiple sources, including orders-in-council for COVID-19.

Another source said the border agency had started hearing from the public health agency that day that truckers were not going to be included in the vaccine mandate after all. When the public health agency sent its memo, the border agency moved quickly to share the policy shift publicly. Officials were under the impression they were correcting information they had been providing for days that truckers would be part of the change.

The mistake, the source said, stemmed from an order-in-council issued by cabinet that was interpreted within the public health agency as a sign the policy on truckers had changed. That interpretation was wrong, however, as the government intended the exemption to end.

The Liberal government had announced last November the exemption for truck drivers would end mid-January, which sparked an outcry among truckers.

O'Toole's flaws must be part of Conservative election report: Batters

STEPHANIE TAYLOR
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA

The Conservative senator ousted for spearheading an effort to review Erin O'Toole's leadership says a forthcoming report of the party's election loss must confront its most serious flaws — including its leader's.

Saskatchewan Sen. Denise Batters was shown the door to the national Conservative caucus last year, after launching a petition for members to sign in hopes that it would trigger the party to hold an earlier leadership review.

The Conservative party has rejected that process as invalid, but concerns still remain within caucus and more broadly about O'Toole's ability to lead.

Among those are frustrations over reversals he made on the campaign trail on promises related to gun control and conscience rights, issues which are important to many supporters.

Following his loss, O'Toole tapped former MP James Cumming to review the party's election performance — the findings of which are set to be presented to caucus next Thursday.

Batters says she wasn't invited to participate in the review, even though she says others who did told the author to get in touch with her.

Cumming says he doesn't recall that, but he spoke to more than 400 people for his report and didn't turn down any requests to take part.

"This campaign review must accurately reflect all the major problems that were raised during meetings with participants," Batters said in a statement.

"I have heard that questions seemed to focus on operational and process issues rather than what many participants viewed as the more significant problems of the leader, the platform and the many flip-flops that occurred during the election."

A party spokesman confirmed this week that plans remain unchanged to keep the review for internal eyes only, which means those of senior staff as well as its caucus and national council.

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Medicine Hat

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RESIDENTIAL

38 CRAVEN PLACE SE (Lot 7, Block 3, Plan 7510142) PLDP20211231. Single Detached House (Overheight Fence)

COMMERCIAL

84 CRANE ROAD SE (Lot 37, Block 6, Plan 7510668) PLDP20211307. Office Use Only. Manicure/Pedicure/Aesthetician.

368 WASHINGTON WAY SE (Plan 48, Block 0613589) PLDP20211330. Office Use Only. Consultant.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, including crawl spaces.
- For sinks located against a non-insulated outside wall:
 - Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing.
 - Heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.
- Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter.
- Protect unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape.
- Outside water taps and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the tap.
- Sprinkler lines and taps should be drained/blown out.
- A thin stream of water (as thick as a pen) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve located next to the water meter in your home. You should leave the heat on in your home and have someone check inside your home daily while you're away.

A frozen water service, or a burst water pipe, is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take all possible precautions to prevent this happening in your home or business.

For more information, refer to www.medicinehat.ca or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

REAL CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recycle your real Christmas Tree anytime between December 27, 2021 – January 28, 2022 by dropping it off at one of the following convenient drop off locations:

- 20 Northlands Way NE – Northlands Co-op Recycling Depot
- 240 Kipling Street SE - Kipling Street Recycling Depot
- 3292 Dunmore Rd SE - Southwest corner of the Medicine Hat Mall parking lot

Prior to drop off, please remove all plastic bags, stands, tinsel and decorations.

Please note that artificial trees cannot be recycled in this program nor in the blue recycling cart program. Artificial trees that can no longer be used or donated should be discarded in the garbage. Refer to www.medicinehat.ca/recycle for more information.

Alternatively, you can take your real Christmas Tree to the Compost Facility, or your artificial tree to the Landfill, both located within the Waste Management Facility.

The Waste Management Facility hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Closed on Sundays and all Statutory Holidays

Download the Recycle Coach App, refer to www.medicinehat.ca/landfill, or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176 for more information.

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