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In This Issue

POLICE Body Camera Pilot Project
 Page 4

Ontario Takes Action to Help Families Make Healthier Choices
 Page 5

CANADA Needs Skilled WORKERS
 Page 5

DRAFT LAW For Equal Opportunity In EGYPT
 Page 7

New Code Gives the Right to CANCEL Cell Phone CONTRACTS
 Page 7

Jordanians Canadians Society (JCS) Raised the Jordanian Flag at Queen's Park

Al-Mersal-Toronto:
 -The Raising of the Jordanian Flag event went so well, despite the rainy weather. The event was well attended by many Dignitaries and Distinguished Members of the Canadian government, the Jordanian and Arab Canadian Communities,

Councils Generals and Diplomats from other Ethnic Communities and the local and the national Media, including the CBC.

The ceremony started by remarks from the MC and JCS sponsor of the event, the Hon. Tony Ruprecht with the as well as members of

Continue Page 10

The "Formidable Opponent" MONSIEUR JACQUES PARIZEAU IS DEAD

Al-Mersal-Toronto:
 Former Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau, a separatist and polarizing force in Quebec and across Canada, was perhaps best known as the man who nearly led Quebec to independence in 1995. Has died surrounded by his wife Lisette Lapointe and loved ones. He was 84. Parizeau's Parti

Quebecois won the 1994 provincial election after promising to hold a referendum on separation from Canada within a year.

But on referendum day in October 1995, the separatist message fell just short of convincing a majority of Quebec

Continue Page 6

PETER MACKAY Bows out of Federal Politics

Al-Mersal-Toronto:
 -Peter MacKay's remarkable career in federal politics will end this fall after nearly 20 years "for entirely personal reasons" as he focuses on his family.

With Prime Minister Stephen Harper at his side in Stellarton, N.S., MacKay announced this afternoon he will not seek re-election, but will stay on as justice minister and MP for Nova Scotia's Central Nova riding until October.

MacKay said he loved his time in public life "but the love for my family is stronger."

Ahead of the MacKay's announcement, Harper said he had "a mixture of tremendous pride and more than just a little bit of sorrow." He called MacKay an "outstanding

Continue Page 6

Ramadan Inspirations

By: Harry Ziad Malawi

The Holy month of Ramadan is right around the corner. During Ramadan, Muslims from around the World will undergo a physical and mental abstinence known as fasting. From dawn until sunset, Muslims will refrain from eating, drinking, partaking in sexual activity, speaking in any obscene manner, or indulging the mind and heart other than the remembrance of Allah.

In other words, for a period of 30 days, Muslims will focus on devoting themselves to steady prayer and self-control. This period of self-denial requires an incredible force of willpower, yet millions of Muslims worldwide will rise to the challenge.

The most addicted smokers will give up their habit in order to comply with the rules of fasting. Even those with the occasional outburst of road rage, will simply grit their teeth and mutter a word "Please watch it Mr. you cut-me-off God Bless you" rather than the usual hand or finger gesture.

This year, Ramadan falls on the 18th day of month of June.

Many Muslims will feel the thirst and hunger and some may even break their fast. However, Ramadan is always a blessing and somehow God will provide and he will help all those who want to carry on their task. For those who can't fast there are exemptions as God said in the Holy book the Quran "God wants ease for you and not hardship" For the sick, the young children or the very old people, there are also exemptions. There are also exemptions and substitutions for those who will be traveling long distances, or for women who are pregnant, nursing, or on their cycle.

For the faithful and the strong, fasting is a unique and rewarding spiritual experience, that can't be compared to any other deed that Muslims partake. This determination to better one's self as a Muslim and humanitarian is so strong that one cannot help but feel proud at the accomplishment. For 30 days Muslims can experience the joys of belonging to a community who pray, fast and break-fast in unison. They can sympathize with those who are less fortunate by suffering as they suffer.

They can act on this sympathy by offering a meal for people in need and physically making a contribution to assist others.

The spiritual blessings received during Ramadan are so enormous that even those most distant from their faith will surrender to God. For being more concerned about how God perceives them rather than bow to external pressures from society.

And most of all, for setting an example to all those channel surfers who display an outstanding force of will power and yet do not go the extra mile unless asked to do so.

It is this which highlights the true beauty of Ramadan, its ability to unite a community and people, and to encourage an attitude of peace and generosity. If excelling as a faithful believer and good humanitarian for 30 days reaps such rewards, then it would only be a disservice to us to keep such behavior dormant for another 335 days of the year.

So let's make this Ramadan a real unique spiritual experience through both learning and worship. Let's read the Quran not just to collect good deeds, but to learn and understand. We must remember that if GOD wanted us to follow blindly, if education and learning was a bad thing, creating animals would have sufficed. There is nothing greater than worshipping GOD, standing before Him in prayer and fasting with your heart your mind and your soul. May God accept your fasting, your supplications and payers.

May God bless you all.
 Amin!

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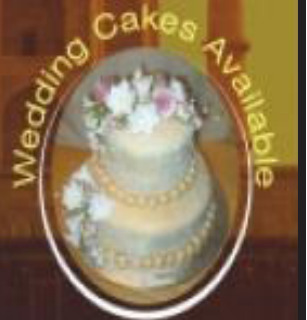
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Police Body Camera Pilot Project

Al-Mersal-Toronto: Body camera pilot project raises privacy concerns, spurs call for strict rules

With 100 Toronto Police Officers now sporting body cameras on the job, some citizens are voicing privacy concerns over how their personal information will be recorded, viewed and stored after encounters with law enforcement.

The Toronto Police Service launched its one-

year, \$500,000 body camera pilot project, sparked concerns among privacy groups over the use, safety and security of footage recorded by officers on the job.



Executive Director Sukanya Pillay of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association says body cameras can be a "good thing for accountability," but they raise a number of questions that need to be addressed as part of the pilot project.

Pillay said, "We have to make sure that privacy rights are protected," and there must be strict controls on how footage are recorded, stored, flagged and accessed in order to protect citizens captured on film. "Strict protocols have to be in place in order for

it to serve the function of accountability," she said.

The Toronto Police Association President Mike McCormack said there are still "lots of little intricacies" to iron out in the body cam project, but the cameras are meant to increase transparency and trust between police and members of the public.

"We need the public trust and policing trust to get our job done," McCormack

said. Pillay praised the Toronto Police Service for introducing body-worn cameras as a pilot project, with a full evaluation expected to take place after the one-year term.

Her organization has already raised privacy concerns with the police and hopes to be part of the one-year evaluation when it comes up, she said.

"The evaluation should have teeth," Pillay added.

The 100 officers who will wear body cameras are drawn from the TAVIS Rapid Response Team, Traffic Services Motor Squad, and Primary Response Unit at 55 Division and Community Response Unit at 43 Division.

One-In-Four Oil, Gas Jobs Could Be Lost In 2015

Al-Mersal-Toronto: In 2014, the oil and gas industry spent more than \$125 billion on exploration, development and production activities in Canada, supporting more than 720,000 direct and indirect jobs.

With an anticipated \$31 billion reduction in capital and operational expenditures in 2015, the Canadian economy could lose as many as 185,000 direct and indirect jobs related to the oil and gas industry, a 25 per cent decline from 2014, if spending patterns were to remain the same when compared with previous years.

This is according to a new employment impact assessment released today by the Petroleum Labour Market Information (PetroLMI) Division of Enform.

Based on industry expenditure estimates provided by ARC Financial with inputs from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and using Statistics Canada's inter-provincial input-output (I/O) model, this assessment examines the impacts to both direct jobs, such as geological engineers and plant operators, and indirect jobs, such as drilling contractors and helicopter pilots.

"The industry has

already experienced significant impacts to its labour force since the price of oil started its decline last November," says Carol Howes, Director of PetroLMI. "If oil prices continue to remain low, we anticipate additional reductions to spending and jobs before things start to turn around."

While the majority of job losses are expected to take place in Alberta,

Oil and gas engineering construction firms, which perform the majority of work on development projects, would expect to absorb the largest share of employment impacts, accounting for up to 75,000 jobs.

The support services sector, which is involved heavily in exploration and development drilling, would account for the next largest share of

the global economic crisis in 2008-09.

The most significant spending declines in 2015 are expected in capital expenditures on exploration and development, which are anticipated to decrease by almost \$28 billion, down 37 per cent from 2014 but similar to 2009.

Even with Canadian oil production expected to grow modestly in 2015, expenditures related to operations are also projected to decline by almost \$3.3 billion, down 6.7 per cent from 2014.

After adjusting for inflation, the estimated decline in capital and operational expenditures is almost \$10 billion, or 34 per cent, more than in 2009. If the anticipated reduction in expenditures is realized, the implications for employment in 2015 could be even more significant.

"The outlook for 2016 and beyond is unclear," says Howes, "What is clear is that the behaviour of oil and gas companies will be an important factor in determining the actual number of job losses in 2015.

Managing labour costs in a time of declining oil prices through creative workforce retention strategies will become more critical in the months ahead."



employment impacts would extend across the country.

Approximately one-third of jobs could be lost outside of Alberta, with 20,000 job losses estimated in British Columbia and 14,000 job losses estimated in Ontario.

potential job losses with an estimated decline of 26,000 jobs.

The estimated employment impacts presented in this assessment are larger in magnitude but comparable in scale to industry declines reported during

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Al-Mersal-Toronto:
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Apprentice Loan. The loan provides up to \$4,000 in funding to apprentices in Red Seal Trades per period of technical training to support them when they leave their on-the-job training to complete their



We need to say at the Cabinet table, boardroom table, and kitchen table that colleges and polytechnics deserve the same respect as universities.

That so-called blue collars deserve the same respect as white collars.

That work boots deserve the same respect as a tie. And that a trade deserves the same respect as a profession. Kids need to know that becoming an electrician or a welder is just as respectable as a career in law.

After all, skilled trade workers are the ones who literally put a roof over our heads and build the places where our communities gather.

Parents, guidance counsellors, and mentors have an obligation to spread this message as well.

To help students with the decision to take up a trade, the Government has introduced the Canada

classroom studies.

Already there are over 6,000 apprentices across the countries who have received loans.

Over half a million apprentice grants have been given out.

The Government has also created the Canada Job Grant. Based on the philosophy that training should lead to a job—a job that actually exists.

Instead of just sending young people into training institutions and then telling them to go float their resume around hoping that it leads to employment, applicants are linked up with employers before the training even starts.

Through the Canada Job Grant, the federal Government provides employers with up to \$10,000 per person, while the employer contributes \$5,000. In Ontario, 9,000 employees have benefitted so far from this job training.

Being BUSY is a BUZZKILL

Being busy is a buzzkill, says Dare to Engage Founder Anese Cavanaugh.

"How many of you get really inspired and energized when you hear another person talk about how busy they are?"

As a leadership coach, Cavanaugh has seen numerous executives deflate their employees' spirits by constantly calling attention to their own overloaded calendars.

"Watch your impact when you're talking about it with your team," she says. "Watch your impact when you see a person at a grocery store and you start to tell her how busy you are."

Despite the negative vibes that talk of your jam-

packed schedule might be injecting into your team, in all likelihood you probably are really busy. So what can you do to make that reality more bearable for both you and your team?

"Get really present to what is actually happening," Cavanaugh says. "If I'm fully present in this moment, I do not feel busy."

Additionally, you can change your vocabulary, and in doing so, your perspective.

"I like to think of it as: I am richly scheduled," she says.

Trying saying that to your team, especially with a smile on your face.

Then observe the difference in their reactions.

Ontario Takes Action to Help Families Make Healthier Choices

Al-Mersal-Toronto: -The Ontario government passed the Making Healthier Choices Act, which will help families make healthier food choices by giving them caloric information when eating out or purchasing take-away meals.

The act will also protect youth from the dangers of tobacco and the potential harms of e-cigarettes.

As part of the government's commitment to achieve the lowest smoking rate in Canada, the new legislation will: Increase the maximum fines for those who sell tobacco to youth, making Ontario's maximum fines the highest in Canada.

The government is requiring large chain food services, like fast food restaurants, to post calories on menus to help Ontarians to make well-informed choices about what they eat and feed their children.

The menu labeling is a key component of the government's Healthy Kids Strategy, which responds to the Healthy Kids Panel's recommendations for reducing childhood obesity.

The province is also supporting Ontario's hospitals and community health care organizations with training, tools, guidance and resources to help them achieve the World Health Organization's Baby-Friendly Initiative designation and adopt clinical best practices in

infant feeding.

It is also funding new community-based supports for mothers in population groups that have lower rates of breastfeeding, such as women having their first baby, Aboriginal women and women who plan to return to work within six months.

Work is underway to develop evidence-informed prenatal educational information to promote healthy pregnancies and babies, as well as positive parenting.

Ontario has also funded the development and distribution of key prenatal education messages to be distributed to parents, families, prenatal educators and health intermediaries.

The Centre for Effective Practice in partnership with the Ontario College of Family Physicians developed a Preconception Health Care Tool for primary care providers to use during regular visits for persons in their childbearing years.

Through the Healthy Kids Strategy, the government increased support for Ontario's Student Nutrition Program by \$3 million. As part of this investment, more than 250 new breakfast programs were created over two years so that an additional 61,000 children and youth in higher needs communities, will benefit from Ontario's Student Nutrition Program.

Toronto Honours Nelson Mandela with street dedication



Al-Mersal-Toronto: University Avenue, which extends from Front Street to College Street, has been named Nelson Mandela Boulevard.

"Nelson Mandela is a hero to millions around the world for his lifelong commitment to freedom and democracy,"

said Mayor John Tory. "It is an honour for the City of Toronto to designate University Avenue to recognize and celebrate his legacy of courage, determination and hope he has left behind for all of us."

Mayor Tory was joined by representatives of Toronto City Council, the Consul General of South Africa, the Nelson Mandela Legacy Committee and students from Nelson Mandela Park Public School for the official sign unveiling ceremony.



The ceremonial unveiling of the street signs was held to mark the anniversary of President Mandela's installation as president of South Africa on May 10, 1994.

A Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Mandela was jailed for his protests against South Africa's apartheid policies and spent 27 years in prison. After being released, he became the country's first black president and his government focused on dismantling apartheid by tackling institutionalized racism, poverty and inequality, as well as fostering racial reconciliation.

During Mandela's first visit to Toronto in 1990, he participated in a march along University Avenue from Toronto City Hall to Queen's Park, where he gave a speech to a crowd of several thousand people.

The ceremonial street naming includes signage along the road honouring Nelson Mandela.

The official street name remains University Avenue and building addresses do not change.

New Measures To Better Ensure The Security Of Canadians

Al-Mersal-Toronto: Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced a number of measures that will increase the safety and security of Canadians.

Mr. Harper was joined by Joe Oliver, Minister of Finance and Member of Parliament for Eglinton-Lawrence.

Our Government knows that the highest calling of any government is to ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

To this end, the Prime Minister announced new support, under Economic Action Plan 2015, for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to increase the agency's front-line capacity to combat the ever-evolving threat of terrorism.

This funding will help support CSIS' counter-terrorism capabilities to better identify and address threats from terrorists planning acts on Canadian soil or from would-be terrorists trying to travel abroad to commit such acts elsewhere.

Prime Minister Harper also announced that the

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will strengthen their resources currently allocated to countering terrorist threats in order to better crack down on the financing of terrorist groups through registered charities in Canada.

It will build on current efforts to detect and suppress terrorist financing activities in the charitable sector, to help legitimate charities better protect themselves against terrorist abuse, and to ensure that the generous donations of hard-working Canadians are not being funnelled to dangerous terrorist organizations.

Finally, the Prime Minister Harper announced significant support over a five-year period to expand biometric screening measures to all foreign travellers entering Canada on a visa.

These important measures will give Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officials the tools they need to verify the identity of travellers and further improve the security and integrity of our borders.

'No Diet Coke for you': Islamophobia claim prompts boycott

Al-Mersal-Toronto: Muslim chaplain Tahera Ahmad alleges discrimination after being refused unopened soft drink while man next to her was served unopened beer.

"We are unauthorized to give unopened cans to people, because they may use it as a WEAPON on the plane,"

Tahera Ahmad alleges she was told by a United Airlines flight attendant.



On her Facebook page, Ahmad claimed a flight attendant was "clearly discriminating against me" after she asked for an unopened can of soda for hygiene reasons and says was told, "Well, I'm sorry, I just can't give you an unopened can, so no Diet Coke for you."

When the man next

to her allegedly got an unopened beer can from the in-flight service, Ahmad said she was told something even more inflammatory: "We are unauthorized to give unopened cans to people, because they may use it as a WEAPON on the plane."

Ahmad said her fellow passengers

were of no help: "you Muslim, you need to shut the *** up,"

Ahmad said, in the Facebook post, that she

was told by another male passenger across the aisle.

"you know you would use it as a WEAPON, so shut the *** up."

Ahmad did not respond to multiple requests for comment, but Muslim activists took to social media to call the alleged incident an "inexcusable" act of bigotry.

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Peter MacKay bows out of federal politics

Continued from Page 1

public servant," a "great person" and a "historic figure." MacKay's decision to serve until the writ drops saves Harper from yet another cabinet shuffle to fill a departing minister's gap. But it carves a hole in the Conservative re-election game plan.

Viewed as the unofficial leader of the more centrist, former Progressive Conservative wing of Harper's caucus, his pedigree as the son of a Brian Mulroney confidante and stature as Harper's senior player in Atlantic Canada gave him influence few others have had with the prime minister.

For Stephen Harper, it's another sign that the old gang is gone. For Peter MacKay, the exit had been beckoning for a long time.

The departure of Mr. MacKay, last leader of the old Progressive Conservative Party, is symbolic because one partner to the merger that formed the current Conservative Party is going, leaving Mr. Harper behind.

But in a sense, the merger was old news. This became Mr. Harper's party long ago. Mr. MacKay's resignation underlines that. It means that the Prime Minister now looks around his cabinet table, after the death of Jim Flaherty and resignation of John Baird, and sees few people who were significant figures when his party came



to power, people he had to put in the cabinet. Those left are, in one way or another, Harper creations.

That, too, was another reason for Mr. MacKay to go. He had never figured in Mr. Harper's kitchen cabinet, or inner circle of cabinet advisers. He held a series of senior cabinet posts - Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice - but never wielded outsized power.

After 10 years, he had done all the best jobs he was going to get in Mr. Harper's government. He was notably defence minister when Canadian troops were in Afghanistan and, as a lawyer and former prosecutor, he got a position he always wanted in Justice. With a young family - he married Nazanin Afshin-Jam in 2012, had a son in 2013 and is expecting a daughter - there were more reasons to go. There have been regular episodes of speculation over the past five years that Mr. MacKay was about to leave for a lucrative private-sector position.

And then there's politics. Aside from his cabinet posts, Mr. MacKay's political purpose was as ward healer for Atlantic Canada and by far the best-known federal minister from the region. But the Conservatives are getting clobbered there.

Liberals have taken over all provincial governments but Newfoundland's, and the PC government there appears doomed. Mr. Harper is unpopular in most of Atlantic Canada. Polls regularly show his Conservatives trailing badly. Far from having coattails, Mr. MacKay is facing a Tory debacle in the region where just hanging on to his own seat might be his realistic goal. Will he be back? He has always been mentioned in gossip as a potential successor as party leader, but the problem is he appears to be more popular outside the party ranks than within. Still, leaving now probably would help that ambition: A future Conservative leader would have to put some distance between himself or herself

and Mr. Harper.

It's a distance that, as it happens, was always there. And even if Mr. Harper never made Mr. MacKay a close adviser or important player in making government policy, he was an important figure in his own right.

When Mr. Harper came to power, there were several of those. Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Baird had been high-profile Ontario cabinet ministers. Stockwell Day was a former party leader, and there were well-known MPs who were in the party and Parliament as long as the PM. Now, there are just a few left, such as Tony Clement and Rob Nicholson, and they are not his highest-profile political actors.

There is a new rank of front-bench ministers, including James Moore, Lisa Raitt and Joe Oliver. But arguably only Jason Kenney can claim a political base independent of Mr. Harper. The PM really doesn't have his own cohort in his cabinet any more. That happens to long-serving prime ministers. But it also means that Mr. MacKay's departure underlines the already-widespread notion that the Conservatives are more about the leader than the team. That PC merger symbolism will mean something, but just as meaningful is that Mr. Harper is now the last prominent symbol of continuity in his own government.

The "Formidable Opponent" JACQUES PARIZEAU IS DEAD

Continued from Page 1

people, who rejected independence by a 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent vote.

A majority of French speakers, who made up 82 percent of the Quebec population, voted for independence. But an overwhelming majority of English speakers and immigrant groups rejected secession.

A defeated Parizeau lashed out at these latter groups as the failure of the separatists became clear.

"We are beaten, it is true. But by what? Money and the ethnic vote," he told supporters, in a quo te that came to symbolize francophone frustrations and Parizeau's own bitterness.

That was the second time that Quebec voters had rejected separatism in 15 years, after a failed vote in 1980.

Parizeau, who had trained as an economist, resigned as Quebec's premier a day after the referendum.

Before he was premier, Parizeau joined other nationalist Quebec

intellectuals in starting the "Quiet Revolution" in the 1960s, that gradually put French speakers in charge of their province's affairs.

Born into the posh Montreal neighborhood of Outremont, the son of an insurance broker had a doctorate from the London School of Economics.

To succeed in politics, the portly, mustachioed Parizeau worked to change his image as a cranky and pompous aristocrat by

shedding his trademark three-piece suits and kicking a two-pack-a-day smoking habit.

While he retired to private life after resigning from politics, Parizeau said in 2013 he was a member of the separatist Parti Quebecois "for life" and argued that sovereignty was still possible for Quebec.

"Do not be afraid of your dreams, do not be afraid of the obstacles in your path, that's the message that I want to tell you," he told Quebec nationalists at a 2013 gathering in Montreal.



Public Notice Changes to MI WAY Fares Effective April 27, 2015:

Fare Category	New Fare: Effective April 27, 2015	Increase/Change to Fare
Cash Fare	\$3.50	25 cent increase
Adult Ticket	\$2.90	10 cent increase
Adult - PRESTO	\$2.90	10 cent increase
Adult Monthly Pass	\$125/month	\$5 increase/mth
High School Student - Ticket	Fare category will apply to students between age 13 and 19.	
High School Student Monthly Pass	The high school student monthly pass will be discontinued effective July 1, 2015.	
Post-Secondary Student - PRESTO ePurse	\$2.65	20 cent increase
Child Ticket	Fare category will apply to children between age 6 and 12.	
Senior Ticket	\$1.90	Five cent increase
Senior - PRESTO	\$1.90	Five cent increase
Senior Monthly Pass	\$57/month	\$4 increase/mth
Senior Annual Pass	The senior annual pass will be discontinued effective January 1, 2016.	
GO Transit Co-Fare	\$0.80	5 cent increase

Fare Change Background

- To continue to encourage a transition to PRESTO as a method of payment, the cash fare will increase to \$3.50.
- There is no change to high school student and child fares. Rates will be frozen at the 2009 rate.
- The high school student ticket will now apply to students between the age of 13 and 19 to bring consistency to student fares across the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA).
- The high school student monthly pass will be discontinued effective July 1, 2015.
- The child ticket will now apply to children between the age of six and 12 to bring consistency to child fares across the GTHA.
- The senior annual pass will be discontinued effective January 1, 2016.

PRESTO card

Riders will now have more options to load PRESTO cards. In addition to the City Centre Transit Terminal, Islington Subway and GO Transit stations, customers can now load PRESTO cards at all community centres with the exception of Meadowvale Community Centre which is closed for renovations and Rivergrove Community Centre, expected to have the service soon. For more information on MiWay bus fares visit miway.ca/busfares.



Vote at Advance Polls April 13, 18 & 19, 2015.



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Ward 4 By-election Day is Monday, April 27, 2015.

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Lebanon's Historic Yellow House is set to open its doors SOON...

By: Maroun Hage:

Yellow and destroyed, the Barakat house still stands at the Sodoco intersection in Lebanon's Ashrafieh area.

At the end of 2015, 40 years after the start of the Lebanese civil war, the building is going to reopen as a cultural and research center, as a place of memory and heritage, dedicated to the city and its evolution.

The four-story residence built during 1924 and 1936, the yellow house is a standing witness of different architectural styles: Ottoman, French and Art Deco.

It also saw the violence of civil war, used strategically by snipers controlling the area when sectarian tensions dominated in Lebanon in 1975.

At the end of the war, the Barakat family sold the house to a construction company, and in 1997, activists such as the architect Mona Hallak noticed that construction was happening and managed to stop it.

Today, the building is finding a third life through the municipalities of Paris and Beirut and Lebanese civil society, all of which joined forces and shared ideas to preserve this area's heritage. Beit Beirut is a symbol of the residential bourgeois buildings in the first half of the 20th century.

The past is still present in curtains and decorations on the floors and walls and in the family archives found in the eight apartments. The building is pockmarked with bullet holes from defenders, attackers and messages from snipers.

From later years, when the war was over and the Monot neighbourhood became the center of Beirut nightlife, graffiti marks the walls.

Ninety years of Beirut history and its people's evolution are conserved on and in the Yellow House.

The restoration project began in 2008; reconstruction started in 2010 and took five years to complete.

The architect in charge of the project is Youssef Haidar, who studied architecture in Paris before returning to Lebanon in the '90s. "Our attention is not to realize a face-lift, but treat it, which is a fairly new approach to memory in Lebanon.

We filled the missing parts as you would with dentures, different from the rest, a new flesh to give it back its humanity."

To best preserve this memory, Haidar added a new building to the existing structure while preserving its facade and interior.

He said, "We only stabilized it and made it functional, leaving it frozen in time."

The two destroyed staircases at the entryway are as the snipers left them.

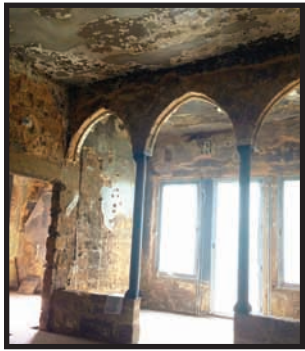
The architect installed two elevators in the new building.

It is "very contemporary, with a new updated architectural language, lined with mirrors," he said.

The Beit Beirut is not only for people to visit, it is also intended for researchers, who will be provided a 30,000-book library as well as five work spaces, separated by glass windows.

All of this, of course, will be free.

Set to open its doors by the end of 2015.



HOW YOU CAN BE A... Phenomenally Successful...!

By: Lana Richards:

Incredibly successful people make a huge difference not just in their own lives but also in the lives of the people they care about, both professionally and personally, here are some of the ways on how you can be a Phenomenally Successful:

1. Answer the unasked question.

Maybe she's hesitant. Maybe he's insecure, or shy. Whatever the reason, people often ask a different question than the one they really want you to answer. Behind many questions is an unasked question. Pay attention to that question, because that's the one the other person might really need answered.

2. Don't wait.

You don't have to wait to be discovered. You don't have to wait for an okay. You don't have to wait for someone else to help you. You can try to do whatever you want to do right now. You may not succeed. But you don't have to wait.

3. Appreciate the unappreciated.

Some jobs require more effort than skill. Bagging groceries, delivering packages, checking out customers -- the tasks are relatively easy. The difference is in the effort. Do more than say thanks to someone who does a thankless job. Smile. Make eye contact.

Exchange a kind word. All around you are people who work hard with little or no recognition. Vow

to be the person who recognizes at least one of them every day.

4. Give latitude instead of direction.

Letting another person decide how is the best way to show you respect their abilities and trust their judgment.

In a command-and-control world, latitude is a breath of freedom and is a gift anyone can give.

5. The dream is real

Sure, always strive for more but don't forget to take a moment to realize that all the things you have, especially your relationships, are more important than anything you want to have.

Unlike a want, what you have isn't a hope, a wish, or a dream. What you already have is real. And it's awesome. And it's yours.

6. Look beneath the surface.

Sometimes people make mistakes. Sometimes they piss you off. When that happens it's natural to assume they didn't listen or didn't care.

But often there's a deeper reason. They may feel stifled.

They may feel they have no control. They may feel frustrated or marginalized or ignored or not cared for.

7. Make love a verb.

You love your work. When you're working, that feeling shows in everything you say and do. You love your family.

When you're with them, does that feeling show in everything you say and do?

New Laws Gives you the Right to Cancel Cell Phone Contracts

Al-Mersal-Toronto: -The Wireless Carriers has lost a federal court appeal on wireless code. This means customers will be able to walk away from their 3 year contracts with their phone company regardless of when their contract expires.

The Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission's wireless code took effect on Dec. 2, 2013, but will apply to all wireless contracts signed as of June 3, 2013.

Canada's wireless carriers attempted to prevent the code from applying to people with three-year wireless contracts that would not have expired by June 3.

The carriers lost a Federal Court appeal in May when the court ruled that the CRTC can make the code applicable to those contracts even if it interferes with the rights of mobile carriers.

People with three-year contracts that have lasted more than two years can cancel their plans without paying any cancellation fees, according to CCTS. This applies to anyone who signed a three-year contract before June 3, 2013.

The wireless code mandates that carriers can't charge cancellation fees after 24 months.

Contracts started June 3, 2013, to Dec. 2, 2013

People who started their contract between June 3 and Dec. 2, 2013, can cancel their contracts. But they will have to pay at most \$50 to do The carrier will calculate 10 per cent of "the minimum monthly charge for the remaining months of the contract," according to CCTS. Contracts started after June 3, 2013, with a device subsidy

Some individuals may have contracts that came with a device subsidy, meaning the carrier offered a cellphone at a reduced price and built payments into the contract to

make up the difference.

Carriers are able to recover some of the remaining device costs from people who want to cancel their contracts that were signed between June 3 and Dec. 2, 2013.

The CCTS offers a formula for calculating that cancellation fee. Carriers will have to divide the original device subsidy amount by 24 months, which is the amount of time the code allows carriers to recoup a device subsidy. They will then multiply that number by the number of months the contract has already lasted, and then subtract it from the original device subsidy amount.

For example, a three-year contract started on Nov. 5, 2013 with a device subsidy of \$240 cancelled on June 10 would cost the customer a \$40 early cancellation fee.

Contracts started after Dec. 2, 2013

All wireless code protections already apply to people who entered into contracts after Dec. 2, 2013.

These protections, in addition to \$0 early cancellation fees after two years, include allowing customers to:

- Cancel a new contract and return the phone at no cost (provided customers stay within usage limits) within 15 days if they are unhappy with service.
- Refuse changes to key contract terms and conditions, including services and prices, for the contract's duration.
- Get a plain language summary of services.
- Cap excess data charges above plan limits at \$50 a month.

There are some concerns these changes may raise the price of smartphones in the short term. With customers being able to walk away from three-year contracts after 24 months without a penalty, there will be little sense in offering longer-term deals.

DRAFT LAW FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EGYPT

Al-Mersal-Toronto: Remarks by former Justice Minister Mahfouz Saber that the son of a rubbish collector should not be appointed to the judiciary has outraged Egyptians, and highlighted the problem of social mobility, or lack thereof.

Saber said, "The son of a rubbish collector will not become a judge, because he is not brought up in the right environment for this profession."

Egyptians' outrage brought to mind the troubling case of Abdul Hamid Sheta, who committed suicide in July 2003, at the age of 25, after being rejected for a job.

Sheta had applied to be a commercial attaché, and although he had scored higher than 42 others on the

diplomatic corps entrance exam, he was rejected because he came from a poor peasant family.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Sheta was "socially unsuitable."

In June 2014, 138 law school graduates from the class of 201 conveyed their distress to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi after they failed to get jobs in the parliament, although they had passed all their tests and had gone through the full round of interviews.

It seems that Sheta's message has not changed anything in terms of favoritism in public sector hiring.

Social status has always been a criterion for getting a job in the Egyptian judiciary,



diplomatic corps, and police.

Hafez Abu Seada, secretary-general of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), said that Saber's resignation does not change the status quo or guarantee equal employment opportunities in the judiciary or diplomatic corps, but it has at least shed light on the discrimination in employment practices.

Abu Seada said that the

NCHR has prepared a draft law forbidding all forms of discrimination, including in employment, in line with Article 53 of the 2014 Constitution, which reads, "Discrimination and incitement to hate are crimes punishable by law."

The proposed law would give every citizen subjected to discrimination the right to file a lawsuit. The draft law will be taken up by the next parliament

for consideration.

Maj. Gen. Maher Hafez, former chairman of the Supreme Council for Police Forces, expressed that in his old sector "the focus is on the 'social suitability' of the applicants for police academies, as well as their families, down to the fourth generation." and exclaimed, "The issue has nothing to do with poverty or wealth, but rather with the milieu within which the applicants were raised."

On the possibility of a rubbish collector's son becoming a policeman, Hafez said, "In fact, he will be rejected, not because he is poor, but because his father's job required him to be raised in the rubbish collectors' community?" Hafez asserted, The wave

of public sympathy for the symbolic rubbish collector's son got the attention of at least one diplomatic outpost in Cairo, prompting the British ambassador to Egypt, John Casson, to announce that all are welcome to work at the British Embassy, including the refuse collector's son. Despite public awareness, the facts on the ground point to the continuation of the cultural reality that insists that people of lower-class status are not even allowed to strive to become judges or diplomats or police officers, while by virtue of birth the son of a judge is inherently deemed more suitable for the judiciary.

What is the meaning of equal opportunity in Egypt?

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MUSIC a Positive Way to Impact Learning and Social Behavior in CHILDREN

According to a study performed at the Boston Children's Hospital, early musical training enhances the areas of the brain responsible for executive functioning, which enables information processing and retention, regulates behavior, and is responsible for problem solving and planning, as well as other cognitive processes.

The study took musically trained children, ages nine to 12, who

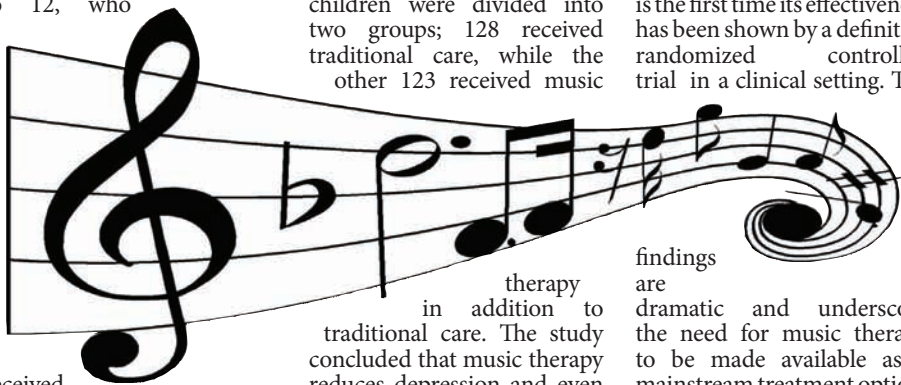
enhanced activity levels in the prefrontal cortex. Long-term results include heightened IQs, stronger SAT scores and an overall better academic performance.

Another study, which took place at Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland, focused solely on children and adolescents with emotional, developmental and/or behavioral problems.

Two hundred fifty-one children were divided into two groups; 128 received traditional care, while the other 123 received music

therapy. The study found that children who were in the music group were more likely to be among the first to go when schools make funding cuts, but perhaps these collective study findings will give music - and the children who benefit from it - a fighting chance.

Ciara Reilly, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust, said: "Music therapy has often been used with children and young people with particular mental health needs, but this is the first time its effectiveness has been shown by a definitive randomized controlled trial in a clinical setting. The



received at least two years of private lessons, and compared them with children in the same age range that had no musical training, concluding that children with musical training had

findings are dramatic and underscore the need for music therapy to be made available as a mainstream treatment option. For a long time we have relied on anecdotal evidence and small-scale research findings about how well music therapy works. Now we have robust clinical evidence to show its beneficial effects."

Music programs often

Picasso Painting sells for \$179.4 million

Al-Mersal-Toronto: -A Picasso oil painting from 1955 smashed the record for the most expensive artwork ever sold at auction when it soared to \$179.4 million at Christie's auction.

The auction house had estimated "Les femmes d'Alger (Version 'O')" would sell for about \$140 million, but several bidders competing via



telephone drove the winning bid to \$160 million, for a final price of \$179,365,000 including Christie's commission

of just over 12 percent.

The buyer of the vibrant cubist work was not identified. Tremendous competition came from five major collectors bidding at the \$120 million level. Christie's said active bidders came from 35 countries, with European and Asian collectors in particular competing with Americans for the top-tier works.

Ways to Salvage Lemon

Al-Mersal-Toronto: -Did you know you can squeeze extra savings out of spoiled fruit? Here are a few tips on how to get the most out of your producer.

Take lemons, for example. Just because they've gone bad, doesn't mean that they've completely gone to waste. Ants, roaches, and fleas actually hate the smell of lemons.

So, if you've got a pest problem, just place small slices of lemon peel on windowsills, in doorways, and near any cracks or holes. The scent

is enough to drive those critters away.

Lemons can also be used to remove mineral deposits

fill it up with water, add a handful of thin lemon-peel slices and bring to a boil.

Afterwards, let it sit for an hour, drain and rinse, and your kettle will be as good as new.

Lastly, lemons are excellent stain removers. Just rub half a lemon on the stain and allow the garment to sit overnight.

So, when you can't turn lemons into lemonade, use these tips to cash in on their other fruitful benefits.



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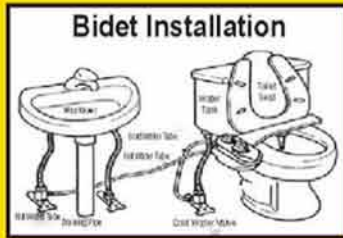


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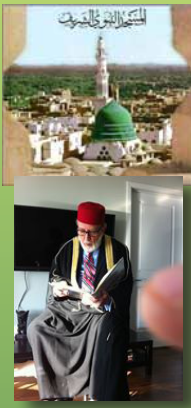
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Raising the JORDANIAN Flag at Queen's Park

Continued from Page 1

introduction of the guests of Honor. Mr. Ruprecht then called on the Flag bearer retired Jordanian Canadian colonel Mr.



Yousef Al Assouly who presented the flag to the Ontario Parliament Sergeant of Arms.

Mr. Ruprecht then called upon the Honorable Rick Nicholls MPP representing the PC leader who spoke highly of the strong ties between Canada and Jordan and praise the leadership of HM King Abdulla II for managing Jordan's economy while combating terrorism and keeping the peace and security in Jordan. Then the Flag was raised high while the crowd sang the Jordanian national anthem.



Followed by Mr. Malawi president of JCS who thank the attendees with the following speech: Honourable Members, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

AL-Salam Alaykun, Good afternoon, Bon Jour. My name is Harry Ziad Malawi Freihat; I am a proud Jordanian Canadian Citizen, and I have been living in this great country of ours (The land of opportunity), Canada for over 50 years. I am also pleased and honoured to be the President of the Jordanian Canadians Society and your host for this event.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of "JCS" and the Jordanian Canadians Community at large, I would like to welcome you all to the Jordanian Flag Raising Event, in honor of: Jordan's 69th Independence Day...!

Today, we are very proud and honoured to celebrate raising our mother country's Flag Jordan side by side- along with our adopted country's Flag Canada. The raising of the flag at the Ontario Parliament Building "Queens Park", is not



just a symbolic gesture of the deep rooted friendship and cooperation's between our two countries; Jordan and Canada, but it will have huge sentimental feeling to our community member of sense of belonging to this great country of ours Canada.

This remarkable event, (the First of its kind for the Jordanian Canadian Community) could not be made possible, without the kind help and assistance of our politicians, our MPP's and our Ontario Government, under the leadership and guidance of the Honorable Kathleen Wynne, and my long time dear friend the former Minister of Citizenship and immigration the Hon. Tony Ruprecht to which we are forever grateful.

Ladies and gentlemen, Jordan is a tiny



peaceful and democratic Kingdom situated in the heart of the Middle West, and it is one of the few remaining safe heaven countries in the region, where peace, harmony and prosperity still exist among the turmoil and war torn neighbouring countries.

Despite Jordan's limited resources,



Jordan continue to leave their borders wide open to the sick and need from women and children and the elderly who have been affected by the horrific and brutal war. Today there are over 2 million refugees and 2 million more migrants in Jordan from neighbouring countries who have sought safe shelter in Jordan. Some of the migrant have now call Jordan their homeland. Unfortunately those refugees have



placed an extra heavy burden on the people of Jordan and on Jordan's economy, infrastructure, government facilities, such as water, electricity food and housing, and this sudden burden is too heavy for Jordan to bear alone.

Therefore as a compassionate and peace loving nation, we have to help Jordan in any way possible, by donating to Jordan, by visiting Jordan, by investing in Jordan and by trading with Jordan.

Thank God Jordan's economy is very stable, investing in Jordan is very lucrative and the labour cost is very reasonable and most Jordanians are very skillful. Jordanians are very hospitable and very friendly. Jordan also offers exciting historical, religious and ancient Arabic, Greek and Roman antiquities and artifacts, unique culture and fabulous tourism sites from the Jordan River where the Lord Jesus was baptised, to the Dead Sea and the Red Sea and from Jerash to Petra with modern facility and a touch of old fashion Arabic

The raising of the flag is truly a remarkable reason for us to celebrate among such distinguished guests to reaffirm the friendship between our two countries that rest upon common interests and values,



as well as strong people-to-people ties. It's also a personal interest of mine as well to see strong ties between both our countries.

Over the years, Canada and Jordan have co-operated in so many ways on matters such as; trade, education, skills development, landmine reduction, peacekeeping operations, combating terrorism, and security, just to mention a few. Innovation is also an important part of Jordan's vision for the future.

As to the terms of security, Jordan and the Middle East region are facing some very



difficult and challenging times. However under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdulla's the second may God Bless Him, Jordan will prevail and will continue to work diligently in finding peaceful solutions whenever possible.

His Majesty King Abdulla called for unity and pride in all that Jordan has accomplished. He spoke of tolerance and respect, of good citizenship and excellence. He spoke of a bright future, civilized and progressive, in which "the sky is the only limit." These values and these hopes are shared by all of us.

Canada is proud to call itself a friend and partner of Jordan. Our two countries have achieved a great deal in the half-century since establishing formal ties. Together, we can achieve so much more.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to highlight our Mother Country Jordan and to raise the Jordanian Flag so lets us begin raising the Jordanian Flag high in the sky with Jordanian national anthem. Long live the King; long live the Queen, and may God Bless Jordan and may God Bless Canada.



flavour that is superior to all other places in the World and at very low and reasonable prices. Jordan values its excellent relationship with Canada. His Majesty King Abdulla the second and her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan and His Majesty the late King Hussein Bin Talal "May God



Bless his soul" have always valued Canada's relationship and have visited Canada several times.

The red oak that Queen Rania planted during her visit to Rideau Hall in 1999, near the sugar maple tree which was planted by his Majesty the late King Hussein, is a living proof of the strong ties between Canada and Jordan. What a wonderful symbols these trees are of the enduring friendship



that exists between Jordan and Canada. Like the maple tree and like the oak tree, Jordan and Canada relationship roots run deep.

For over 50 years now, Canada and Jordan have enjoyed a close relationship.

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إحتفالات جمعية الأردنيين الكنديين بعيد إستقلال المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية ورفع العلم الأردني أمام البرلمان الاونتاريو في تورنتو

المرسال تورنتو. أقامت جمعية الأردنيين الكنديين إحتفالاً كبيراً بمناسبة إستقلال المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية التاسع والستون. حيث تم رفع العلم الأردني أمام مبنى البرلمان الاونتاريو الكندي بمدينة تورونتو. وذلك برعاية معالي وزير الهجرة الاونتاريو السابق السيد توني روبرك. نائباً عن دولة السيدة "كاترين وين" رئيسة وزراء حكومة اونتاريو. وحضر الإحتفال عدد كبير من الشخصيات الكندية من السلطات التنفيذية والتشريعية والحكومية في مقاطعة أونتاريو. كما حضر الحفل جمع كبير من أبناء الجالية الأردنية والعربية. وممثلين دبلوماسيين عن عدد من القنصليات الرسمية. ورؤساء جمعيات كندية أخرى في مدينة تورونتو.

ثم حدثت سعادة النائب ريك نكلاس مندوباً عن رئيس حزب المحافظين بكلمة أشاد فيها بجهود جلالته الملك عبد الله الثاني المعظم في تعزيز الأمن والأمان في الأردن. وحفظ السلام ومحاربة الإرهاب في منطقة الشرق الأوسط. كما أشاد بجهود جمعية الأردنيين الكنديين برئاسة الاستاذ زياد فريجات. ومن ثم دعا معالي السيد روبرك. الاستاذ زياد فريجات - رئيس الجمعية - لتقديم العلم الأردني. والذي بدوره دعا ضيوف الشرف وأعضاء الهيئة الادارية لجمعية الأردنيين الكنديين كل من السيدات: والسادة سحر المجالي. محمد البندقجي. فكتور الخبيب. احسان سعيد ال خطاب. احمد العزام. ريم الزعبي. وسناء الومني. كما دعا الحضور للمشاركة موكلاً أحد أبناء الجالية الأردنية الرائد المتقاعد السيد يوسف العسولي بتقديم العلم. حيث تم تسليمه لقائد حرس شرف البرلمان الاونتاريو الكندي. ليتسنى رفعه على منصة عامود العلم. ثم قام كل من معالي السيد روبرك وسعادة النائب نكلاس والاستاذ زياد فريجات برفع العلم عالياً خفاقاً ولأول مرة في سماء مدينة تورونتو. المدينة التي تحتضن العدد

الأكبر من أبناء الجالية الأردنية والعربية على حدا سواء. على انغام موسيقى القرب. بينما قام الحضور بنشيد السلامين للملكين الأردني والكندي. وحدث الاستاذ "زياد ملاوي فريجات" رئيس جمعية الأردنيين الكنديين. بكلمة ألقاها بهذه المناسبة الوطنية السعيدة. شكر فيها الحضور الكرام للمشاركة والمساهمة في هذا الحفل قائلاً: ان هذا التكرم وهو رفع العلم الأردني (الأول والفريد من نوعه بالنسبة للجالية الأردنية). هو تعبير عن إحترام الحكومة الكندية للأردن وقيادتها الهاشمية الحكيمة. كما يعبر عن تقدير الحكومة الكندية للجالية الأردنية في كندا. ويعزز من علاقات الصداقة الثنائية القوية بين البلدين والتي توطدت منذ أكثر من خمسين عاماً مضت. وأوضح كذلك في كلمته الى أننا كأردنيين مغتربين عن بلادنا بالجسد وليس بالروح نفتخر بأننا نعيش في كندا ونعتز بنفس الوقت ببلدنا الأم الحبيب. ونشعر مع الأردن بعينه الثقيل حيث يحتضن ملايين اللاجئين من الدول العربية الشقيقة. خاصة من العراق وسوريا وليبيا واليمن. ليكون ملجأً آمناً وبلداً مضيفاً لكل من يحتمي به. ودعا الحكومة



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A State Visit by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan To CANADA

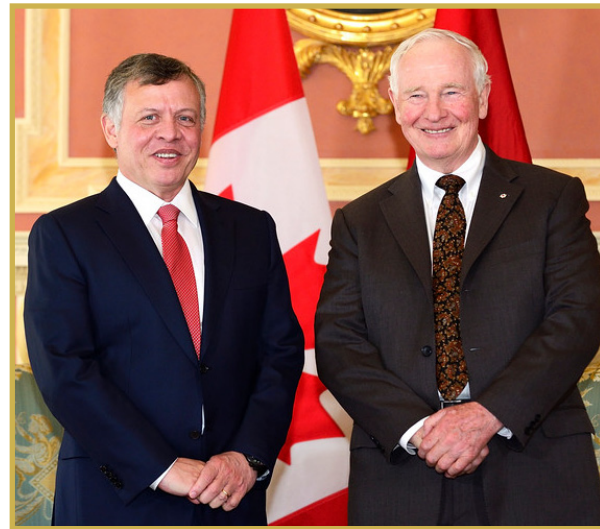
Al-Mersal- Toronto: Canadian and Jordanian flags were recently seen decorating the streets and fluttering in the sky of the country's capital Ottawa to welcome the visit

Elizabeth II. The King then proceeded for a state luncheon and among the distinguished guests were representatives of the Canadian

Leader Justin Al-Majali, secretary of the Jordanian and his wife Sophie Dr. Basma Momani.

"Your role and your presence in our part of the world is something that is drastically needed and one that I am very proud to be a partner of." On this occasion,

included in such a historic occasion. On behalf of the administrative board of the Jordanian Canadians Society, along with members of the Jordanian



Gregoire, Canada's Ambassador to Jordan Bruno Saccomani, members of the diplomatic corps, and Jordanian Canadians. Following in the words of His Majesty King Abdullah II, he thanked Canada for its contribution to the military mission in the middle east.

I've had the pleasure to attend the state luncheon at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, erected in the king's honor along with Dr. Sahar



of His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein of Jordan, may God protect him - Amin - to Canada, the subject of glory and pride for all the people of Jordan and the Arab Community?

Upon the arrival of His Majesty King Abdullah II, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, he was received by His Excellency The Governor General of Canada David Johnston and his wife Sharon Johnston.

King Abdullah then inspected the guards of honor and was given a 21- gun salute.

The likes of which has not being seen in the Country's capital since the visit of Her Majesty Queen

government including Liberal

And he said that Canada's participation was needed and he wanted all Canadians to understand that.

I am pleased and honored to have been

community in Canada, we renew our covenant and loyalty to His Majesty the King and his family, Hashemite precious, beloved people and the army and the Government of Maprien our full support, and our support absolute march Hashemite triumphant.

We are your sons here in the Diaspora - in this country, Canada, hospitable and peaceful Karim friend to Jordan, are fully determined and ready to provide all we have, all that we appreciated God, the redemption of our king and our nation dear beloved mother Jordan.

God grants success.



On the occasion of the state luncheon in honour of his Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Houssein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It's an honour and a great pleasure for me to welcome your majesty to Rideau Hall and to Canada.

Of Course, this isn't your first visit to our country or to Rideau Hall. The red oak that you and Queen Rania Planted during your visit to Rideau Hall in 1999, near the sugar maple planted by your father, is living proof of that! what wonderful symbols these trees are of the enduring friendship that exist between our two nations. Like the maple, like the oak, outré roots run deep: for 50 years now, Canada and Jordan have enjoyed a close relationship. This is truly reason to celebrate today among such distinguished guests. The friendship between our two countries rests upon common interests and values, as well as strong people-to-people ties.

In fact, one of my daughters, jenifer, learned Arabic and spent time volunteering in Jordan some years ago through an information and communications technology development program called NetCorps. It was a wonderful experience for her, and a great example of our two countries working together for mutual benefit. Over the years, Canada and Jordan have co-operated in so many ways. On matters such as trade, education and skill development, landline reduction, peacekeeping operations, the protection of civilians, and the security, we have found common ground.

I know that innovation is an important part of your vision for Jordan's future. It's also a personal interest of mine and one of Canada's ongoing priorities. Jordan's Commitment to finding peaceful solutions whenever possible is commendable. Your country is also providing safe haven for refugees in desperate need, and for this, Canada is very grateful. In a speech to Jordanians earlier this year, you rallied citizens to stand firm and stay true to their values.

You did so by calling for unity and pride in all that Jordan has accomplished. you spoke of tolerance and respect, of good citizenship and excellence. You spoke of a bright future, civilized and progressive, in which "the sky is the only limit." Your Majesty, these values and these hopes are shared by Canadians. Canada is proud to call itself a friend and partner of Jordan. Our two Countries have achieved a great deal in the half-century since we established formal ties.

Together, we can achieve so much more. Thank you for visiting Canada once again.

-The Right Honourable David Johnston
Governor General of Canada

His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan Meets with Prime Minister Stephen Harper



Al-Mersal-Toronto: Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with King Abdullah II of Jordan at his office on Parliament

warm relationship. The king thanked Canada for its humanitarian assistance as his tiny desert kingdom.

his country's entire population.

"I keep frightening Americans by saying that's like having 65 million Canadians crossing the border in two years," King Abdullah said.

The visit will provide an opportunity to highlight the strength of Canada-Jordan bilateral relationship.

The package also includes \$97.8 million for a series of development projects, including money for education, water projects and a series

among Jordanian women.

"Canada is proud to stand alongside Jordan and our other Coalition allies in the fight against (ISIS) and to work together at mitigating the suffering this barbaric terrorist group is causing innocent civilians in the region," Harper said.

Jordan is one of five countries joining Canada in conducting bombing missions against ISIS, targets inside Syria, along with the United States,



Hill promising \$120 million to Jordan for development projects and to help the country deal with its refugee's problems.

King Abdullah II of Jordan, last visited Canada in 2007 and, since then, he and Mr. Harper have developed what appears to be a

a country of eight million manages a massive influx of Syrian refugees.

The country has within the past five years borne a heavy load, absorbing 1.5 million Syrians fleeing the civil war in their country, which the king said amounts to 20 to 25 per cent of



of steps to encourage entrepreneurship

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar.



Last year, King Abdullah's wife, Queen Rania, was on of Stephen Harper's guest at his three-day international conference on child-health, maternal, and newborn.

King Abdullah was welcomed with full honour guard, and was greeted by the Governor Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson upon arrival at Rideau Hall.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney was also on hand to meet the king, as well as, Trade Minister Ed Fast and Labour Minister Kellie Leitch.

Abdullah is the son of the late King Hussein, who was widely regarded as one of the Middle East's leading peace-makers.

In 1994, King Hussein became only the second head of state to recognize Israel.

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Quick Facts About Canada and Jordan's Relations



Canada and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan enjoy strong bilateral relations based on shared strategic interests, a common commitment to peace and security and strong people-to-people ties between our two countries. Canada values Jordan's role as a moderate, tolerant and constructive influence in the Middle East and beyond.



Canada and Jordan are active members of the international coalition of over 60 countries addressing the serious threat to global and regional security that ISIS continues to represent.



In 2014, Canada identified Jordan as one of 25 countries of focus for bilateral development assistance programming. Canada also committed significant support in development assistance to Jordan to reinforce long-term development objectives in education, where Canada plays a leading role; promote sustainable economic growth; and support Jordan's efforts to cope with spillover from the crises in Syria and Iraq.



Canada commends Jordan for its generosity in accepting hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria. A significant amount of Canada's humanitarian assistance goes to help conflict-affected people in Jordan.



Canada is also providing security assistance to Jordan including to help Jordanian authorities provide safe transport of refugees from the border to registration centres, provide security and other essential services in and around refugee camps, mitigate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, and enhance their capacity to conduct counter-terrorism operations.



Jordan has consistently demonstrated its leadership in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East, promoting efforts to bring about a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is one of two Arab countries that have signed a peace treaty with Israel.

FTA Jordan Canada EENI - The Global Business School 9/19

Trade relations between Canada and Jordan

The FTA with Jordan will improve market access for both agricultural and industrial goods, and help to ensure a level playing field for Canadian exporters vis-à-vis competitors that currently benefit from preferential access to Jordan's markets.

Canadian merchandise exports to Jordan totalled \$56.0 million in 2010, up from \$30.8 million in 2003. Top Canadian exports to Jordan in 2010 included paper and paperboard (mainly newsprint), vehicles, wood products, pulse crops, (mainly lentils and chickpeas), machinery and electrical and electronic equipment

Canadian merchandise imports from Jordan totalled \$19.9 million in 2010, up from \$5.7 million in 2003. Top imports from Jordan in 2010 included both knit and woven apparel, inorganic chemicals, precious stones and metals (mainly jewellery) vegetables and pharmaceutical products.

Canada's two-way merchandise trade with Jordan: \$85.9 million (2010)

Two-way merchandise trade between Canada and Jordan totalled \$92.2 million in 2008. Including imports from Jordan worth \$16 million, bilateral trade in 2007 totalled \$76 million. Canadian exports to Jordan totalled \$60 million in 2007, up from \$31 million in 2003.

The Canada-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force on October 1, 2012 and is Canada's first FTA with an Arab country. This agreement provides Canadian businesses with greater access to markets in Jordan and throughout the region, creating new opportunities for the Canada-Jordan bilateral trade partnership.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper last met with King Abdullah II on the margins of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in September 2014, in Cardiff (Wales), United Kingdom. The two leaders previously met in Jordan in January 2014 during Prime Minister Harper's visit to the Middle East. King Abdullah II last visited Canada in July 2007.



"Canada is proud to stand alongside Jordan and our other Coalition allies in the fight against ISIS, and to work together at mitigating the suffering this barbaric terrorist group is causing innocent civilians in the region. The initiatives being announced today will help Jordan address the security and development needs it is facing and will further deepen ties between our countries." -Prime Minister Stephen Harper

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Canada Training Jordanian Troops

Al-Mersal-Toronto: Canada will train Jordanian troops in counterterrorism tactics for the next two years to help the Mideast kingdom prevent Islamic State violence from spilling across its borders.

Stephen Harper will announce the pledge Wednesday during a visit by King Abdullah II of Jordan to Ottawa.

Jordan shares borders with Syria and Iraq, where Islamic State fighters control major swaths of territory, and there are growing concerns that the militants aim to expand into Jordanian territory.

Canada is making a two-year commitment of military training and equipment, from 2015 to 2017, to support "Jordan's ability to prevent and respond to terrorist activity," a senior government source said.

This will include helping Jordan conduct "enhanced monitoring and identification of terrorist and criminal activities across Jordan's border," the source said, and strengthening the kingdom's ability to deal with threats "where explosives are involved."

In April, Canada extended its combat mission in Iraq by 12 months and expanded air strikes to Syria.

As many as 69 Special Forces soldiers are aiding the fight in northern Iraq, acting as military advisers to Kurdish peshmerga fighters trying to push back Islamic State militants. About 600 Canadian Forces personnel are supporting the air mission out of Kuwait. It's not clear yet where the Jordanian training will take place.

However, Canadian special operations forces

trained with Jordanians inside Jordan last year as part of the annual Eager Lion exercises that draw soldiers from around the world. Another government source told The Globe and Mail that the Canadian Forces have been providing assistance



to the Jordanian Armed Forces through training at all levels.

Canada is also providing security assistance to Jordan, helping authorities there provide safe transport and security around refugee camps. And Ottawa is training Jordanian forces to deal with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

"We believe that this support will prevent [IS] terrorists from expanding their caliphate, and

ultimately further improving the security of Canada and coalition allies from this global threat," the senior government official said.

Mr. Harper has repeatedly said he's increasingly worried about the evolving threat that the Islamic State poses to the Middle East, Western allies and Canada. He has also made it clear that he's seeking to bolster Jordan with more aid and trade, and cooperate on regional security issues.

"We view the kingdom of Jordan as certainly one of the most important partners on all levels, in terms of commerce, in terms of development, in terms of security in this part of the world," he told King Abdullah during a visit last year.

The Prime Minister's national security adviser told parliamentarians earlier this week that Canada is struggling to stop the influx of foreign funds that serve to radicalize citizens and lure them into violent extremism. Richard Fadden said the money often goes through religious institutions, which helps to shield it from further scrutiny.

"Without commenting on a particular country of origin, there are monies coming into this country which are advocating this kind of approach to life," Mr. Fadden said. "Finding out where it all goes in the end, and for what purpose, is in fact quite difficult."

A lot of these funds are directed through religious institutions, quasi-religious institutions, and it's very difficult in this country to start poking about religious institutions, because of the respect that we have for freedom of religion."

JORDAN TODAY, A Country of Contrasts

Al-Mersal-Toronto: Jordan is a country of vast diversity, great natural beauty and a unique regional role.

It is a young nation founded on ancient land; home to a dozen civilizations, heartland of religions, a sea of languages, cultures and traditions.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan achieved formal independence in 1946. That was the culmination of a 25-year struggle on the part of its founder, King Abdullah I, to establish an independent Arab homeland after the collapse of



Ottoman Turkish domination in the region.

Jordan was founded on one of the oldest, continually inhabited pieces of ground on earth.

Civilisation was born in the Fertile Crescent, defined on one side by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and on the other by the Jordan Valley.

In these lands, humankind first discovered writing and made laws, first built cities — and besieged

them.

Over millennia, dozens of civilisations have laid claim to Jordan's lands, which lie at the heart of ancient trade routes linking Europe, Africa and Asia, Nabataeans, Greeks, Romans, Persians and Islamic caliphs all preceded the Turks and European powers in building strongholds here.

More than just a crossroads, frequented by traders from Africa, Arabia, the Mediterranean, and the Caucasus and travelers from around the globe, Jordan has been a haven for people in times of crisis.

After the Russians invaded the Caucasus in the 10th century AD, the indigenous Muslim Circassian community fled southwards to escape religious persecution. By the late 19th century, they had populated less inhabited areas of Jordan, including Amman.

Other ethnic minorities, such as the Chechens, Armenians, Kurds, and Bosnians embellished the Jordanian patchwork, alongside the local Arab people. Today, the country's population of six million retains a rich diversity in appearance and culture.

Since Jordan's birth as a nation, it has absorbed several major waves of immigration — most comprising Palestinian refugees and displaced persons uprooted by the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israel wars. More recently, half a million Iraqis have taken refuge in Jordan from the ongoing crisis in their homeland. Today, too, around 350,000 foreign workers reside in Jordan, while more than 220,000 Jordanians work abroad.

The country's natural and ecological diversity is also vast.

The drive from Amman, in the mountains, to the shores of the Dead Sea, is a descent of 1,200m in less than an hour. Most of the land is desert plateau, but the uplands are temperate and the Jordan Valley semitropical.

Within Jordan's borders, 19 different plant ecosystems and countless species thrive.

Hub of a Dynamic New Middle East

"Jordan is an oasis of stability in a troubled region." This statement is so often repeated that it has become a cliché. It

cements the image of Jordan as it was decades ago: small, silent and provincial.

Jordanians are proud of their country's reputation for peace and quiet but Jordan is far from standing still.



Today, Jordan is recognised as one of the most globalised countries in the world in terms of political engagement, economic integration and its citizens' contacts with the rest of the world.

Years of serious economic development and investment in education are paying off in rapid growth and Jordan's capital, Amman, is a model of the country's diversity. High-tech companies rub shoulders with the shops of traditional craftsmen, and glass skyscrapers rise from the hills. In the valleys below, itinerant shepherds still graze their flocks.

Jordan's diversity, its unique combination of modernity and tradition, makes it more than an island of tranquility in a turbulent region.

The country today is the harbinger of stability and prosperity in a dynamic new the Middle East.

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