

THE WEEKLY VOICE

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Emotional Torontonians Remember Victims

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these kinds of things," Ahangama Rathanasiri of the Toronto Maha Vihara Buddhist Meditation Centre said in a telephone interview. "This is a very sad incident."

Rathanasiri described Amarasingha as a kind and generous person who attended regular services and brought cookies to Sunday school students every week.

Those students included her son, he said, adding the community is trying to raise money to provide for his future.

Amarasingha had spent the past three years working as a nutrition services staff member at various schools throughout the Toronto District School Board, the organization said in a statement, adding she was also an adult student at one time.

On the day of the attack she had just completed her first day of work at Earl Haig Secondary School, located near the crime scene, the board said.

"We extend our sincere condolences to Renuka's family and friends," board chair Robin Pilkey said in the statement. "This is a difficult time for the



A group of women gather at a memorial wall dedicated to the victims of Monday's van attack along Yonge Street in Toronto on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The Canadian Press/Chris Young

students and staff that knew her and we will continue to provide support to them in the days and weeks ahead."

Rathanasiri said Amarasingha's friends first became alarmed when she did not return home on Monday afternoon to look after her son as usual. Friends are currently caring for Amarasingha's son, he added.

Details also began to emerge about Munir Alnajjar, a Jordanian

citizen in his 70s who also died in the attack. Harry Malawi, a family friend and president of the Jordanian Canadian Society, said Alnajjar was visiting his family in Toronto with his wife when he was killed. He had only been in the country for a couple of weeks when the van attack took place, Malawi said, adding the family is in the midst of a three-day mourning period.

"They are secluded right now

and they ask everybody to accept their privacy," he said. "We stand together, we want to help the family heal...physically, psychologically, emotionally and financially, they need all the help they can get."

Another victim was 80-year-old Dorothy Sewell, whose death was confirmed by her grandson on Tuesday. Elwood Delaney of Kamloops, B.C., described his grandmother as an avid sports fan who "almost had as much love for the Blue Jays and Leafs as she did for her family."

Tennis Canada said the victims also included long-time volunteer Anne Marie D'Amico. She worked at Invesco Canada, a U.S.-based investment firm with offices close to the crime scene.

"She was a really friendly, warm person ... always caring for other people," said Gavin Ziv, vice-president of national events for Tennis Canada. Seneca College said another one of the victims was a female student, but didn't offer further details. A South Korean news agency said two unnamed Korean nationals were also among those killed.

Fiscal Position Expected To Take \$1B Hit

Continued from page 3

"Our higher deficit forecast largely reflects our higher projections for public debt charges, direct program expenses and children's benefits," the PBO wrote in its report.

The analysis predicted the government will spend a total of \$19.5 billion more than it had forecasted in the budget to service the federal debt between 2017-18 and 2022-23. Askari noted the discrepancy between the estimates is mostly due to the fact the PBO used a higher projected interest rate for its calculation than the budget predicted.

The government's fiscal position is also expected to take a hit — a total of about \$1 billion

over the next five years — from a higher-than-anticipated cost for its budget commitment to expand benefits for the working poor, through its Canada Workers Benefit. The details were included in a separate report also released Monday by Frechette's office.

The federal budget projected the Canada Workers Benefit, a rebranded version of a program introduced by the Harper government, to have a fiscal impact of about \$831 million between 2018-19 and 2022-23. The PBO believes Ottawa has underestimated the program's cost and that it will come in at \$1.84 billion over that period.

Most of the extra cost, the PBO said, will come from the govern-

ment's effort to make more people eligible for the benefit and a change to allow the Canada Revenue Agency to automatically enrol those who qualify. That tweak alone is expected to add 300,000 more workers.

The PBO also predicted the federal government's forthcoming carbon price tax would lower the country's real gross domestic product by 0.5 per cent, or \$10 billion, in 2022.

The carbon price is set to rise from \$10 per tonne per year until it reaches \$50 per tonne in 2022.

"Implementation of the federal government's carbon pricing levy will generate a headwind for the Canadian economy over the medium term," Frechette's report



Pierre Poilievre

said. To make its assumption, the budget office based its estimate on an analysis by the Ecofiscal Commission.

"The carbon levy will generate significant revenues over the medium term," the PBO said. "As has been noted by the Ecofiscal Commission, the impact on the economy will depend on how those revenues are used."

Among Monday's projections, the PBO also predicted that over the next five years, Canada would generate about \$70 million less in revenue from cannabis taxation than the federal government is expecting.

Conservative finance critic Pierre Poilievre called the PBO's findings "damaging" for the government, citing the impact of larger deficits, higher debt payments and a carbon tax that he says will erase at least \$10 billion per year from the national economy by 2022. "In other words, we will be spending, under this government's plan, more for nothing," Poilievre said in Ottawa. "More debt interest, higher taxes and smaller GDP. That is the Liberal plan. It is a failed plan and we need a change."

A spokeswoman for Morneau disagreed, saying that since the Liberals came to office, the economy has created more than 600,000 jobs and the unemployment rate has been near its lowest level in about 40 years. — CP

India's Global Trade Rises

NEW DELHI: India's overall global trade has increased by 16.32 per cent in 2017-18.

According to the Department of Commerce, the overall trade last fiscal increased to \$767.9 billion from \$660.2 billion in 2016-17. "India's global trade has risen from USD 660.2 billion in 2016-17 to USD 767.9 billion in 2017-18(P)," the Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry tweeted on Wednesday. "While India's global trade grew by 16.32 per cent between 2016-17 and 2017-18, India's total trade with LAC (Latin American countries) grew by 19.63 per cent.

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