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Canada Offers More Humanitarian Aid For Iraq

Al Mersal Toronto:- The CBC Radio Canada, Middle East Division reported on its website that Canada will send an additional \$5 million for civilians suffering from the ongoing conflict in Iraq. Of that, \$2.25 million will go immediately to humanitarian groups to buy food, hygiene kits, tents and other supplies. The groups are the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mercy Corps, and Save the Children Canada. Other funding will go toward the repair of water and sanitation facilities and the purchase of medical supplies.



"In Iraq today, there are multiple tragedies that civilians are facing," says Sitara Jabeen, public relations officer with the International Committee

of the Red Cross' Middle East division. "We have more than one million people that are constantly on the move. They have been displaced from their homes and they continue to move from one area to another. And there are more and more areas that are now coming under the effect of fighting."

Many people have fled their homes with nothing. They have many needs. Some are sheltering with friends or family, and they too are running out of resources and are in need of help. Some displaced Iraqi boys from the Yazidi community were separated from family members

during their escape from fighting in Northern Iraq. The Red Cross has assisted 200,000 people and plans to help 21,000 more in the coming days. But access is difficult even in areas where there is a lull in the fighting. "There are areas in Iraq where you may not have active fighting going on but the situation remains extremely tense and very volatile. It can change anytime."

The Red Cross contacts all factions to try to gain assurances that its workers will not be attacked but Jabeen says sustained access is difficult and makes it difficult to deliver much-needed relief. "The biggest challenge is to be able to have sustained and safe access."

Who will fill Hazel McCallion's Shoes...? Mississauga Mayorality Race



By: Harry Ziad Malawi

Hazel McCallion has been a councilor and Mayor of Mississauga for over 30 years. McCallion was first elected in November 1978, and is the longest serving mayor in the city's history. Since her first term, she has been a successful candidate in 12 municipal elections; having been acclaimed twice and re-elected 10 other times. Her supporters gave her the nickname "Hurricane Hazel" because of her outspoken and indomitable political style. By the time she was elected mayor of Mississauga, she had sat on virtually every committee in Peel Region and the City of Mississauga.

McCallion has overseen the growth of Mississauga from a small collection of towns and villages to one of Canada's largest cities and her leadership helped build a New City Hall and a new modern, prosperous and safe City.

Today, Mississauga is home to over one million Citizens from different ethnicity and backgrounds all over the World and a mix of commercial, residential, industrial, and recreational areas.

The city has over 9,730 businesses, encompassing manufacturing, distribution, and business services, in addition to approximately 9,000 retail businesses. Under her leadership, her government also spearheaded the development of a "downtown" Mississauga area. The Square One Shopping Centre, built near Hurontario Street and Burnhamthorpe Road during the 1970s, has evolved into a centre of commercial and recreational activity. The Civic Centre, including a new city hall, Central Library, and Mississauga Living Arts Centre, along with a Mississauga Transit terminal and shopping and entertainment options, now populate the former fallow farm land. This city centre helped unite residents of the different towns that made up Mississauga without destroying the smaller villages.

McCallion has been easily elected for the last 20 years, with no serious challengers coming close to unseating her as mayor of the city, mainly due to her popularity; she is a peoples mayor, she does not campaign during elections and refuses to accept political donations, instead asking her supporters to donate the money to charity. Her principles are grounded in the belief that a city should be run like a business; thus, she encourages the business model of governance. She is now in her final term in Office and she announced that she will not run again in the next October, 2014 Municipal election.

Who will fill her shoes...? There are about 2 dozen Candidates who are applying for the top job in Mississauga, but it appears that there are only 2 serious contenders. Mississauga councilor Bonnie Crombie made it official that she will try to fill the sizeable void being left by legendary McCallion. When Crombie registered for the mayorality race at Mississauga City Hall last spring, she promised three key things; How we move; How we Grow responsibly; and How we Thrive." Crombie, a former one term MP for Mississauga, joined council in 2011 after winning a by-election following her defeat in the federal election.

Her main challenger in the race is former city councilor, MPP and MP Steve Mahoney. After Mahoney entered the Mississauga Mayorality race also last spring, Crombie said that Mahoney did not represent the "Mississauga of today." Mahoney countered with his own shot, suggesting Crombie spends all her time promoting herself instead of formulating a true vision for Mississauga. Meanwhile, Mississauga voters now have two established candidates faced with a significant task.

Part of McCallion's legacy is a \$1.5 billion infrastructure deficit, after more than a decade of near-zero per cent tax increases prior to the current term. Chipping away at that deficit in recent years has meant average increases of more than 5 per cent on the Mississauga portion of the property bill. Meanwhile, dozens of projects in the city have gone unfunded, because of a slowing growth which reduced revenues.

Crombie said she's the right person to turn things around. "Economic development will be a focus. It's all about the innovation and knowledge economy, and harnessing the diverse skills of our residents." Crombie said she will focus on how to bring revenues into the city by growing the economy. As for keeping Mississauga at the table with business leaders, the province and Ottawa, Crombie said she will use what she's learned from McCallion, stating; "I've been privileged to work with her, but this is a new time for Mississauga, and I have the experience, I'm vibrant."

Both Crombie and Mahoney have said McCallion has pledged to remain neutral throughout the campaign. After 36 years on the job, the 93-year-old McCallion has said this will be her last term. Whoever succeeds in luring the voters will have a big task in running Mississauga and a big Shoe to fill.

TORONTO MAYORALTY CAMPAIGN Tory First, Chow Third, Stintz Out and Ford Still Fighting

Al Mersal Toronto:- Toronto Municipal election is less than 2 months away and the race to become Toronto's Big Boss is heating up. John Tory appears to be tapping into the so-called "angry old white male" voters, according to a new poll that gives the former Progressive Conservative leader a slight edge in the Toronto mayoral race.



Mr. Tory seems to have about 35% supports among decided voters, compared to Olivia Chow's 31% and Rob Ford's 27%. Karen Stintz out and David Soknacki continue to languish at the

bottom. The poll, found 15% of respondents are undecided.

When the 15% undecided votes is taken into account, support for the top three candidates splits to 30% for Mr. Tory, 26% for Ms. Chow and 23% for Mr. Ford.

For Ford, "If he keeps saying, 'subways, subways, subways,' or 'I saved a billion dollars,' people can understand that, even if the statement is fundamentally wrong." And of course, there are the celebrity factor for him which might keep him in the race.

continue, Page 3

KATHLEEN WYNNE'S NEW GOVERNMENT FOCUS ON PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT THE HON. GLEN MURRAY FOR ENVIRONMENT

Al Mersal Toronto :-The Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne assigned former Transport Minister Glen Murray to take over the newly revamped environment ministry, which added to its name, climate change and now is known as: **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.**



Mr. Murray, the current MPP for Toronto Centre and former mayor of Winnipeg, assumed the position of the environment Ministry with much enthusiasm and optimism to guide the province, environment and put a plan for the future by making Ontario one of the best places on Earth in protecting the environment.

The new name change for the Ministry reflects Premier Wynne's appreciation of the growing challenges and impacts climate change and the extreme weather which Ontario has been dealing

with during the past 5 years. Since 2011 alone, flooding has drowned many parts of Ontario; with rapid shifts in spring temperatures which destroyed many crops in Southern Ontario, aside from the number of forest fires which inflamed a large part of northern Ontario forestry.

In an exclusive interview with Al-Mersal Newspaper, Mr. Murray stated "The environment and the ministry has been changed from climate change which is a central feature, and is quite challenging for us in North America as we are seeing accelerated numbers of major

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CHINESE COMMUNITY 25TH ANNIVERSARY NEW IMMIGRANTS SETTLEMENTS AWARDS GALA



Al Mersal Toronto:- The Canhome Chinese Association in co-operation with the Chinese Advance Business Association, led by the president of the Chinese Community; Mr. Tony Luk; held their 25th Anniversary Gala Award Banquet on August 9th, 2014, at the elegant Premiere Ballroom and Convention Centre in Markham, ON.

Mr. Harry Ziad Malawi, the president of Canadian Arab Network and the president of the Jordanian Canadian Expatriates Society was among the invited long list of distinguished and honourable guests, which included several federal, provincial and municipal Ministers, MP's, MPP's, Mayors and Councillors, along with many representatives from other Canadian communities, joining the festivities.

Among the distinguished guests on hand were; Hon. John McCallum; Federal MP for Markham, Hon. Reza Moridi; Ontario Minister of Research and

Innovation, Hon. Norm Kelly; Deputy Mayor for the city of Toronto, and the Hon. Tony Ruprecht; past Ontario Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship and Immigration who helped in organizing and overseeing the event.

The event was quite elaborate included Chinese dragon dance, live entertainment and 9 course authentic meal.

Noting that Mr. Tony Luk came to Canada in 1974 and established the Chinese Interpretation Services in 1991. He is the President of many voluntary organizations such as the Advance Business Club, Canada Association of Chinese Professional Immigration Consultants, and Canada-China Association for the Promotion of International Trade, Canada-China Overseas Exchanges Association, Canada China Student Association, and He Shan Friendship Association of Ontario.

He is the Vice President

of the Toronto Mandarin Lions Club. He is a member of the Board of the Centre for Information and Community Services, and active member of the Association of Immigration Counsel of Canada and was an adviser to the Seneca College's Immigration Consulting Program. He is also a host of a few Chinese TV and Radio immigration programs.

In recognizing his service to the community, he has been awarded the following recognitions: the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2002, ACCE Entrepreneur Award for Outstanding Community Service in 1999, Ontario Volunteer Services Award in 1996, and many others such as, Super Recycle Award, Provincial Outstanding Achievement Award, Twentieth Century Achievement Award, etc.

Mr. Tony Luk is an active member of the Canada-China Business Council and participates in every year's Team Canada mission to China. He has been invited to attend many

important occasions in Canada and China such as the Prime Minister's Annual Reception in his residence, the Return of Hong Kong and Macau to China. He was also a guest of the Chinese State Department to visit many cities in China In 2000.

Thank you Tony for inviting us and all the best in serving your community and your country Canada. May God bless you all.



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FUND RAISING DRIVE FOR THE PEOPLE OF GAZA

In view of the human tragedies and the killing of innocent women and children in Gaza in the past month and a half, were over one thousand people were killed and over five thousand people injured and nearly one hundred thousand being displaced and became homeless and imprisoned in their own land, with nowhere to go and no basic life amenities like food, clean water and medicine, many humanitarian Canadian and Arab organizations arose in organizing peaceful rallies and demonstrations

calling for the war to end and many of them launched fund raising drives collecting medicine, food and money to send for the affected people of Gaza. The Palestine House launches a fund raising drive to help ease the suffering of the people of Gaza. The Palestine House; one of the largest Arab Canadian Palestinian community centres in Ontario was among the many organizations who launched the fund raising drives. CDC is honoured to be one of the supporting and contributing to the Palestinian House drive to a humanitarian basis. This drive to be one of the sponsors and supporters of this fund raising drive as noted below. On a non partisan and humanitarian basis and value.



دعماً ومؤازرة لشعب غزة المناضل، يتشرف رئيس مجموعة شركات سي.دي.سي، والى جانبه نخبة من الموظفين، بتقديم شيك بقيمة ٥٠٠ دولار، لعطوفة الدكتور نزيه خطاطبة، عضو مجلس إدارة البيت الفلسطيني في كندا، وذلك كتبرع إنساني للشعب الفلسطيني الصامد في غزة... ساتلين العلي التقدير أن يتصرهم ويعنهم على بلاوهم، ويعم والامن والامان، السلم والسلام، والسكونة والهدوء، والخير والبركة في الشرق الأوسط وفي جميع أنحاء العالم... آمين

In Support of the Steadfast of the People of Gaza, CDC president and the CDC staff are honoured in presenting H.E. Dr. Nazih Khatatbeh (A Board member of the Palestinian House of Canada) with a \$500.00 Cheque as a humanitarian



TORONTO MAYORALTY RACE

Another recent poll found the three top contenders in a virtual tie, while a poll by Nanos gave Mr. Tory a more comfortable lead. "It's a dog fight," said Mr. Pintzopoulos, a conservative pollster. "The largest takeaways are it was a three person race. I think Rob Ford is falling behind and doesn't have much room to grow, or any room to grow. It's going to be a race between John Tory and Olivia Chow.

Ford's effectiveness seems to be the simplicity of his platform, according to Drummond.

He found that among people who are more likely to vote — which he says are the older and wealthier — Mr. Tory "holds an impressive lead." The poll found Mr. Tory had 34% supports among men who are over 55 and 39% among women over that age bracket. He garnered 36% support among people who earn more than \$100,000 a year.

Ms. Chow was most popular among those earning less than \$100,000, and among women under 55. Mr. Ford and Mr. Tory were tied among 18 to 34-year-old men.

He has polled for Prime

Minister Stephen Harper. His resume includes polling for Liberal BC Premier Christy Clark during the last provincial campaign, during which he worked with Nick Kouvalis, a member of Tory's campaign. Mr. Pantzopoulos said Mr. Kouvalis had no involvement in this mayoral poll.

Another plank of he said. It would be foolish for voters to think so of Toronto's chief magistrate, say political observers, who argue the mayor's effectively crafted populist image could carry him through to re-election in October despite a year blighted by scandal.

"He has admitted to behaviour that would have sunk any other politician long before now. He manages to connect and keep a base of support for a variety of reasons, including his single-minded messaging around holding the line on taxes. That is a message that resonates," said Myer Siemiatycki, a politics professor at Ryerson University.," He added.

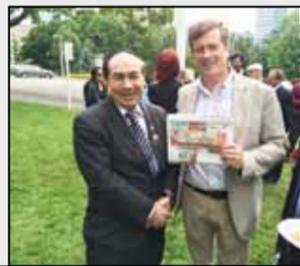
Even if that infamy is due to "transgressions" — notably Ford's admission that he smoked crack cocaine — Siemiatycki said "there is a celeb

RAISING THE INDIAN FLAG AT QUEEN'S PARK

Al Mersal Toronto: -The President of the South Asian Community in Ontario, Mr. Sam Chopra, in co-operation with the Honourable Tony Roberick; (former Ontario Provincial Minister of Multicultural and Citizenship), organized an India Flag Raising Ceremony at Queen's Park, marking the sixty-eighth anniversary celebration of India's Independence Day.

On hand, were several Members of the Federal and Provincial Parliaments, City Councillors, as well as two Toronto Mayoral Candidates; Mr. John Tory and Ms. Olivia Chow along with Mr. Harry Malawi, President of the Jordanian Canadian Expatriates Society, President of Canadian Arab Network and the Chief Editor of Al Mersal newspaper to join the celebration. The event was very remarkable with the singing of both the Canadian and Indian national anthems, speeches, Indian music, Indian food and sweets.

Jai Jai India...!



TORONTO-ON:- The federal government is poised to introduce legislation in the fall to try to narrow the consumer price gap between Canada and the U.S.

The proposal was a key part of the consumer-first agenda set out in the February budget, and was made in the face of warnings from industry groups that the idea was unworkable at best, and unenforceable at worst.

That means it will be only one of a wide range of measures the opposition parties and public will have to wade through, making it more difficult to analyze in detail, let alone find reasons to oppose.

After all, consumers are us. And anyone who's spent any time in the U.S. lately knows that stuff is cheaper there, even the stuff that is produced right here in Canada.

Canadians going to the U.S. to find retail bargains costs the Canadian economy at least \$20 billion a year, BMO estimated in 2012. Critics warn the plans would force the Competition Bureau to hire more investigators, in order to probe every inch of the supply chain and determine where prices are higher than in the U.S. and whether those higher costs are justified.

Those concerns were raised last spring by industry groups in consultations with both Moore's department and the Prime Minister's Office.

When the Conservative government made this commitment, the plan was to empower the

competition commissioner to investigate complaints of "unjustified" cross-border price discrimination, and to impose fines in cases where consumers are being charged more for identical goods selling for less south of the border, unless that price difference reflects legitimate higher costs.

"What I'm worried about is the government setting up a system of investigation and fines that will only cost consumers more at the end of the day," says Jayson Myers, CEO of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, the country's largest industry association.

Myers's organization is not the only one wondering how this whole thing will work.

Retail groups and competition lawyers are equally perplexed.

The 2014 budget does recognize that there are higher operating costs in Canada because of some import tariffs on food, less competition in the retail sector and the relatively small size of the Canadian versus American markets.

But it doesn't set out how much more those factors should add to the cost in Canada.

There are other issues, too. How much variation in price is the government prepared to accept? How will the difference in the value of the Canadian and U.S. dollars be taken into account? How will the Competition Bureau determine who is responsible — the manufacturer, the distributor, the retailer — when instances of unfair price gaps are found?

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Costa Rica Vs Nueva Zelanda



PATRICIA BEZZOUBENKO -Rhythmic gymnastics-



(Andy Buchanan/AFP/Getty Images)

Canada had a strong showing at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, earning a third-place finish with 32 gold medals and 82 total. Canadian rhythmic gymnast Patricia Bezzoubenko was one of the stories of the Commonwealth Games, winning five gold medals and one bronze.

HOST CANADA ADVANCES TO QUARTAR- FINALS

Hosts Canada has qualified for the quarter-finals of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup after a 1-0 win over Korea DPR, who also advance to the knockout phase. Indeed, despite losing out to a solitary Janine Beckie goal, the North Koreans' superior goal difference ensures they march on as group winners to a last-eight meeting with USA, while the Canadians will take on Germany.



© Getty Images

Edem Atovor #17 of Ghana jumps for a header with Nora Heroum (L) of Finland.



© Getty Images

Li Mengwen #13 of China PR jumps for a header with Stephanie Amack of the United States

TSONGA TAKES DOWN FEDERER

He didn't have big expectations entering the Rogers Cup tournament but proceeded to take down some of the biggest names in tennis. And the greatest player in the sport's history became his latest victim.

Tsonga relied on his powerful serve and strong baseline game in a 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory over second-seeded Roger Federer at Rexall.

"I'm working hard...I want to win, I want to play my best tennis on the court. And it happened today."

Tsonga earned \$598,900 US for winning the \$3.78-million tournament while Federer who looked dejected, received \$293,650 as the finalist. It was Tsonga's second career Masters 1000 Series win and his first victory at this event..

"I think for me it's going to be a new motivation because just last year I always lost against those guys and it was really frustrating for me," he said.

Federer, a 17-time Grand Slam champion, had a hard time with the quick turnaround to a mid-afternoon start on a glorious summer day.

"I fought, I mixed it up and I was hoping to sort of sneak in a set and then maybe he would get a bit nervous or maybe would play a bad game," Federer said. "But I just couldn't create enough

opportunities. So I think he deserved to win at the end of the day.

Both players made some unforced errors over the first few games but each held serve. Tsonga struggled with his first serve at times but his spin-heavy second serve was just as effective.

The quality of the match picked up late in the set. With Tsonga serving at 5-5, Federer showed his skills at the net with a deft drop

set. The Swiss star then launched a ball well long to give Tsonga the opening set in 44 minutes.

Tsonga, who reached No. 5 in the world rankings in 2012 but is currently No. 15, kept the pressure on in the second set.

He had a break point chance with a 3-2 lead but Federer came back with an ace and fought back for the hold. The Frenchman had another



shot that a fully-stretched Tsonga could not retrieve.

Tsonga's serve picked him up and he earned the hold to put the pressure back on the world No. 3. Federer became unglued in the final game, spraying two shots long to fall behind 15-30.

He pulled even with a winner but was wide with a ground stroke that was unsuccessfully challenged, setting up the first break point opportunity of the

great chance up 4-3 with a double-break point.

However, Federer answered again with two straight points to get to deuce and then saved two more break point chances before holding with an ace.

In the tiebreaker, Tsonga picked up a mini-break for a 4-3 lead and took the next three points for his first ATP title of the season and 11th point opportunity of the

ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST: HOW THE IRAQ CRISIS HIGHLIGHTS A NEED FOR INCLUSION POLICIES



By: Marwan Muasher
Former Foreign Minister of Jordan

Recent advances by the Sunni jihadist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have thrown Iraq into violent chaos and instability.

And while ISIS is a threat that must be addressed, it is not

the Arab Spring claiming visions of building pluralistic societies have, once in power, embraced exclusionary policies that only benefit certain sectors of society. Inclusionary policies in Iraq and throughout the region must be embraced in order to achieve political pluralism. The Arab world must accept and pride itself on the diversity of its people and allow all voices to be heard. The Arab uprisings demand that all regimes reconsider their policies to allow for differences of views, ethnicities, and beliefs, so they treat every citizen as equal.

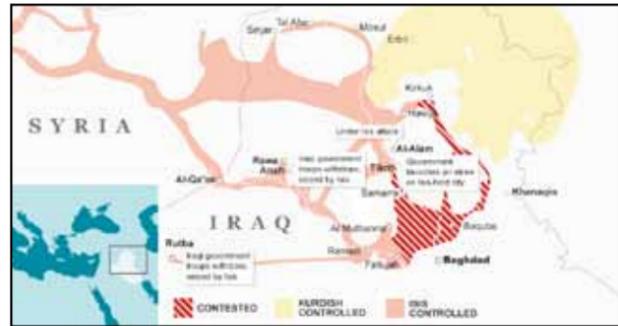
The focus in Iraq and

situation for what it is -- a period of transition that cannot be solved through military action alone.

The situation in Iraq may get worse before it gets better, but in the end, exclusionist policies will never produce a functioning society. A commitment to pluralism is a prerequisite for sustainable political and economic renewal across the Middle East. This might seem like a self-evident, basic statement, but so far neither the language nor the practice of pluralism has been prominent in the post-uprising era--save for a few cases, like Tunisia. It is no wonder Tunisia is fairing far better. Iraq must embrace politics of inclusion and focus on developing a political process where all forces feel they have a stake in the system. If it fails to do so, there is a real possibility the country may split, which is in no party's interest.

What is worse than the Skyes-Picot agreement, which produced artificial boundaries in the Eastern part of the Arab world, is its dissolution. Ethnically or religiously pure states are not the answer to achieving productive societies. Rather, it will lead to non-viable entities at war with each other. A separated Iraq will only result in more war and strife for years to come.

The Maliki government, and the international community, must make the most immediate priority forming a more inclusive government for Iraq. A political solution will not be easy, but it is the only way for Iraq to move forward as one, sustainable democratic country.



the real story. The real story in Iraq, and the Middle East at large, is the policies of exclusion that have created an environment in which radical organizations like ISIS have been able to gain ground.

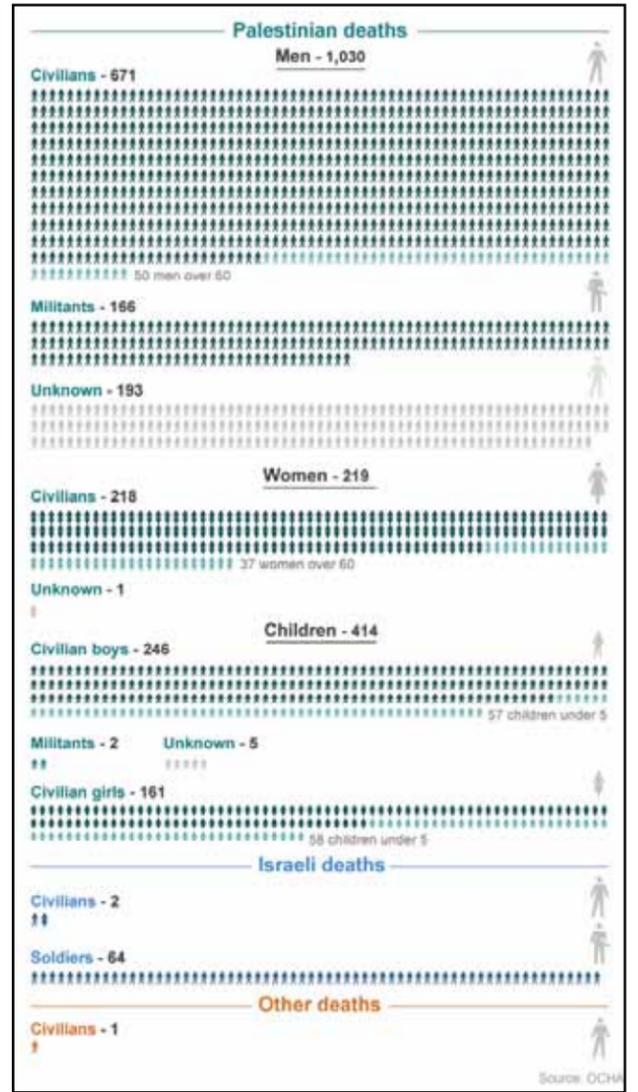
The crisis in Iraq highlights how sectarian conflicts are tearing Arab countries apart, with Syria serving as the most extreme example. Throughout the Arab Spring, leaders have taken advantage of religious and ethnic divides in order to gain or stay in power, and they have systematically subordinated the rights of the non-ruling sectors of society.

Governments that have risen to power during

throughout the region should be on building pluralistic societies rather than reminiscing about the artificially-induced "stability" of the past. This process will be painful and slow moving, but the region must take responsibility for its own future. In order for democracy to take hold, Arab countries must build stronger national identities that trump any other sub-allegiances. It must embrace political, cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, as well as gender equity.

The U.S. government and the international community should not look at Iraq or any other country in the region purely through a security lens. They must see the

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ONTARIO'S NEW ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

storm events that's going to cost us a lot of money.

Last July, we had 6 hours, more rain and this caused one of the gold mines to be washed out which cost about 600 million dollars in damages from that one storm.

What is happening here now is a more rapid desertification of the zones. And a lot of people are talking about the fact that over the next 30-

60 years, we'll have environmental refugees with the loss of water and the loss of the ability to produce food. As much hotter, more arid regent and sub equatorial areas are going to cause a real thump and they are happening in a lot of areas which are the poorest, which already have a shortage of water and food and a struggling economy. So the environment and climate change are going to have a lot of issues. A lot of my friends here are Syrians, Saudi's and Jordanians, immigrants from Nigeria, Chad and equatorial countries and Sahara regions.

It's going to be very challenging even in parts of China as well. You'll see the expansion of deserts, higher water levels and the impact on the coastal lines.

Canadians care about the world, we're a multicultural society, and we are probably more connected to other countries in the world than any other nation - because we are a nation of nations, we are the world in one country. So



we are much more impacted by things that happen in other corners of the world."

In a reply for a question from Mr. Malawi; on what would be his vision for his first year of Ministry and how would he see Toronto and Canada in the next 5 - 10 years from now? Mr. Murray said, "As my friend David Crombie, the former Mayor of Toronto said, "Everything is connected to everything else". People have said to me "Why is Ontario worried about climate change? They're only about 1% of the world's problem". But we can be 90% of the world's solution. By that I mean, the solution for clean fuels, artificial photosynthesis- which is the process which turns carbon dioxide into a clean fuel. All of the technology breakthroughs to solve the problem of climate change are not likely to come from Chad or Niger; they're not likely going to come from Thailand or any countries like that. If there is going to be a major breakthrough

in technology, it's going to stem from Canada or Switzerland. A major country with a lot of universities, money and resources to do very advanced research. So we live in this country where we are privileged. Not because we have the science and technology, we have the banks, we have the money, and we have some of the best universities in the world. We are one of those privileged countries and there is a responsibility that comes with that. That can actually really solve the climate change problems. We're the country that can advance solutions that help other countries that don't have clean water, get clean water. Where children who are dying of diseases, that long ago in Canada disappeared. We can help bring those solutions forward. So if we are not citizens of the world first - which is what being a Canadian is? It's almost an anti nationalism, it's being a citizen of the planet first and we're not living up to our

responsibility- because we have the privilege.

The second thing is, we need to be a culturally confident society. So if we want to engage in Jordan, we have you (Thank you) a whole Jordanian community here, people who know the country, the culture, language and faith, understand the nuances, understand how to engage that culture in a respectful way that translates into something that is meaningful to the Jordanian people and can build friendships with the Jordanian and Arab Canadian people.

One of the things that I don't like about Mr. Harper's government is that it is a divide and conquer. "You're our friend and our enemy." We're the country of the world; we have to show the world that we can be even handed and fair. We should not be judgmental, we have to be engaged and listen.

So I think on climate change, we need to engage the Arabic world which is going to be more impacted by climate change than anywhere else. They have huge challenges, more traumatically and more painfully. We need to engage the Arabic world, so that we better understand these countries as our friends, and we can have a more positive conversation, which isn't condescending or patronizing, which is actually centered around their beliefs and perceptions.

BREAKFAST ANYONE?

The rise of easy, portable items like yogurt, breakfast sandwiches toasted pastry items, fruit, and breakfast bars have all been responsible for stealing cereal's lunch. Cereal and orange juice have had the pulp beaten out of them because of a shift away from sugar and carbohydrates toward yogurt and sandwiches with protein-rich fillings

One thing remains constant according to Harry Balzer a food industry analyst, who has been studying changing food trends for more than 30 - years. "People are looking for products that save them time." It was, "Time-saving for my great grandmother having eggs delivered to her house for the ham and eggs she was going to

make for her family."

"And by the time it came to my mother, maybe it was about the cereal and whether the kids could make the cereal on their own. And by the time it came to me, maybe it was where can we stop and get a breakfast sandwich, an Egg McMuffin," Balzer adds.

"And when you get to my daughter... she may be looking at it as, 'Can I just give the kids some yogurt and fruit and a bar for breakfast.'"

Some 80% of Americans still eat breakfast inside the home, according to Balzer. An estimated 10% report they skip the meal entirely - people aged between 18 and 35 are most likely to do this - while another 10% get breakfast elsewhere.



NEW FLAVOUR, CAMEL MILK

By: Wadha Bagdaddy

A Dubai-based Emirates Industry, the holding company for Camelicious along with sister companies, The Majlis and Al Nassma, are teaming up with new partners to develop camel-based products for a whole range of new sectors.

The three companies source their basic milk product from a single farm which houses more than 3,000 camels, and collectively produces almost 5,000 litres of milk per day.

Although the company has seen a 100 percent rise in sales of its produce over the last year, demand still outstrips supply.

"Camels give an average of seven litres of milk per day, compare that to a cow, which is 25 litres and up. Around 5,000 litres a day is not awfully much from Camelicious alone," said Kirsten Lange, the Director of Communications for all three brands.

The Al Nassma brand distributes fine chocolate products made from camel milk and The Majlis retail outlet in Dubai Mall sells a range of bread loaves, muffins, Danish pastries and ice cream, while Camelicious offers a range of camel milk products.

The company is looking to expand further and commercialize the use of camel milk into more overseas markets. "It's not only the camel milk products we are aiming

to export, they included camel milk powder and camel whey powder." Lange explained.

I mean we are pioneers it's the first time it's ever been done, never before did anyone take it to that scale." According to Lange, they are planning to expand into the pharmaceutical industry, cosmetics industry and are even experimenting with sports and nutritional supplements.

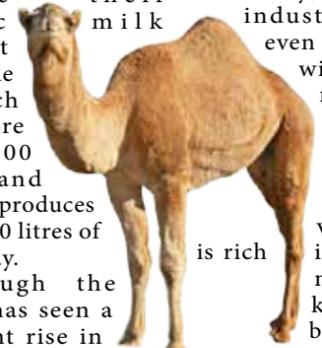
Camel milk contains high amounts of vitamin C and in lanolin, a mineral that is known for its beauty and skin moisturizing benefits and is complimenting to the needs of the cosmetic industry.

Camel milk is actually high in minerals and calcium, light in taste with a slightly salty edge and contains 50 percent less fat than cow's milk.

In terms of buyers, Al Nassma's recent sales records show 40 percent of the sales go towards Westerners and Europeans.

Camel milk is also known to have a tremendous effect on males as a supplement for Viagra. Perhaps that's why Arab males fed on Camel milk seem to be more sexually active than the average Canadians fed on cow milk.

Camel Milk flavoured Viagra anyone?



CANADIANS ARE KICKING UP A STINK



Would you believe there is such a thing as the smelliest place in Canada?

Well believe it; we do have the displeasure of wafting unpleasant odor emanating from places all too familiar to us. But is the act of fouling the air a misdemeanor warrant of a crime? It was not too long ago when politicians from the country of Malawi were debating whether flatulence behavior in public causes pollution and worthy of a criminal offence. On the other hand, recently Canadians were given a list of things they believe would give of foul smell around their home.

They had to take into consideration the smell from a wide range of things; smell from garbage can or garbage chute, a sports bag of hockey



clothes, and a sports bag of baseball clothes, a diaper pail, pets litter, and the outside air. Imagining these things was there for 3 or 4 straight days in 30 degree Celsius heat.

And the list goes on to include carpets or area rugs, toilet area, the basement, the kid's room and last but not least the refrigerator.

Well Canadians the smelliest place in Canada is, The Prairies - Manitoba and Saskatchewan, followed by Ontario for its polluted air.

INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND YES, NO, MAYBE...?



Scots to vote 18 September 2014 in a referendum to decide whether they want

There are 5.3 million people living in Scotland, which is 8.3% of the UK's population

to become independent or remain part of the United Kingdom.

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Ontario's nuclear energy: Better than Quebec imports

Ontario's nuclear energy: Better than Quebec imports
By: John Barrett President and CEO, Canadian Nuclear Association

Have you been following the debate about importing cheap electricity from Quebec to replace Ontario's nuclear energy?

Some would have you believe that Hydro Quebec, which already exports vast quantities of electricity to New England, could soon add Ontario to its list of satisfied customers.

But, there's a catch. The argument to replace Ontario nuclear power with Quebec hydropower overlooks the realities of Ontario's power system. Let's look at the facts.

The six New England states buy electricity from Hydro-Québec, but they're paying much more than the price of Ontario's nuclear electricity. Since the start of this year, wholesale power contracts for the New England grid have averaged roughly a dime per kilowatt-hour. In contrast, Ontario's nuclear generating stations are getting less than six cents per kilowatt-hour. Check it for yourself with the Independent Electrical System Operator IESO and with the New England pool operator: ISO-NE.

Even with the current refurbishment project, in which Ontario will rebuild ten reactors to extend their lives for decades, the price of nuclear electricity is not expected to rise much beyond eight cents per kilowatt-hour.

To replace Ontario's nuclear reactors with Quebec's hydro dams, then these are the prices that Hydro Quebec would need to beat. But it's already getting much better prices from New England. So, why would Hydro-Quebec accept a discount on sales to Ontario?

Then there's the delivery problem. Ontario built its electrical grid with self-sufficiency in mind, and its ability to meet electrical demand in Toronto depends on the wires that would carry power from Quebec.

Today's electrical connections between Quebec and Ontario can carry 2,545 MW, or about 70 per cent of the capacity of the Darlington nuclear generating station. But once it crossed the provincial border, Quebec's electricity would travel through Ottawa on power lines that more resemble a one-lane cart path than a four-lane highway. Upgrading these lines would cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and raise your power bills accordingly.

There are also questions about Quebec's export reliability. In a May 22 letter to Ontario's system operator, Hydro-Quebec writes, "commitment periods need to take seasonal diversity into account." Quebecers heat with electricity, making winter the season of peak power demand. Feeling a capacity squeeze last winter, and the winter before, Hydro-Quebec asked its customers to turn down their thermostats. This hardly sounds like a reliable, year-round power supplier.

What can we learn from these realities? Do the homework, and don't jump at too-good-to-be-true options.

There are reasons Ontario built its power system the way it did. It sought energy security and self-sufficiency. Ontario could have built a grid that relied on Quebec imports. Instead, it chose nuclear.

Nuclear-generated electricity was the right choice for Ontario decades ago. It remains the right choice today. *John Barrett*

Did You Know?

*Fissioning uranium is the most energy-rich source of commercial electricity used today. It releases more than 20,000 times more energy per gram than coal.

Nuclear technology is a major and integral part of Canadian manufacturing and innovation, contributing well over \$5b to the Canadian economy through many important channels.

Canada has 19 operating power reactors producing approximately 17% of Canadian electricity.

Canadian nuclear technology was among the first and most innovative to emerge globally. Currently, there are 47 CANDU (or CANDU-derivative) reactors worldwide, 60% of which are operating outside of Canada.

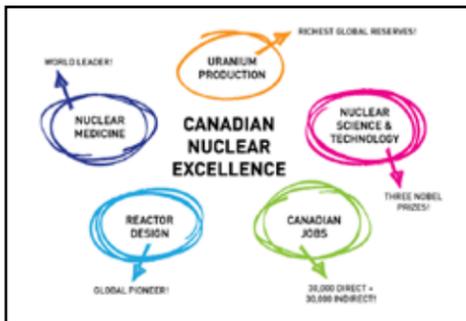
Canada is the world's leading provider of medical isotopes, and the second leading producer of

uranium.

Canada's nuclear industry directly employs over 30,000 Canadians – a number that is poised to increase to 42,000 by 2017 if current investment plans are realized.

Canada's nuclear industry is among the most highly monitored and regulated industries in the world.

Did You Know?



Nuclear power helps avoid 89 million tonnes of CO2 emissions in Canada annually – or the same amount as taking 81% of Canada's cars off the road!

Source: statistics Canada.4 Data current as of August 2012, and projected based on changes in Canadian nuclear capacity from August 2012 to December 2012.

Did You Know?

In total, Canada's nuclear fleet provides enough electricity for almost 9 million of Canada's 13.3 Million households.5

Nuclear And The Canadian Economy

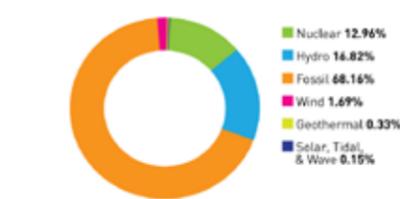
Nuclear power generation plays an important role in providing Canada with a safe and reliable source of base load electricity, supporting many stable jobs, and contributing significantly to federal and provincial tax revenue.

Nuclear in Canada is a greater than \$5b industry, with average annual wages around \$100,000.

Nuclear power generation directly and indirectly supports a total of 60,000 Canadian jobs, which would increase to 84,000 by 2017 if current investment plans are realized.

Over 4,000 of these jobs are held by highly qualified personnel who form a large and integral part of Canada's innovative capacity.

GLOBAL SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY



BUDGETING TOPS COST: CURRENT FOR HOMEBUYERS

Generations Apart: Baby Boomers and Gen Y Reveal Different Saving Strategy Priorities

Toronto, ON – Ontarians planning to buy a home in the next two years say they will create a budget to help save for the prospective home's down-payment (40%), trumping cutting costs (36%) and earning more money, through such avenues as overtime or a second job (36%), according to a new study conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA).

Three in ten (30%) prospective buyers would sell, or borrow against, other real estate they owned, while a quarter would invest in saving or RRSPs to save for their down-payment. Just one in twenty would rely on gifts or contributions from family to buy a home.

Interestingly, saving strategies differ among

types of buyers:

• Two-thirds of first-time home buyers say they would create a



budget compared to a slight majority who would cut costs or delay spending

• The majority of Generation Y respondents (54%) say they would create a budget whereas only one in five (19%) Baby Boomers would do the same

• Only a quarter of Baby Boomers and 44% of Gen Y respondents would cut costs

Other notable findings from this

wave of The Ontario Homeownership Index include:

• 10% of Ontarians say they are 'very likely' to purchase a home within the next two years

• 14% of Ontarians say they are 'very likely' to sell a home within the next two years

• Three in ten Ontarians believe the current residential real estate market in their city or town is 'very favourable' and six in ten say it is 'favourable'

• 82% of Ontarians agree that real estate is a good investment

• 84% of Ontario residents think it makes more sense to own a home rather than rent over the long-term

• Ontarians ranked long-term investment value (29%), affordability/availability of homes (26%) and desire to own a home of my own (26%) as their top three reasons for a home purchase.

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MIDDLE EASTERN NEWS

Debating a Kurdish State MISUNDERSTOOD OR MISLABELED A Mystery, The Yazidis

By: Serhun Al

As the Islamic State consolidates its presence in Iraq the question of an independent Kurdish state has again become the subject of heated debate. Despite a rapidly changing situation, with U.S. airstrikes supporting peshmerga attempts to push the Islamic State back, realities regarding the prospects of Kurdish independence remain largely unchanged. Potential challenges include security hurdles, disagreement among Kurdish stakeholders, and the lack of broad international support.

As aspirations among the Kurdish population for an independent, secure, and economically flourishing state within Iraq mount, rifts within Kurdish parties

Kurdistan, the PKK favors the idea of democratic autonomy—empowering local communities with more decision-making powers. This explains the PKK's strained relationship with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and their competition over representing and shaping the Kurds' interests. The PKK has been framing its objections as driven by concern that statehood would make an independent Kurdistan a proxy state of Israel, the United States, and Turkey in the fight against the Islamic State.

Outside Iraq, the potential implications of an independent Kurdish state are crucial, particularly in Turkey, where up to one-quarter of the population is Kurdish. Although Turkey does not officially

Kurdistan. Although the KRG has been more tolerant and successful in managing multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities than the central Baghdad government, democratic consolidation will be essential for establishing sustainable societal peace in the region. Overall, without the consent of other states, a self-declared Kurdish state is unlikely to bring prosperity and peace either to the Kurds or to other ethnic and religious communities in the region.

Finally, despite the presence of well-organized and well-trained peshmerga forces, serious security challenges in a highly volatile region will continue to exist even after the potential establishment of the Kurdish state. The recent takeover of the



stand in the way of even an agreement on whether independence is viable. Rival Kurdish groups, each fearful of losing the status quo, have proven extremely divided on the question of statehood. The quest for independence is more likely to incite these rivalries than soothe them. Massoud Barzani, the president of the ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), has been pushing for independence, while his main rival party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), remains unconvinced.

The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a Kurdish group operating in Turkey and currently listed as a terror organization, has been wary of the KDP's push for independence. Instead of a central independent

support an independent Kurdish state—the Turkish government fears independence could set a precedent for its large Kurdish minority—it has not made any statement against it either. Kurds have found an unlikely ally in Erdogan's Turkey, but the advent of an independent Kurdish state could increase the rising anti-Kurdish nationalism.

As the euphoria of the Arab Spring fades amid the rise of ethnic and sectarian violence across the Arab world, the degree of support for an independent Kurdistan, especially by the European Union, will likely depend on its commitment to democracy. This stance toward democracy is far from clear, particularly with regard to respecting the rights of minorities in

strategic Mosul Dam by the Islamic State's forces and the seizure of the Kurdish town of Sinjar highlight the size of the challenge ahead in securing the border of an independent state. While the external threat posed by the Islamic State will remain, the recent inflow of around 300,000 Sunni refugees as well as around 200,000 Syrian Kurdish refugees into Iraqi Kurdistan is likely to increase internal security costs, especially if the new state does not have broad international support. An independent Kurdistan may one day become real, but internal, regional, and international dimensions of statehood need to be considered more thoroughly.

Serhun Al is an instructor and a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Utah.



On the account of their unusual beliefs, they are often referred to as "devil worshippers". Now suddenly thrust into the limelight by their plight. The Yazidis a community that has traditionally held themselves apart mainly scattered across northwest Iraq, northwest Syria and southeast Turkey. While estimating their current numbers is difficult, with figures ranging from 70,000 to 500,000. Like other minority religions of the region, such as the Druze and the Alawis, it is not possible to convert to Yazidism, only to be born into it.

The ongoing persecution in their heartland of the Mt Sinjar region west of Mosul is based on a misunderstanding of their name. Sunni extremists, such as IS, believe it derives from Yazid ibn Muawiya (647-683), the deeply unpopular second caliph of the Umayyad dynasty. Modern research, however, has clarified that the name is nothing to do with the loose-living Yazid, or the Persian city of Yazd, but is taken from the modern Persian "ized", which means angel or deity. The name Izidis simply means "worshippers of god", which is how Yazidis describe themselves.

Their own name for themselves is Daasin (plural Dawaaseen), which is taken from the name of an old Nestorian - the Ancient Church of the East - diocese, for many

of their beliefs are derived from Christianity. They revere both the Bible and the Koran, but much of their own tradition is oral. Due in part to its secrecy, there has been misunderstandings that the complex Yazidi faith is linked to Zoroastrianism with a light/dark duality and even sun worship. Recent scholarship, however, has shown that although their shrines are often decorated with the sun and that graves point east towards the sunrise, they share many elements with Christianity and Islam. Children are baptized with consecrated water by a pir (priest). At weddings he breaks bread and gives one half to the bride and the other to the groom. The bride, dressed in red, visits Christian churches.

Children are baptized with consecrated water by a pir (priest). At weddings he breaks bread and gives one half to the bride and the other to the groom. The bride, dressed in red, visits Christian churches.



In December, Yazidis fast for three days, before drinking wine with the pir. On 15-20 September there is an annual pilgrimage to the tomb of Sheikh Adi at Lalesh north of Mosul, where they carry out ritual ablutions in the river. They also practice sacrifice of

animals and circumcision.

Their supreme being is known as Yasdan. He is considered to be on such an elevated level that he cannot be worshipped directly. He is considered a passive force, the Creator of the world, not the preserver. Seven great spirits emanate from him of whom the greatest is the Peacock Angel known as Malak Taus - active executor of the divine will. The peacock in early Christianity was a symbol of immortality, because its flesh does not appear to decay. Malak Taus is considered God's alter ego, inseparable from Him, and to that extent Yazidism is monotheistic.

Yazidis pray to Malak Taus five times a day. His other name is Shaytan, which is Arabic for devil, and this has led to the Yazidis being mislabeled as "devil-worshippers". The Yazidis believe that souls pass into successive bodily forms (transmigration) and that gradual purification is possible through continual rebirth, making Hell redundant. The worst possible fate for a Yazidi is to be expelled from his community, as this means their soul can never progress. Conversion to another religion is, therefore, out of the question. Despite centuries of persecution the Yazidis have never abandoned

their faith, testimony to their remarkable sense of identity and strength of character. If they are driven from Iraq and Syria by IS extremists, the likelihood is that more will settle in southeast Turkey where they are left to live out their beliefs in peace.

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EBOLA OUTBREAK KENYA AT HIGH RISK, WARNS WHO

The current outbreak of the Ebola virus is the deadliest since it was discovered in 1976. The World Health Organization has classified Kenya as a "high-risk" country for the spread of

Germany has ordered all its citizens, except health workers, to leave Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the three states where the outbreak has been the deadliest.



Guinea-Bissau has decided to shut its border with Guinea, Reuters news agency reports.

the virus and this is the most serious warning to date by the WHO.

Ghana has delayed the opening of universities and colleges by at least two weeks to put in place measures to screen students arriving from Ebola-hit countries.

Kenya was vulnerable because it was a major transport hub, with many flights from West Africa. The number of people killed by Ebola in West Africa has risen to 1,069, to date.

The African Union has pledged \$1m (£600,000) to help fight the disease.

Fifty-six deaths and 128 new cases were reported in the region in the two days to 11 August, it added.

The WHO's country director

Canada said it would donate up to 1,000 doses of an experimental Ebola vaccine to help fight the outbreak.



Women have been holding daily prayers in Liberia for people affected by Ebola

for Kenya, Custodia Mandlhate, said the East African state was "classified in group two; at high risk of transmission".

Dr. Modupeh Cole is the second Sierra Leonean doctor to die of the disease.

Health checks at the main airport in the capital, Nairobi, have been stepped up in recent

In Nigeria, Africa's most populous state, a third Ebola-related death was reported.

Liberia, when he was diagnosed with Ebola after collapsing at the airport in Lagos, the biggest city in sub-Saharan Africa.

In other developments:

This is the first time West Africa has been affected by Ebola - previous outbreaks

weeks. The Kenyan government said it would not ban flights from the four countries hit by Ebola.

Strict precautions must be observed when burying those who have died of Ebola

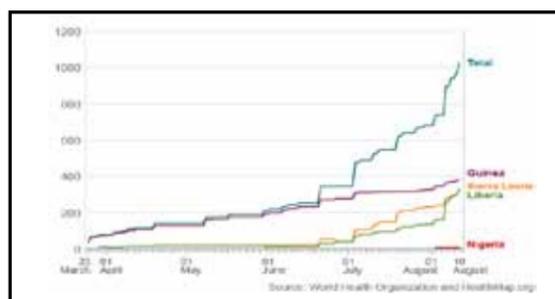
"We do not recommend ban of flights because of porous borders," health cabinet secretary James Macharia said.

Kenya receives more than 70 flights a week from West Africa.

The West African regional body, Ecowas, said one of its officials, Jatto Asihu Abdulqudir, had died of Ebola in Nigeria.

The 36-year-old had been in contact with Patrick Sawyer, the Liberian government employee who was the first to be killed by the virus in Nigeria on 25 July, Ecowas said in a statement.

Mr Sawyer had flown in from



that it would make sense for healthcare workers to be given the vaccine, given their increased risk of contracting the disease.

Zmapp has been used on two US aid workers who have

have affected East and Central Africa. There have been 1,975 confirmed, probable and suspected Ebola cases in West Africa since it was identified in February, according to the WHO.

There is no cure for Ebola and the WHO has declared the outbreak a global health emergency.

On Tuesday, it approved the use of untested drugs on Ebola patients.

However, experts say supplies of both the vaccine and the experimental drug Zmapp are limited and it could take months to develop more supplies.

Dr Gregory Taylor, deputy head of Canada's Public Health Agency, said he saw the vaccines as a "global resource".

He said he had been advised

shown signs of improvement, although it is not certain what role the medication played in this.

A Roman Catholic priest, infected with Ebola in Liberia, who died after returning home to Spain is also thought to have been given the drug.

There are a handful of drugs that have been shown to work well in animals.

One is Zmapp - the drug

to use serum from individuals who have survived the virus - this is a part of the blood that may contain particles able to neutralise the virus.

Vaccines to protect against acquiring the disease have also been shown to work in primates. American authorities are considering fast-tracking their development and say they could be in use in 2016.

Trials are likely to start soon,



requested by the Liberian government. This contains a cocktail of antibodies that attack proteins on the surface of the virus.

Only one drug has moved on to early safety testing in humans. Known as TKM-Ebola, this interrupts the genetic code of the virus and prevents it from making disease-causing proteins.

The drug was trialled in healthy volunteers at the beginning of 2014 but the American medicines regulator asked for further safety information. The manufacturer says human studies may soon resume.

Another option would be

according to the WHO.

But experts warn that ultimately the only way to be sure a drug or vaccine is effective is to see if it works in countries affected by Ebola.

Symptoms include high fever, bleeding and central nervous system damage

Fatality rate can reach 90% - but the current outbreak is about 55%

Incubation period is two to 21 days

There is no vaccine or cure

Supportive care such as rehydrating patients who have diarrhoea and vomiting can help recovery

Fruit bats are considered to be virus' natural host.

DECOR WITH PLASTIC SPOONS

They're inexpensive, easy to do, cost less, and you can match them up to your decor. So, let's do it!

All you'll need:

- wood skewers
- green acrylic craft paint
- a small brush
- candle and glass plate
- plastic colored spoons
- craft scissors
- hot glue gun
- indoor/outdoor spray paint

suitable for plastics

- a sheet green felt
- floral foam/styrofoam and a small vase.

First, paint 3 thin wood skewers with green acrylic craft paint. Stand them up in a scrap block of Styrofoam to dry.

Place a candle on a glass plate or in a candleholder and light it.

Turn a plastic spoon upside



down and hold it over the flame. As it melts, roll the edges of the spoon inward to form the shape of a rosebud—make sure to leave a small opening at the bottom for the 'stem.' When finished, soften the neck of the spoon by melting it, snip it off with craft scissors then set aside.

Insert one of the painted skewers into the opening you've left at the bottom of the bud and secure with a dab of hot glue.

Next, hold another spoon over the flame with the correct side up. As it melts, slightly bend the tip of the spoon backwards to form a petal. Soften the neck over the flame then snip (if necessary, smooth the snipped edge by softening then pressing it down on the glass plate).

To join the petal to the bud, glue them together at the bottom, gently squeezing with your fingers to secure (but don't get burned!).

Make a second petal, join it

to the other side of the bud using the same process then continue making petals and attaching them at the bottom with glue as the flower grows as large as you want.

Once you're satisfied with your rose, complete the other 2 roses.

If you've used colored spoons, you're almost finished. If you want to give your roses a more personal touch, spray paint them with paint that is suitable for plastic then place them into a block of Styrofoam to dry.

While your roses are drying, get your felt and cut 5 sepals (the small green foliage that protect the bud before it blooms) in the shape of small leaves. Glue them to the underside of the rose. Repeat for the remaining 2 roses.

Place floral foam or Styrofoam into the vase and arrange roses.

DENIM FOR WORK?

There are still those who would consider denim to be the working man's attire, that has no place in the corporate world. But there are those who are brave enough to try it. Amidst the smears, eye rolling, and whispers. Thanks to designer Ralph Lauren we may now have to reconsider the role of denim in the work place.



Courtesy Ralph Lauren

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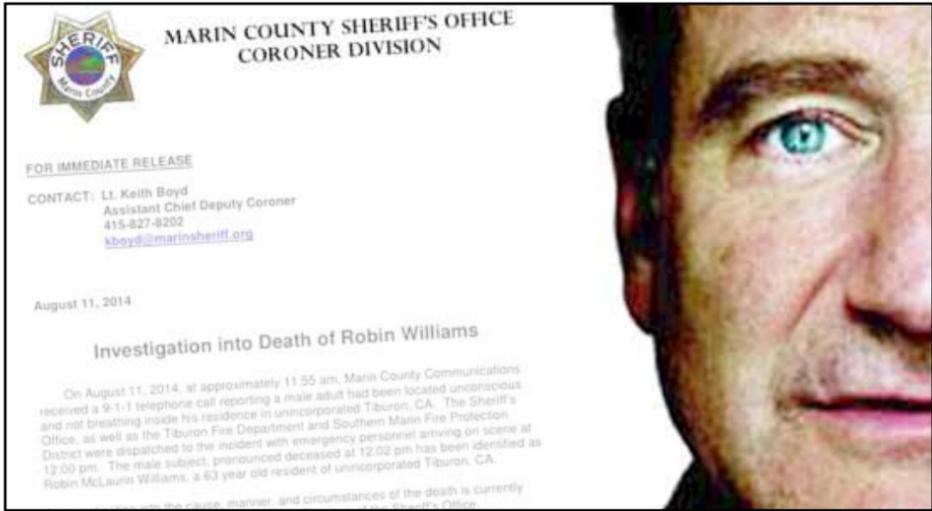
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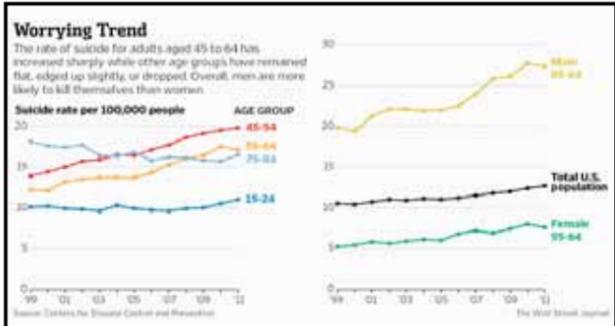
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Robin Williams's Age Group AT HEIGHTENED SUICIDE RISK



Suicide rates for adults aged 45 to 64 rose 40% from 1999 through 2011, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the death of 63-year-old comedian and actor Robin Williams in an apparent suicide came as a shock to many. But according to U.S. health officials, people in Mr. Williams's age group are committing suicide at an increasing rate.

The suicide rate for these middle- to late-middle-aged adults is higher than any other age group, including youth and the elderly.



"Researchers say baby boomers face challenges that are unique to their generation. High rates of suicide in adolescence for boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964, could be carrying over to middle age, said Julie Phillips, an associate professor of sociology at Rutgers University. Economic pressures since the financial crisis, deteriorating health conditions and the increased use and abuse of prescription drugs are other possible factors, Ms. Phillips said.

Other factors also have increased social isolation for boomers: "They haven't shown an increase in religiosity as they age as have prior cohorts, and boomers

are more likely to be single—divorced or never married—and without children than prior cohorts," she said.

Historically, the elderly have been the most at-risk for suicide—but those aged 45 to 64 surpassed them over the past decade as the boomers entered middle age. The increase has helped push the total number of deaths caused by suicide in the U.S. higher than those caused by auto accidents. In 2011, there were 39,518 suicides, compared with 32,367 deaths in car crashes, according to the CDC

and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Actor Robin Williams, wearing a camouflage jacket, entertains troops as part of a USO Holiday Tour in Baghdad, Iraq, on Dec. 16, 2003. European Pressphoto Agency

"We don't hear about middle-age or older people who kill themselves unless they're a star like Robin Williams," said Jill Harkavy-Friedman, vice president of research at the San Francisco's Center



for Elderly Suicide Prevention has seen a surge in calls to its crisis-intervention line since Mr. Williams's reported death, said Patrick Arbore, the center's director. The callers who are about the same age as the late movie star want "some kind of reassurance that they're going to be OK," he said.

Dr. Arbore said that baby boomers in particular have resisted the idea of growing old, trying hard to adhere to the "60 is the new 40" movement. "We're really wanting to skip old age altogether," he said. "It's more apparent in the aging boomers."

Dr. Arbore said the financial downturn looms large in the rise in suicides, especially in situations where older workers have been laid off and didn't have the skills to find a new job.

Suicide-prevention efforts have been largely aimed at youths and at the elderly in the past and not those in the middle, experts say. "Middle-aged adults got kind of left out in the thinking of where to focus to resources for suicide prevention," said Alex Crosby, a medical epidemiologist at the CDC. "It's important for us to examine more closely and put more resources into that population."

"Wait for Me, Daddy" CANADA'S NEW \$2 COIN

The iconic Canadian image from World War II, "Wait for me Daddy," will be reproduced on a \$2:00 coin scheduled for release into circulation later this year. It commemorates the centennial of the World War I and the 75th anniversary of the World War II.

The image shows then

5-year-old Warren "Whitey" Bernard running away from the grasp of his mother,

Bernice, to his father, Pvt. Jack Bernard, who was in a formation of other soldiers about to board a train, to

depart for war on Oct. 1, 1940 to an unknown



destination as Canada continued mobilizing troops for the war effort.

CANCER - CAUSING CHEMICALS Found in Rainbow Bracelets

In a study commissioned by a British toy retailer, the Assay Laboratory in Birmingham, they found that charms made by knockoff brands contained high levels of phthalates, a class of carcinogenic chemicals. Some of the knockoff charms were composed of as much as 50 percent phthalates.

Bracelets and other trinkets made on the wildly popular Rainbow Loom—a toy that allows kids to weave together brightly colored elastic bands—could contain cancer-causing chemicals.



and while only the charms were tested, it was likely that the bands themselves also contained phthalates.

Marion Wilson, a spokeswoman from the lab, declined to share the names of the brands that were found to have high phthalate levels. "We would never share our customer information as it is clearly sensitive." She further stated,

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