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Blanchet's defence of N-word used by professor condemned by NDP and the Green Party

OTTAWA - Federal political parties are condemning the Bloc Québécois for defending the academic use of the N-word.

New Democrat Matthew Green said academic freedom cannot be used to justify a racial slur that still hurts many, including himself, a Black MP.

"For someone who has had that word hurled against them from the time I was nine years old to now as a politician, that is a dehumanizing word," Green said. "It is a form of racial violence against people. And for those that would choose to defend it, what they are really defending is the prerogative to uphold white supremacy."

At a news conference on Thursday, Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet supported an academic's right to use controversial words.

Blanchet's comments came after the University of Ottawa suspended part-time professor Verushka Lieutenant-Duval in September. A student complained that Lieutenant-



a deep rift on and off-Duval had used the N-word during an campus. art and gender class. The professor has apologized, but her

suspension has caused

Blanchet said that

sharing knowledge should not be considered a racial attack in the context of a classroom

Asked by reporters to weigh into the debate, Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole didn't condemn the use of the N-word in academia. But he said universities need to find a balance when grappling with offensive content.

"The touchstone has to be respect, in any context, including the university context,'

O'Toole told reporters Thursday. "There are works of literature that harken back to a time where there was terrible treatment of Black Canadians and Black people, and so we have to be conscious."

Green said people often use the guise of freedom of speech to defend slurs, but he said there must be a "reasonable limit." Like the Bloc, political parties that create a "false dilemma" between academic

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Family hires lawyer after Ottawa man fell to his death during police raid

OTTAWA - The family of Anthony Aust, the 23-year-old man who fell to his death after a police raid at his apartment on October 7 last, has hired an Ottawa lawyer to represent them in their search for answers.

The lawyer, Lawrence Greenspon, said he's fact-gathering while the Special **Investigations Unit** (SIU), the province's civilian police watchdog, continues its probe into the circumstances of the man's death.

"You have a violent, sudden death of a loved one and there's all kinds of questions that need to be asked and answered. Hopefully some of those questions will be answered with the investigation by the SIU, but I'm not overly confident that's going to be the case," said Greenspon.

shortly after police officers breached the door of the apartment, the man fell from the window to the ground below.

He was pronounced dead on the scene.

In a home security video, Ottawa police tactical officers can be seen first forcing the front door open, then yelling, "Police! Don't move," before tossing in a flash grenade that filled the front entryway with light and smoke. The video then captures at least eight officers coming into the apartment, all with their guns drawn.

Raymond Aust, brother of the dead man, said he (his dead brother) was the only target of the raid...

"Yet the police felt it was necessary to send a unit and surround the building as well?

He said he wants to know what happened in the final moments of his



brother's life.

"With so many officers, why wasn't one able to try and stop him from opening his window and jumping out? "he asked.

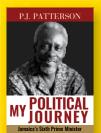
His brother was on bail at the time of this death.

He was facing eleven. charges after allegedly being caught with drugs and a gun during a traffic stop last January.

The SIU said on Friday that that nine officers who were designated as witness officers have been interviewed and that its investigation continues.



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The SIU said that

OCT. 29, 2020

Marci len wins seat

as Liberals face stiff challenges in two Toronto byelections

Broadcaster Marci
Ien hung on to
Toronto Centre
for the Liberals, fending
off a strong showing by
recently elected Green
party leader, Annamie
Paul in Monday's
byelection.

Ien captured 42 per cent of the votes, just over nine points ahead of Paul whose recent elevation to the helm of the Green Party clearly boosted her profile.

Ien said that on Monday evening after the polls had closed, she was at her home with her daughter, Blaize, who" was looking at the results online.

"I was really too afraid to look," she told the Caribbean Camera.

But when she received the news that she had won, she and her daughter drove down to her campaign office "where some of my loyal volunteers were cheering and clapping and I thanked them for all their hard work."

Later in the evening, she got a phone call from Prime Minister Trudeau.



"The prime minister congratulated me on amazing campaign which was difficult during the pandemic and said that he looked forward to working with me."

Ien recalled that during her recent campaign she met many young people who were looking at me and must have beenn thinking that running for political office is something they could do."

" I want them to know that this is possible. I am the daughter of immigrants from Port of Spain, Trinidad and if I can be here in this position, they also can be in the same position."

The Liberals have also retained the seat

in York Centre where long-time community advocate Ya'ra Saks won 45.7 per cent of the votes, less than four points ahead of Conservative candidate Julius Tiangson.

The two byelections marked the first electoral test of the Liberal government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. And in both cases, the Liberals saw their share of the vote drop markedly.

During last fall's general election, the Liberals took Toronto Centre with just over 57 per cent of the vote and York Centre with just over 50 per cent.

Paul ran a distant fourth in Toronto Centre in that election with just seven per cent of the votes.

Former finance minister Bill Morneau resigned as Toronto Centre's MP on August 21, and Liberal Michael Levitt stepped down as the MP for York Centre on September 1.

Both ridings are long-time Liberal strongholds.

Toronto Centre has been held by the Liberals for decades, including by former interim party leaders Bob Rae and Bill Graham.

Although long considered one of the safest Liberal seats in the country, York Centre fell to the Conservatives in 2011 before Levitt wrested it back in 2015.

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Nunavut politicians vote to remove minister

from cabinet over social media post

IQALUIT, Nunavut — Nunavut's legislature members have voted former housing and Nunavut Arctic College minister Patterk Netser out of cabinet over a post he made on social media.

Premier Joe Savikataaq put a motion forward earlier this week to remove Netser

from cabinet.

Savikataaq stripped him of his portfolios on Oct. 8, soon after Netser made a Facebook post that said "All lives matter" and criticized Black women for having abortions.

The vote Friday saw 14 MLAs vote in favour and three against, with one abstention.

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everyone in this room, to show our commitment, to stand up against racism and gender violence. Now is that time," Savikataaq told the assembly.

"Black lives matter. Indigenous lives matter. Women's rights are human rights."

Iqaluit-Manirajak MLA Adam Arreak Lightstone, who seconded the motion, thanked Savikataaq for his "swift action" to remove Netser.

"Freedom of expression does not equal freedom from consequence. The fact that the minister is still defending his position leads me to believe that there is no remorse,"

Lightstone said.

In his statement, Netser apologized to the Black community but said his comments were not based on racism or gender violence.

"My reference to 'all lives matter' was certainly not stated in that context. And I would not have chosen these words if I knew they could be misconstrued as attempting to negate the struggles of my Black brothers and sisters," Netser said.

Netser also said the Facebook post was an example of free speech.

"I did not make those statements in the house and I did not make them as a member of the executive council. but as an Inuk that values life."

Netser also read a letter of support into the record from a friend, which questions whether people who

criticize the government will be "picked up and shipped into the dark of the night to one of the many new internment camps across Canada."

The letter also claims the federal government pays Canadian news media and mind control is imposed on people who speak out against the government.

Netsilik MLA Emiliano Qirngnuq told the assembly he would not support the motion to oust Netser because "we do have an expression of freedom" in Canada.

"We have to think about our children and the future of our children. We have to deeply reflect on our society's values into the future," Qirngnuq said

Justice Minister Jeannie Ehaloak told the assembly Netser's comments were concerning. And Patterk Netser

politicians can't say whatever they want, if their words have a negative impacts on people.

Speaking to reporters after the vote, Savikataaq said the decision to remove Netser was not easy but had to be made.

Because Nunavut has a consensus-style government, only a full caucus can remove cabinet members.

Netser, who represents Coral Harbour and Naujaat, is to stay on as an MLA.

A leadership forum is expected to take place next week to select Netser's replacement in cabinet.

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BBPA launches 'MentorMe' Program for Black youth

he Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) will launch a six-month mentorship program for Black youth across Canada on November 11 and 12.

Noting that there are thousands of Black youth who are eager to access networks, resources and information that will accelerate their career and personal development, BBPA President Nadine Spencer said that the MentorME Program, as it is called, " will serve as a platform to deliver these solutions to the members of the community waiting to receive them,"

The program builds



on "the expertise and work of BBPA and SAY IT LOUD! Canada to offer Black youth between the ages of 14-29 an opportunity to engage in mentoring conversations in support of their academic, career and community development," says a news release from the BBPA.

It is "deliberately designed to target the needs of Black youth across specific industries, including literary arts, visual arts, culinary art, performing art, technology, social impact and innovation, fashion design and entrepreneurship," the release also notes.

The Program is a "collaborative initiative" between Starbucks Canada, the BBPA, SAY IT LOUD! Canada, and MENTOR Canada.

The BBPA, founded in 1983, is a non-profit, charitable organization that addresses equity and opportunity for the Black community in business, employment, education and economic development.

For more information visit www.bbpa.org

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Councillors calling for alternatives to police response to mental health issues

OTTAWA - Two
Ottawa city councillors
want the public to
weigh in on possible
alternatives to police
when responding to
calls involving mental
health or addictions
situations that don't
involve weapons or
violence.

The motion, put forward by Capital Coun. Shawn Menard and seconded by Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney, asks the Ottawa Police Services Board to lead the consultations on what they call a "civilian non-police led community response mechanism." It will be

on the council agenda on Oct. 28.

McKenney said public consultations will determine what that alternative looks like, but said the focus of the "made-in-Ottawa model" must be on mental health support and de-escalation.

"The one thing that cuts across everything is a non-police-led response to matters of mental health, poverty, addictions, homelessness. That, in the end, is what the community is asking for," McKenney said.

McKenney used the example of homeless people gathering

in Dundonald Park during the pandemic lockdown.

"They may be causing some disturbance, but it's not a police response that we need. It's a social response," McKenney said.

McKenney and Menard have been circulating a petition to gather support for the motion in the aftermath of Tuesday's acquittal of Const. Daniel Montsion, who had been charged in the 2016 death of Abdirahman Abdi.

The Abdi family and their supporters are calling for systemic changes to how people with mental health issues are dealt with by police.

"People want change. People want change to how we're policed. They want change to how we respond to poverty, how we respond to mental illness, how we respond to homelessness," McKenney said.

While the motion mentions anti-Black racism and systemic racism, McKenney said removing police from the equation won't be a cure-all.

"This is not going to eliminate systemic racism and discrimination. But in



the spirit and context of reconciliation and admitting to systemic racism across the board, this is an important piece."



McKenney said there's been no discussion yet with Coun. Diane Deans, chair of the police services board, about the proposed motion.

Brandon University gets federal support to study racism in Manitoba

Canada Heritage
will be offering
\$100,000 in federal
support to the Brandon
University's Centre for
Aboriginal and Rural
Education Studies
(BU CARES) research
project investigating
racism in Manitoba.

The project, called "Viral Vitriol? Using Online Platforms to Promote Peace," aims to look at the different kinds of racism, bias and discrimination in the province, and addressing this issue through a social media campaign that serves to educate the general public.

The BU CARES project will represent various minority groups, including Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, and religious minorities.

"We know in Canada that discrimination, bias and racism are real and that they are increasing,"



said Michelle Lam, director of BU CARES as well as the one who will be leading the project on Tuesday.

"We want to increase the public awareness of what these experiences are like, and we want to promote discussions around these topics. Through these discussions and the body of evidence that we will be able to share, it shows the state of public opinion on these disparities."

The first stage of the project is to conduct a survey asking people about their experience in racism in the past 12 months. BU CARES will be sending out the surveys in November and they plan to close the survey by the end of may show a security the year. guard who only stops

Lam hopes to collect around 4,000 responses before moving on to the data analysis which is expected to be done by next February. Then, the results from the analysis will be turned into scripts that will be tested with a diverse group of cultural representatives before moving on to the next stage.

The second stage of the project moves to create and distribute the videos on social media, educating the masses on racism.

Filming will take place in the summer of 2021. BU CARES is planning to launch and promote the videos in the fall of next year.

As an example, Lam noted a video may feature two people exiting a supermarket, one being white and another being Indigenous. The video may show a security guard who only stops visible minorities to ask for their receipts.

She plans to end the videos with the hashtag #thisisracism, which will become a central hub for discussion and education.

"My long term hope is that people can use this project as a launchpad for further discussions, research and initiatives, and to be able to become a society where everyone feels like they belong and things are right, just and equitable," said Lam. Funding from the Canada Heritage will go towards the expenses for the project such as hiring semiprofessional actors for the videos, renting space for filming, software for survey and analysis, as well as video editing funds.

The funding will also go towards advertising and promoting the campaign.

"Through Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy, introduced in 2019, we are funding projects to combat racism in all of its forms," said Bardish Chagger, Canada's Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth in a press release.

"These projects will help address the systemic barriers that are preventing Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, and religious minorities from participating fully and equitably in all aspects of society. We will continue our work as allies and partners with racialized communities to combat racism as we build a better and more consciously inclusive society."



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EDITORIAL & COMMENTARY

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Allow the farm workers to return home

any nationals of Trinidad and Tobago have been complaining about the treatment they have been receiving at the country's consulate in Toronto.

In desperation, some have suggested that the consultate should be closed and officials there should be sent packing,

We certainly cannot agree that such measures should be implemented but we do note a serious problem with many Trinidad and Tobago government officials in their dealings with fellow nationals, whether in Toronto or in back in

Port of Spain. It is wha might be described as a "don't care a damn" attitude.

And let us not blame the current COVID-19 pandemic for a lack of proper service from the Trinidad and Tobago government.

Nationals have been complaining about problems in their dealing with Trinidad and Tobago government officials long before the pandemic. In fact some say that it can be traced right back to the old Eric Williams regime and they call it the PNM (People's National Movement) syndrome.

To label it as such

may seem unfair since the situation did not change significantly when the PNM was not in power.

But up to the present time there is still a strong belief that to get something done in Trinidad you have to know the "right people" or have the right contacts. If you do not, they say, crapaud smoke yuh pipe.

That's the reason many would-be investors bypass Trinidad and Tobago. They will tell you Trinidad and Tobago is not open for business except for a chosen few.

Let's face it: there are government officials

in Trinidad and Tobago who act professionally and can be helpful in their day-to-day dealings with fellow nationals.

But unfortunately, the PNM syndrome remains a major stumbling block to the progress of the country.

How does one explain the apparent lack of concern for felllow nationals who are abandoned in Canada by their own government?

At the present time there are seven farm workers from Trinidad who spent the summer harvesting tobacco in Delhi, Ontario to earn money for themselves and their families. Their tasks are over but they cannot return home.

Why? They say they have not received the necessary clearance from the Trinidad and Tobago government.

The men are still in the bunkhouse which they occupied during the summer but it now getting cold in Dehli, Ontario and as the farmer who hired the men explained "these buildings are not meant for winter living."

Do these men have to be card-carrying members of the PNM in order for the Trinidad and Tobago government to do the decent thing and allow them to return home to their loved ones?

As Ken Forth,
president of the Foreign
Agricultural Resource
Management Services
told The Caribbean
Camera in an interview
this week:" We are not
asking the Trinidad and
Tobago government to
allow tourists to go there.
We are asking for their
own countrymen to go
home."

Is that too much to ask? And does the Trinidad and Tobago government really give a hoot about its image abroad?

Ontario's COVID-19 recovery plan must leave no one behind



ew COVID-19 cases in Ontario surpassed 1,000 last weekend, setting a new record that has left many in our community with growing fears and uncertainty.



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COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black, Indigenous and other people of colour across Ontario and of the more than 3,000 deaths from the disease in the province to date, more than 1,330 of them have been in Toronto. It has also had a disproportionate impact on women and lower-income families and has hit essential workers, frontline healthcare workers, residents, gig economy workers, disabled community members and our small business owners especially hard.

As a community, we must continue to call on our government and hold it accountable to ensure that no one is left behind.

Our communities are resilient with the right supports but this pandemic is a harsh reminder of just how quickly families can fall into impoverishment or precarious living with the loss of one pay cheque. COVID-19 exacerbates the inequities which too many in our province have experienced well before the pandemic from lack of affordable housing, food insecurity, inaccessible public transit, to lack of community infrastructure to 'build up' communities while market value condos sprout up like weeds (and gentrify many neighbourhoods) and the systemic barriers many Black entrepreneurs face trying to access traditional capital for their businesses due to anti-Black racism.

Ontario's Official Opposition NDP has heard the concerns of families in our community who couldn't make ends meet and acted. One of our first plans, released last April, was our Save Main Street Plan. We proposed that the Ford government give small and medium sized businesses direct rent subsidy, a ban on evictions and a freeze on utility payments so they could stay afloat, among other supports.

We knew that small businesses like those located in Little Jamaica and

all our unique storefronts and restaurants along Eglinton already ravaged by the Eglinton Crosstown construction near decade-long mess of Ford and the previous Wynne governments were the heart of communities across Ontario. If we helped them we'd be helping families and entire neighbourhoods directly.

The Ford government denied our plan to support our local businesses and what we saw was the mass shuttering of storefronts, restaurants, hair dressing salons and barbershops and a shattering of family dreams across the province. For many in our Black and immigrant communities, the closing of these businesses meant the loss of that particular cultural spot of reference – that heritage and legacy – to our community.

The Federal government made a grave error when it didn't make landlord participation in their CECRA plan mandatory. So while the Ford government sat on its hands ignoring small businesses, only one per cent of Canada's landlords were 'opting in' to the federal commercial rent relief program, leaving many small business owners stranded and on bankruptcy's door.

Ontario is currently facing the second wave of this deadly virus – a wave the Ford government knew was coming and yet they made little preparation for our communities to hold on to their small businesses.

We have updated our Save Main Street Plan in response to this second wave. For starters, it doubles down on our previous demands for designated emergency funds for Black small business owners including many artisans and entrepreneurs historically blocked from accessing capital as proposed by the Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce. It offers a monthly commercial rent subsidy of up to \$10,000 per month until the pandemic ends to ensure that our small businesses can continue to keep

their staff on payroll. It also demands from the Ford government a provincial affordable, safe and public childcare plan which is currently absent and paid sick days – also absent – for all workers so they can stay home when necessary and not participate in community spread of COVID-19 or any other infectious diseases. This is especially critical for sole-parent families who too often are forced to choose between having to pay rent, put food on the table or stay home sick and unpaid.

We know that 80 per cent of sole-parent households are women-led. If we are to have a COVID-19 recovery that leaves no one behind, we cannot forget about women - Black women who are historically paid less than their white counterparts and who whether as PSWs, RNs, small business owners or education workers, among other careers, have shouldered the majority of this pandemic caring for elders in Long-Term Care, providing the essential goods and services for our communities and supporting the social, emotional and academic growth of our children in school during these turbulent times

I am deeply thankful to our artists, griots and community heroes who have helped keep the spirits of our community alive and the cupboards full for our most vulnerable during this sombre time. But make no mistake: philanthropy and donations should never replace government responsibility.

We are in a crisis. It is high time that the Ontario provincial government invests in our community and do so boldly without compromise. Our community is not okay.

Dr. Jill Andrew is the Ontario NDP MPP for Toronto-St.Paul's and is also a member of the Ontario NDP Black Caucus.

OCT. 29, 2020 www.TheCaribbeanCamera.com

COMMENTARY

Who will deliver the structural changes the pandemic has highlighted?



little earlier this month, the University of the West Indies' Shridath Ramphal Centre, published a policy paper that called for a new, integrated regional approach to post-COVID Caribbean economic recovery. It asked in effect whether the region should seek to re-embrace the 'old normal' or seek solutions to the existing and new

economic challenges

that the pandemic has

highlighted. The study, 'Trading Our Way to Recovery During COVID-19: Recommendations for **CARICOM Countries'** describes in its 96 pages the multiple and long overdue structural reforms that are needed if post COVID the Caribbean is to successfully recover and compete in what is likely to be a much changed world.

It represents, according to Neil Paul, the Ramphal Centre's Director, the thoughts and analysis of young Caribbean researchers who are using the opportunity of COVID-19 to recommend new ways of confronting these topics in a Caribbean context.

The document's authors argue that in

the short-term trade remains the best avenue for economic recovery, can strengthen critical sectors, and make economies competitive, sustainable, and inclusive. They suggest that in the longer term, trade policy can be used to sustainably build economic resilience and diversification.

They variously propose a comprehensive approach to industrial policy that involves regulatory reform, innovative linkages across sectors, and the involvement of government, academia, and the private sector in the identification of new higher valueadded opportunities. Their report also recommends a changed approach to agricultural development and food security, much greater attention being paid to micro, small and medium sized enterprises, and a new focus on investment. In the case of the latter, the document recommends accelerating and broadening existing proposals for the creation of a single regulatory CSME investment space in order to mitigate the constraints of the Anglophone Caribbean's small geographic and population size.

The report's authors also argue that greatly enhanced connectivity and e-commerce should be integral to the region's post-COVID-19 economic recovery. They recommend 'ubiquitous and affordable' internet and

telecommunications services, the development of digital skills and entrepreneurship and makes other recommendations, relating for example to the urgent need to develop digital payment solutions.

The document is at one and the same time, both stimulating and disheartening.

It is positive in that it clearly describes the principal long standing economic policy issues holding back the region's development and suggests several new initiatives that might be pursed. By placing them all in a post-COVID recovery context the report effectively challenges governments and the private sector to address each of its forty-four policy recommendations as a part of a coherent deliverable recovery package.

It is disheartening because much of what it says should have been addressed decades ago when the region's financial capacity and the will to deliver regional solutions was much greater.

Since the global financial crisis of 2007/8, resolution of the region's structural problems has become more difficult as around that time most if not all Caribbean nations began to take an a la carte approach to regional integration.

This has made it hard to see who exactly is going to pick up and run with the Ramphal Centre's important recommendations.
While there will be



many external agencies who will love its coherence and see it as a basis to fund more granular studies, the authors have virtually nothing to say about who they believe has the strength or influence to drive their proposals forward, and just as importantly who is able to rapidly implement the common sense solutions they propose.

As such, the danger is that like the much broader Golding report, or Sir Shridath's 'Time for Action' his largely set aside now three-decadesold proposal for the comprehensive reform of regional governance - this economic policy document could well become just one more testimonial to the Caribbean's outstanding thinking and analysis, but practical inability to deliver.

Clearly delivery cannot come from the CARICOM Secretariat which absent having an executive role and the transfer of sovereignty from governments, can only ever be as good as Caribbean Heads willingness to act, see implementation through to the bitter end, and determine accountability.

Despite its profound sense of cultural unity, the Caribbean is a fragmented region in the process of dividing into economic interest groups with on the horizon the probability of new configurations based on complimentary production chains and other synergies.

For example, it is quite possible that Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and a post-Maduro Venezuela could form one powerful oil and mineral rich integrated economic community, while Barbados could well become a hub driving the tourism economy of much of the Eastern Caribbean. In the case of Jamaica it has the size and capacity to become a standalone high value services centre for the Americas, and could find other synergies with some

of its larger northern Caribbean neighbours, while pursuing closer economic integration with the US.

This is not a reason to give up on finding regional solutions but to ask CAROCOM's younger generation and in particular its impressive cadre of highly educated women and men in the public and private sector and in academia how they envisage the regional economic thinking and integration they seek, being delivered politically?

When the focus is on national survival and recovery, most governments initially seek more easily delivered domestic solutions and external support rather than the consensus building and long-term attention needed to deliver regional solutions; particularly if faced with intra-regional obstinacy, bureaucracy and uncompromising national self-interest.

Despite this and as the academics at the Ramphal Centre point out, the pandemic offers an opportunity to rethink the Caribbean economic model, and to explore alternative ways in which smallness and fragmentation can be overcome. There is no shortage of viable solutions. The issue is who can deliver regionally the long overdue structural changes that COVID-19 has highlighted?

David Jessop is a consultant to the Caribbean Council and can be contacted at david.jessop@ caribbean-council.org

TRAVEL

JAPEX goes virtual for the first time

KINGSTON, Jamaica – For the first time in its 30 years, the 2020 edition of Jamaica Product Exchange (JAPEX) will be held virtually.

On November 9-10, the Jamaica
Hotel and Tourist
Association (JHTA) and the Jamaica Tourist
Board (JTB) will
engage the travel trade partners, providing a distinct forum for leading suppliers of the Jamaican tourism product to meet with travel wholesalers and tour operators from all over the world.

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Live 2020, this year's interactive virtual platform will bring JAPEX to larger audiences than ever before. Attendees will have the chance to explore the destination's tourism regions from afar; drop into an exclusive

networking lounge and participate in online live chats while immersing themselves in destination news and information. A Prize Center designed to surprise and delight attendees with regular giveaways will round out the experience. "JAPEX has always

been a marquee event on Jamaica's tourism calendar and we're looking forward to another successful show," said Donovan White, Jamaica's Director of Tourism. "While we are unable to meet in-person this year, we have an exciting opportunity to engage virtually, providing access for our delegates to learn about new destination offerings, hear about how our protocols have been implemented to keep residents and visitors safe, as well



as secure new deals, positively impacting and strengthening our tourist industry."

There will
be elements of a
traditional tradeshow
including a launch with
keynote presentation
by Jamaica's Minister
of Tourism, the Hon.
Edmund Bartlett.
Attendees can
virtually explore the
tradeshow floor using
an interactive Google

map that will take them to the resort areas of Negril, South Coast, Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, Kingston and Port Antonio. Videos will auto-play to engage attendees, and exhibitor booths will be interactive, offering sharable content and chat functionality.

Other activities will include breakout and training sessions and one-on-one

pre-scheduled video meetings with travel partners. The innovative scheduling software includes Instant Scheduler where users can book meetings instantly on suppliers' calendar as well as the Auto Scheduler showing available times in both parties' calendars. The meeting rooms are powered by ZOOM with all the functionality including video, screen share and live messaging.

To learn more about virtual experience at JAPEX Live 2020, log onto to www. japex.org. For more information on Jamaica, go to www. visitjamaica.com.





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NEWS

Trinidadian farm workers 'in limbo'

Seven farm workers from Trinidad who had been labouring in tobacco fields in Delhi, Ontario this summer are now " in limbo."

Their work on the farm is over but they canot return home because of restrictions during the current COVID-19 pandemic

Farmer Mike Bouw who hired the men, said they had booked flights to Trinidad three times this month but that they "keep getting pushed back."

"The Trinidad border has been closed and it was tricky to get them up here but now they are in limbo with winter coming," Bouw said.

He noted that the men are staying in the



bunkhouse on the farm " and these buildings are not meant for winter livinhg."

Ken Forth,
president of the Foreign
Agricultural Resource
Management Services
(FARMS) told the
Caribbean Camera
that "we are srill
trying to work with the
Trinidad and Tobago
government to get these
workers back home but
we have not received
clearance.'

" We are not asking the Trinidad and Tobago government to allow tourists to go there. We are asking for their own countrymen to go home. We have tried to contact people in the government but we don 't seem to be getting anywhere as yet,"

The Caribbean Camera has tried several times to reach the Toronto-based Trinidad and Tobago farm liaison officer but he has not been returning telephone calls.

See Editorial on Page 6

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editorial@the caribbeancamera.com



www.TheCaribbeanCamera.com OCT. 29, 2020

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Canadian hip hop artistes lend voice to charity single on Toronto gun violence awareness

ight Canadian hip hop artists, **I**including Maestro Fresh Wes and Jelleestone, have lent their voices to a new charity single that speaks out against Toronto gun violence.

"Wish I Could" debuted on streaming services today with verses from other Canadian artists, including R&B singer Jrdn and local rappers JD Era, Bizz Loc, Turk and Roney.

The song addresses the senseless deaths and a wish to "bring back the loved ones we lost.

The track was produced by Dub J as the launchpad for an initiative he's calling "Enough is Enough," which aims to unite local business and community leaders around the cause and draw nationwide awareness.

The producer says money raised by the single, and donations to an "Enough is Enough" fundraiser, will be distributed to local communities impacted by rising gun violence.

Toronto is expected to surpass last year's record number of shootings even in the

pandemic.

According to police data updated last week, there have been 409 incidents of shootings and firearm discharges this year, with 35 people being killed.

Two years ago, rapper Kardinal Offishall, filmmaker Director X and producer Taj Critchlow met with Toronto Mayor John Tory to discuss possible solutions to Toronto's gun violence.

The meeting came days after two men associated with the local rap scene – 21-year-old Jahvante Smart, also



known as Smoke Dawg, and 28-year-old Ernest Modekwe - had been killed in a shooting in the downtown area.

Around the same

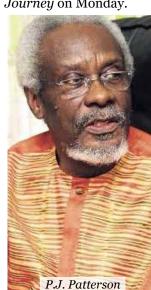
time, Drake's producer Noah Shebib took to his Instagram account to express concern that the murders were being framed as all gangrelated. He pointed to a "troubling" focus on increased policing, instead of improved funding for community resources.

Jelleestone



Former Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to discuss vision for post-pandemic Caribbean

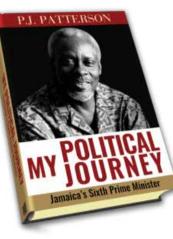
Rverson University will host the virtual Canadian launching of former Jamaican Prime Ministert P.J. Patterson's memoirs titled My Politcal Journey on Monday.



At the launch Patterson will speak about " his days in office and a new vision for the Caribbean post-pandemic.

He will also join Dr Luz Longsworth, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Prinicpal of the University of the West Indies Open Campus in a discussion about "the future of the economy, youth and justice in the Caribbean and beyond."

Proceeds from the sale of My Political Journey will support scholarships for students at the

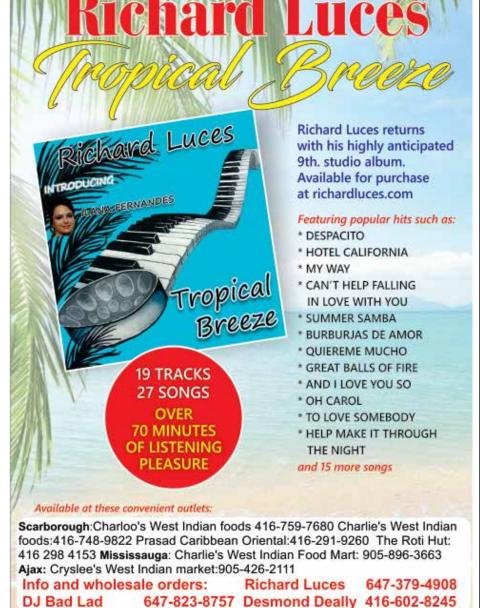


University of the

West Indies, says a

release from Ryerson University. The book launch starts at 5.30 p.m.

For more information, contact Florence James at fnajames@ryerson.ca.



www.TheCaribbeanCamera.com

OCT. 29, 2020

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Film depicts Black Lives Matter, #MeToo

as new feminist wave

LOS ANGELES

— The documentary
genre's power of
immediacy is evident
in "Not Done: Women
Remaking America,"
which includes the stillunfolding possibility of
the first Black female
vice-president and the
loss of Breonna Taylor.

The film depicts a powerful female-driven advocacy, one represented by Black Lives Matter, #MeToo and other 21st-century movements that have built on and transcended past efforts.

"There is a newfound language around who gets to claim feminism," Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors says in the film which debuted earlier this week.

Or as Gloria Steinem puts it: "Now it's a majority and it's unapologetic. Now we know it's a revolution."

While the enduring feminist leader provides context, this era's activists are centre stage. Among the voices: a Native American who's in her teens but already a veteran activist with a global perspective —and gender confidence.

"If I'm not fighting against the climate crisis, I'm fighting for Indigenous rights," Tokata Iron Eyes says in the film. "If I'm not fighting for Indigenous rights, I'm still a brown person. And then I'm still a woman, which is also like a superpower at the same time."

"Not Done" is an extension of 2013's "Makers: Women Who Make America," about the late 20thcentury quest for female equality, and a 2014 follow-up series. There's also an ongoing Makers initiative to advance the cause.

"Part of what was becoming obvious about the period we were living through was that women were back in the streets" after settling into complacency, said Sara Wolitzky, the film's director. There's an "awakening that sexism, racism and transphobia are entrenched" and collective action is required.

Women leading the charge is nothing new, although their work often has gone uncredited, Cullors said in an interview.

In America's civil rights movement, "the most visible have always been men....
I think there was an unfortunate perspective

that women were to contribute, but not receive any accolades for the contribution that we've given," she said.

There's a who's who of activists in "Not Done," which moves briskly from historical prologue through the roller coaster ride the country has been on since Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton failed to shatter what she called the highest, hardest glass ceiling.

Her 2016 loss to Donald Trump fueled the nationwide women's march, which quickly revealed the fractures that haunted the "second wave" feminism of the 1960s and '70s: what critics saw as a blinkered focus on white women's issues.

Before thousands of pink hats bobbed down America's streets,

Monday to Saturday

the initially whiteorganized event was called out by women of colour who were giving it "kind of side-eye," Linda Sarsour recounts in the film.

"I'm supposed to go follow, like, a bunch of white ladies who never marched with us before?" was the reaction, she said. When Sarsour pointed out the need for others to be included, including Muslims, she was among those invited to join as leaders.

When "Not Done" pivots to the issue of sexual abuse, it calls on Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey of The New York Times to detail their reporting that toppled Hollywood powerbroker Harvey Weinstein and propelled the #MeToo crusade originated years before by Tarana

America Ferrera, Natalie Portman and other celebrities got involved (leading to creation of the Time's Up initiative) and found an unlikely ally: the National Women's Farm Workers Association, which

Burke.

offered its support over a shared problem.

"It was such a revolutionary act of love," Ferrera says in the film. "They saw past vast things that divide our experiences in this world, and chose to stand in solidarity."

There's a retelling of how Black Lives Matter was launched by Cullors, Opal Tometi and Alicia Garza after Florida jurors acquitted the man who killed

Turn to PAGE 15



DIGITAL INTERNSHIP

MORD

WORD Media Group Inc. is seeking six interns to participate in a Black youth leadership and digital literacy internship program. The four-month internship will include digital literacy and leadership training workshops as well as experiential learning opportunities while working with a digital archivist to organize, catalogue, process and digitize archival material for the Canada Black Music Archives.

Eligible Applicants:

Candidates must be between the ages of 18 and 30 with some post-secondary education and able to work in a full-time internship position for four months.

Location:

All workshops and experiential learning will take place remotely. Compensation: \$3,000 Honorarium

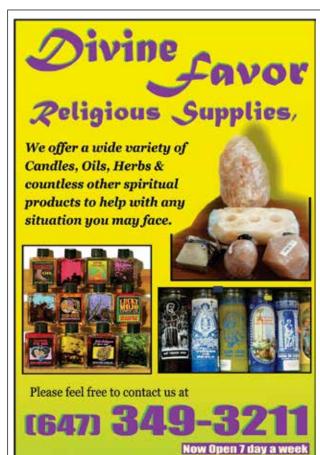
Application Requirements:

Current resume plus a covering letter.

Application Deadline:

We are accepting applications on an ongoing basis for both Phase I and Phase II of our internship program, but we recommended submitting your application as soon as possible.

Applications should be submitted by email to info@wordmediagroupinc.com



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OCT. 29, 2020 **11**

NEWS

U.S. election results could impact immigration

to Canada next year

OTTAWA - Anew poll by Leger and the Association for Canadian Studies suggests Canadians are feeling skittish about any planned increases to immigration next vear, after months of low numbers of new arrivals due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fifty-two per cent of those polled this week say they want the levels to stay low for the next 12 months, a figure that can be pegged to the pandemic, said Jack Jedwab, the president of the Association for Canadian Studies.

"When health authorities are telling you that one of the principal causes of the virus is migration - they're not saying international migration, just people moving in general — and they are telling you not to go abroad, you're going to conclude to some degree that

immigration carries a risk right now," said Jedwab.

The survey polled 1,523 Canadians between Oct. 23 and Oct. 25. It cannot be assigned a margin of error because online surveys are not truly random.

Border closures, civil servants working from home, flight cancellations and vanished job opportunities have all had an impact on the immigration system: estimates suggest that as of August, immigration levels were down 43.5 per cent versus last year and the government's plan to welcome 341,000 newcomers in 2020 is out the window.

While the Liberal government has maintained a proimmigration stance throughout and has begun easing restrictions on who is

allowed into Canada, what the Liberals think immigration overall could look like next year will be clearer later this week.

Despite some Americans' "If Trump wins, I'm moving to Canada" line, the U.S. election might not affect the total numbers for new arrivals.

But it could affect the demographics of who arrives.

Upon assuming the presidency in 2017, Donald Trump immediately moved to impose restrictions on immigration, and Canada's messaging immediately went in the other direction.

The most public response was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's #WelcomeRefugees tweet, posted after Trump's first changes were announced.

Meanwhile, Trump's travel bans on certain countries, crackdowns on temporary visas issued to citizens of others, and efforts to make it harder for highly skilled workers to get visas would go on to have a trickle-up-to-Canada effect.

How so became tragically clear earlier this year when Ukraine **International Airlines** Flight PS752 was shot down just after taking off from Tehran.

Upwards of 130 people on the flight were headed to Canada. With Iran on the U.S. blacklist, the Iranian diaspora in Canada had swelled.

The tech sector as well began actively promoting Canada as a place to move as the U.S. made it harder for skilled workers to get

A study earlier this year by the international real estate company CBRE

concluded that Toronto had seen the biggest growth in technology jobs in the last five years, outpacing hot spots like Seattle and

San Francisco.

Should Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden win the election, it's expected that U.S. immigration policy will shift, said Andrew Griffiths, a former director general of citizenship and multiculturalism at the Immigration Department.

How far is hard to know: Trump made a lot of changes, he said.

"It's going to take a major effort to go through them one by one and make changes and there may not be political will to reverse

them all," he said. But there is one area where there could be a quick change.

Since 2017, nearly 60,000 people have crossed into Canada from the U.S. at unofficial border points to seek asylum in Canada.

The reason is the Safe Third Country Agreement, which doesn't allow for asylum claims at land border points, on the grounds that both countries are safe, and someone must ask for refugee status in the first safe country he or she reaches.

Canada has been trying to renegotiate, and if there's a change in power, the dynamics of those talks could shift as well

to limi temporary foreign worker program

EDMONTON — The Alberta government is hoping to open jobs in the province for local people by closing some of them to foreigners.

On Monday,

provincial Labour and **Immigration Minister** Jason Copping said the **United Conservative** government will limit the number and type of temporary foreign

workers it allows into the province.

Copping said the changes will save more than 1,300 jobs for Albertans.

"There will be a

number of Albertans who are interested in taking those roles," he said. "We are investing in more funding for training and retraining to enable Albertans to have the skills to be able to cross into those

Temporary foreign workers already in the province won't be affected, he said. As well, no changes will be made to the program for workers in agriculture, health care, technology and emergency response.

The government did not release information on where the 1,350 jobs will be created. Nor did it release a list



of the 475 professions for which temporary foreign workers will no longer be approved.

Two visa programs will be created for students in postsecondary programs who wish to stay in Alberta after graduation.

Joseph Marchand, a labour economics professor at the University of Alberta, welcomed the changes

allowing graduates to stay in the province.

But he pointed out that most foreign students at his university are still in their home countries, taking classes online.

"Does that mean they can then come in, through this policy? How does that work?"

Marchand added that much of the temporary foreign worker program was set up when Alberta was still in an economic boom and experiencing labour shortages.

"(These programs) are holdovers from that type of thinking, that we don't have the workers we need," he said.



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CARICOM foreign ministers sign declaration for post-COVID-19 recovery

SANTIAGO,
Chile — Caribbean
Community
(CARICOM) foreign
ministers have joined
their counterparts
in Latin America in
signing a political
declaration for a
"sustainable, inclusive
and resilient recovery"
post the coronavirus
(COVID-19) pandemic.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said that the declaration was signed in the framework of its 38th Session, which took place virtually, and ended yesterday.

The declaration
was unveiled during the
dialogue of Ministers
of Foreign Affairs and
high-level officials of
Latin America and
the Caribbean on
the post-pandemic
economic recovery,
which was inaugurated
by Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Costa Rica,
Rodolfo Solano, in his



capacity as president of the United Nations regional commission's 38th session, along with ECLAC's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena.

ECLAC said 28 foreign ministers and senior authorities expressed their shared view that international financial solidarity, renewed multilateralism and the strengthening of regional integration are urgently needed for a post-COVID-19 recovery, with equality

and sustainability.

"This political declaration constitutes for us at ECLAC not only a mandate and guide for developing our mission but also a fundamental sign that it is possible for the region to raise a single voice amid the historic challenges that this crucial time requires us to face," Bárcena said.

She said as the United Nations commemorates its 75th anniversary, "we can say that here within the framework of ECLAC, Latin American and Caribbean multilateralism, its vocation for cooperation and integration, has expressed itself yet again, strongly and clearly".

The political declaration meeting urgently called for solidarity, multilateralism and international cooperation to be intensified at all levels, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation,

as well as partnerships between the public and private sectors, "to contain, mitigate and overcome the pandemic and its consequences through people-centred responses that would take gender issues into account and fully respect human rights and fundamental freedoms".

Furthermore, they requested the swift and effective mobilisation of resources to tackle development problems, and they urged member states and other interested parties including the private sector and international financial institutions - to mobilise a "coordinated, comprehensive and large-scale global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences".

In addition, the officials urged states to "refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral measures of an economic, financial or trade-related nature that are incompatible with international law and the United Nations Charter and that would impede the full attainment of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries".

"We stress that recovery from the pandemic should be an occasion to enhance and support the development policies of Latin America and the Caribbean while strengthening democracy and fulfilling human rights, and we recognise the importance of developing recovery plans that promote sustainable development and drive transformative change towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies," said the officials in a statement.

United National Congress to hold internal elections on December 6

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad - Leader of the Opposition United National Congress (UNC) Kamla Persad-Bissessar has announced December 6 as the date for the party's internal elections.

She made the announcement at a virtual meeting on Monday night.

"Take notice that the UNC's internal election to elect a new national executive for our party will take place on Sunday, December 6, "Persad-Bissessar said.

She called on those who wish to challenge her, "to come brave, be strong, put your nomination form in and we will take on all

comers."

Some members of the party have been waging a campaign for her to step down since she lost the August 10 general election.









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CARICOM divided on Venezuela at OAS assembly

WASHINGTON – Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries were divided on the issue of "free and fair" elections in Venezuela, with The Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica, and St Lucia all voting in favor of the resolution tabled at the 50th General assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) that ended here last week.

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and St Vincent and the Grenadines voted against the resolution, while Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Grenada, St Kitts-Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago abstained.

The resolution indicated that there has been a lack of minimum democratic conditions to guarantee free, fair, and transparent elections in Venezuela. Twenty-one countries voted in favor, four



voted against and nine abstained.

The resolution had been cosponsored by the delegations of Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

CARICOM countries have long indicated their policy of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of the South American country where the United States and its allies are seeking to remove President Nicholas Maduro in favor of the Opposition Leader Juan Guaido.

Antigua and
Barbuda's Permanent
Representative to
the OAS, Sir Ronald
Sanders said his
country refused to
support the resolution
because it recognizes
Guaido as the President

and Venezuela is not represented in the Western Hemispheric organization because the Maduro administration had withdrawn that country.

"Among the reasons that my delegation opposed the resolution is that it would require my government to accept the persons purporting to represent the government of Venezuela; a government which

ceased to be a member State of this organization in 2019 having given due notice of its withdrawal in accordance with the Charter of the Organisation," Sir Ronald said.

Earlier, US Acting Assistant Secretary, Michael Kozak, told the "Dialogue on Venezuela's Multidimensional Crisis," that the South American country is a "shadow of its former self.

"Once a prosperous nation, today its people are suffering from the lack of everything: no food or water, electricity and gasoline shortages, and insufficient access to medical care and medicine to name a few," he said.

He denounced the planned December 6 parliamentary elections a "political fraud" insisting they "will in no way be free or fair.

"The condition of democracy in Venezuela remains dire. The National Assembly is the only legitimately elected democratic institution remaining in Venezuela, and the only branch of government not controlled by the illegitimate regime.

"Maduro stole the presidential election in 2018. We must not allow him to improve his situation legally or practically by stealing yet another corrupt and fraudulent election in 2020," the US representative said.

"We urge you to recognize the democratically elected National Assembly and the Interim President until free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections are held because no legitimately elected legislature or president will have been chosen by Venezuelan voters to take their place."

Cuba says US sanctions have caused nearly \$5.6B in losses

HAVANA — The Cuban government said on Thursday that the island has lost nearly \$5.6 billion in one year as a result of economic sanctions imposed by US President Donald Trump.

Cuban Foreign
Minister Bruno
Rodríguez decried what
he said was a growing
number of sanctions
suffocating the island,
a topic that is on the
agenda for next year's

UN General Assembly session.

The blockade "is an increasingly cruel attempt to deprive our people of basic goods for their survival," Rodríguez said.

He said the political hostility has reached "feverish levels."

The \$5.6 billion loss occurred between April 2019 and March 2020, compared with \$4.3 billion the previous



year.
The sanctions, coupled with a

sluggish economy, the pandemic, and increasingly active hurricane seasons, has led to a growing shortage of food and occasional fuel scarcity on the island.

"It's cynical to express supposed concern that this policy affects only some Cubans, but it's even more cynical to try and justify it," Rodríguez said.

Trump recently added to the sanctions by barring US travellers to Cuba from bringing back Cuban cigars and rum or staying in government-owned hotels here as he courts the Cuban-American vote in Florida ahead of the election.

Trump said the sanctions would remain in place until Cuba releases all political prisoners, legalises political parties, holds free elections and respects the rights to free assembly and expression.

Film depicts Black Lives Matter, #MeToo as new feminist wave

from PAGE 11

teenager Trayvon Martin. The three founders insisted on melding feminism and racial justice.

"Patrisse and I and Opal have been very clear from the beginning that it's all of us or none of us. Black women, black queer and trans folks are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, by policing, by issues of safety, violence, and harm," Garza says in the film.

"Not Done" also recounts the rancorous confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and the rise of female lawmakers.

It concludes with footage of Democratic vice-presidential contender Kamala Harris expressing her gratitude to "the heroic and ambitious women before me," and a portrait of Kentucky police shooting victim Taylor gracing the expanse of an outdoor sports court.

While equality and justice are very much works in progress there is reason for optimism, Wolitzky said.

"The one thing you know for sure is that all of the women that we see in the film are incredibly brilliant, courageous and determined. Women are are not going to be giving up," she said.

FOCUS ON HEALTH

COVID-19 vaccine trials cannot tell us if they will save lives

accines are being hailed as the solution to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the vaccine trials currently underway are not designed to tell us if they will save lives, reports Peter Doshi, Associate Editor at The British Medical Journal (BMI)

Several COVID-19 vaccine trials are now in their most advanced (phase three) stage, but what will it mean exactly when a vaccine is declared "effective"?

Many may assume that successful phase three studies will mean we have a proven way of keeping people from getting very sick and dying from COVID-19.

And a robust way to interrupt viral transmission.

Yet the current phase three trials are not actually set up to prove either, says Doshi.

"None of the trials currently underway are designed to detect a reduction in any serious outcome such as hospitalisations, intensive care use, or deaths. Nor are the vaccines being studied to determine whether they can interrupt transmission of the virus," he writes in the BMJ.

He explains that all ongoing phase three trials for which details have been released are evaluating mild, not

severe, disease-and they will be able to report final results once around 150 participants develop symptoms.

In Pfizer and Moderna's trials, for example, individuals with only a cough and positive lab test would bring those trials one event closer to their completion.

Yet Doshi argues that vaccine manufacturers have done little to dispel the notion that severe COVID-19 was what was being assessed.

Moderna, for example, called hospitalisations a "key secondary endpoint" in statements to the media. But Tal Zaks,

Chief Medical Officer at Moderna, told The BMJ that their trial lacks adequate statistical power to assess that endpoint.

Part of the reason may be numbers, says Doshi. Because most people with symptomatic COVID-19 infections experience only mild symptoms, even trials involving 30,000 or more patients would turn up relatively few cases of severe disease.

"Hospitalisations and deaths from COVID-19 are simply too uncommon in the population being studied for an effective vaccine to demonstrate statistically significant differences in a trial of 30,000 people," he adds. "The same is true regarding whether it can save lives or prevent transmission: the trials are not designed to find

Zaks confirms that Moderna's trial will not demonstrate prevention of hospitalisation because the size and duration of the trial would need to be vastly increased to collect the necessary data. "Neither of these I think are acceptable in the current public need for knowing expeditiously that a vaccine works," he told The BMJ.

Moderna's trial is designed to find out if the vaccine can prevent COVID-19 disease, says Zaks. Like Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson, Moderna has designed its study to detect a relative risk reduction of at least 30% in participants developing labconfirmed COVID-19, consistent with FDA and international guidance.

Zaks also points to influenza vaccines,

saying they protect against severe disease better than mild disease. "To Moderna, it's the same for COVID-19: if their vaccine is shown to reduce symptomatic COVID-19, they will feel confident it also protects against serious outcomes," Doshi writes.

But Doshi raises another important issue-that few or perhaps none of the current vaccine trials appear to be designed to find out whether there is a benefit in the elderly, despite their obvious vulnerability to COVID-19.

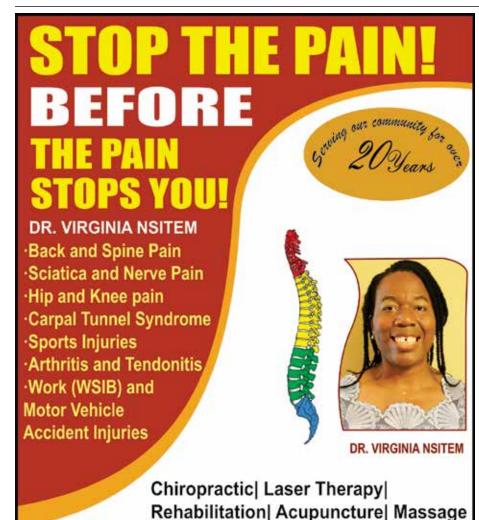
If the frail elderly are not enrolled into vaccine trials in sufficient numbers to determine whether there is a reduction in cases in this population, "there can be little basis for assuming any benefit against hospitalisation or mortality," he warns.

Doshi says that we still have time to advocate for changes to ensure the ongoing trials address the questions that most need answering.

For example, why children, immunocompromised people, and pregnant women have largely been excluded; whether the right primary endpoint has been chosen; whether safety is being adequately evaluated; and whether gaps in our understanding of how our immune system responds to COVID-19 are being addressed.

"The COVID-19 vaccine trials may not have been designed with our input, but it is not too late to have our say and adjust their course. With stakes this high, we need all eyes on deck," he argues. British Medical Journal





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NFWS

Calls for Guyana tourism minister to resign

GEORGETOWN, Guyana - Guyana's main opposition coalition, APNU+FC, has called for the resignation of Tourism Minister Oneidge Walrond.

The call was made after Walrond admitted that she was a dual citizen when she was recently sworn in as minister of government and as a member of parliament.

In a statement, the tourism minister said that she has since renounced her US citizenship.

"I wrote to the US Consular Office on



August 18 renouncing my citizenship to the United States of America with immediate effect. I was thereof informed of the administrative procedure I must comply with to obtain a Certificate of Loss of Nationality of the United States. I complied with that process by August 27. I have since received the Certificate of Loss of Nationality. I took the oath to the National Assembly was after I renounced my citizenship of the United States of America," she said.

However, in response, the APNU+AFC said, among other things, that "a person's dual citizenship comes to an end at the time of the dated renunciation certificate, not at the time when one decides to embark on the process".

The opposition added that the tourism minister "is being disingenuous and duplicitous and misleading when she states that she "immediately renounced her citizenship".

"There is no such thing as the immediate renouncing of one's citizenship. It is a process, and it is only formal and final after the process is completed," said the coalition.

The opposition said that based on the mentioned concerns, it had called for Walrond's immediate resignation and her removal as a member of parliament.

But up to late Saturday, the minister, who took the oath of office on September 1, did not respond to specific questions from the opposition.

President Irfaan Ali, when asked whether the tourism minister had given up her American citizenship before she had been sworn in, said, "I know that she gave up the status; that's what I know. From the time we announced the Cabinet, I am sure that all members, all the members, were in line. They knew what they had to do, and they would have already done what they had to do."

Blanchet's defence of N-word used by professor condemned by NDP and the Green Party

from PAGE 2

freedom and offence should be focused on those traumatized by such words, he said.

"When we have a community that is saying explicitly that this causes them harm in the environment that they are trying to access—their employment or they are trying to access their education—we

should listen to them first." Green said.

"It's the same when we are talking about gender equality, when we are talking about sexual orientation.

It's the same when we are talking about any marginalized group.

We should listen first and give primacy to the groups that are impacted in these environments that are

public institutions."

on September 1. That

The Bloc,
Green said, has
shown a consistent
trend of blocking
parliamentarians
who have attempted
to address systemic
racism, including voting
down a recent motion
brought by NDP Leader
Jagmeet Singh.

On Thursday, Singh, who has sparred with the Bloc and called one of its MPs racist, said the Quebec nationalist party's comments were misguided.

"In this context, it is very clear that that is not a word that should be used," Singh said. "But the debate and academic discussion is a completely separate but very fair and vital point.

"But to conflate

the two is very problematic."

Newly elected
Green Party leader
Annamie Paul said she
has been called the
N-word several times
during her leadership
campaign. Paul told
David Cochran, the
guest host of the
television program
Power and Politics
that she'd be happy to
educate Blanchet on the

word's painful historical roots.

"I find it extremely provocative that Monsieur Blanchet called a press conference with regard to this," Paul said.
"Respectfully again, I must tell him that he is incorrect, and I would be happy to explain all the reasons why to him."



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SPORTS

Hamilton wins Portuguese Grand Prix to break record for most wins

Six-times world champion Lewis Hamilton became the most successful Formula One driver of all time in terms of race wins on Saturday with a dominant 92nd career victory at the Portuguese Grand Prix.

The Mercedes driver, who took the chequered flag a huge 25.592 seconds ahead of secondplaced team mate Valtteri Bottas, had equalled Ferrari great Michael Schumacher's record 91 wins at the previous race at the Nuerburgring.

Victory, along with a bonus point for fastest lap, stretched the Briton's championship lead over Bottas to 77 points with five races remaining.

Hamilton lapped all but the three drivers behind him but it had not looked so simple at the start when he dropped to third from pole position on a lively opening lap with occasional rain complicating matters

Hamilton wore a face mask with the words "Black Lives Matter" as he celebrated the historic victory on the podium. As the only Black driver in Formula 1, Hamilton has continually used his position to raise awareness for social issues, such as when he took a knee with other drivers before the Austrian Grand Prix in July and when he wore a shirt that read, "Arrest the cops who killed Breonna Taylor" before another race.



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CRICKET 1

International cricket set to return to the Caribbean next year, says CWI President

ricket West Indies (CWI) president, Ricky Skerritt, says international cricket could return to the Caribbean as soon as the first quarter of next year but the challenge remains the creation of safe bio-secure "bubbles" at Caribbean venues.

He revealed that CWI had only recently produced a draft schedule for 2021 for board approval and were still in the stages of finalising venues and other logistical details, especially in light of the new COVID-19 pandemic environment.

However, he confirmed Sri Lanka, South Africa and Australia were all expected to tour the region, the series spread over the first half of the

Skerritt also said the resumption of regional domestic cricket would start with the Super50 limitedovers tournament which was being pencilled in for January-February of



next year.

"The first regional cricket we're proposing is the Super50 at the end of January next year," Skerritt told SportsMax TV.

"We're not hosting any international cricket before Sri Lanka which will be around February.

"We go to Bangladesh in January/ February and then we have three teams coming spread more towards the summer rather than the early part of the year - Sri Lanka, South Africa and Australia."

CWI has not staged an international home series since last January when Ireland toured for three One-Day Internationals and T20 Internationals.

In fact, the year



was expected to be a busy one but the home itinerary was cancelled following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Africa Women had been scheduled to play a fivematch ODI series in Jamaica and Trinidad last May/June while South Africa A had been carded for five onedayers and three fourday "Tests" in Antigua and Barbados last June/July.

The senior men's tours were also scrapped, New Zealand having been expected to play three ODIs

and T20s in Antigua, Dominica and Guyana last July and South Africa down to play two Tests and five T20s in Trinidad, St Lucia, Jamaica and the United States in July/August.

West Indies' historic three-Test tour of England established a template for the safe resumption of cricket, however, and since then England have hosted a couple of home tours while the Caribbean Premier League was successfully staged in Trinidad last August/ September.

Skerritt said issues of regional air travel

and establishing and implementing safe protocols, first needed to be addressed before tours could be staged.

"Obviously the problem is where is [best] suited to host [these tours], where can we create the protocols including the bio-secure bubble so a number of options have to be looked at," he explained.

"In terms of regional air transport and the ability to move players around and deal with the restrictions, that is not something we can look towards at least until towards the

end of the first quarter next year."

The cancellation of the 2020 itinerary has impacted CWI revenues significantly, forcing the Antigua-based governing body to make reductions in their expenditure.

Last May, CWI announced a "temporary" 50 per cent cut in all salaries and funding of cricket across the region, referencing the "debilitating economic challenges which have resulted from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic", as the rationale for the move.



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