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Feds Step Up Foreign Worker Site Inspections

OTTAWA _ The federal Liberal government, chastised last year in an auditor's report that found a lack of oversight of Canada's controversial temporary foreign workers program, is stepping up employer inspections and naming and shaming those caught breaking the rules.

Since the start of the year, roughly 1,600 employers have been flagged as "high-risk employers" and selected for inspections by the Employment and Social Development Department,

with more than 1,340 on-site inspections launched and in various stages of completion.

That's more than seven times the number of on-site inspections conducted during the same period in 2016-17.

It's all part of the government's effort to address oversight concerns with the temporary foreign worker program flagged last year by auditor general Michael Ferguson.

Employers often hired temporary foreign workers without first

demonstrating they had exhausted all other options for finding local workers, and applications were frequently approved without being challenged, Ferguson found.

He also found enforcement officers lacked access to sufficient data to ensure employers were being honest about local labour availability, and rarely conducted on-site inspections. Those inspections that did go ahead were "flawed," since employers always had prior warning, Ferguson

concluded. The federal public accounts committee, which held its own hearings to ensure Ferguson's concerns were addressed, also found that while the number of temporary foreign workers has declined, oversight of employers using the program remains "not sufficient."

Labour Minister Patty Hajdu recently tabled a response to the concerns raised by both the committee and the auditor general, outlining the steps her department

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Ford To Cut Gas Taxes By 10c Per Litre

Wynne And Horwath Tout Transit Promises In Response



Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford holds a rally to speak about Hydro One in Toronto on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Aaron Vincent Elkaim

OAKVILLE: Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford has announced that an Ontario PC Government will cut the price of gas by ten cents per litre. These savings will be achieved by eliminating the Liberal/NDP cap-and-trade scheme, reducing Ontario's provincial fuel tax, and stopping the Liberal/NDP carbon tax.

"These are real savings that will lower the cost of filling-up your car and leave more money in your pocket, while at the same time supporting families and businesses by keeping the costs of goods and services low," said Ford. "Ours is the only Party that understands that gas is an absolute necessity that not only gets people around, but also fuels our economy."

On Wednesday, he addressed

his supporters at a Mississauga convention centre and he later tweeted: "It's time to paint Mississauga blue."

Earlier, in a statement, he said: High gas prices have been shown to have negative impacts on the economy, increasing the cost of transporting everyday items such as food products families buy at the grocery store, as well as increasing costs on other goods and services. Lower income individuals and families tend to be negatively affected the most by rising gas prices as they have less money to spend on other necessities, and often go further into debt as a result.

Ford highlighted how Kathleen Wynne's cap-and-trade scheme, supported by Andrea Horwath's NDP, is already adding 4.3 cents

per litre at the pump. He also highlighted that the cap-and-trade price-tag is projected to grow by an additional 428 per cent which, on its own, will add 23 cents per litre to the price Ontario drivers pay for gas.

"For an average driver, that's an additional \$500 a year for gas alone — just to pay for Wynne's cap-and-trade scheme," said Ford. "If you need to drive a car to get to work, to school, or to pick up your kids from daycare, the Liberals and the NDP will have their hands in your pocket every time you fill up your car."

Ford highlighted that the Liberals and NDP are following the example of British Columbia, which was the first jurisdiction in Canada to impose a carbon

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Canada Urged To Ensure 'Freedom Of Speech Is Not Used To Glorify Terrorists'

GENEVA: India on Friday said it wanted the Justin Trudeau government to ensure that freedom of expression is not misused to incite violence and to glorify as martyrs individuals who are considered terrorists by New Delhi.

This statement was delivered at a session of the universal periodic review of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva by India's deputy permanent representative Virander Paul during the "Canada - Interactive Dialogue".

He also asked the Trudeau government to "stop racial profiling and other discriminatory practices by the police and security agencies".

During his recent visit to India, Trudeau insisted that Canada

Horwath Rules Out Ties With Liberals

BRAMPTON: New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath says there's no way she'd join forces with the Liberals to form a coalition government.

Her comments on Monday appear to go further than when she was asked Sunday about the possibility of a coalition should the Progressive Conservatives win a minority in the election. She said she wouldn't work with a party that wants to make life harder for everyday families, but that it's impossible to say anything now.

On Monday, Horwath was unequivocal in saying she has "no interest" in partnering with the Liberals after the June 7 vote.

Horwath's comments came in Brampton, where she said an NDP government would build a third hospital in the fast-growing city northwest of Toronto.

stood for a "united India". He also denied allegations that Sikh ministers in his government were supporters of Khalistan.

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Karnataka In Turmoil As BJP Takes Charge

BENGALURU: BJP legislature party leader B.S. Yeddyurappa took oath as the Karnataka Chief Minister here on Thursday, hours after the Supreme Court declined to stay his swearing-in ceremony.

Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of office and secrecy to Yeddyurappa at 9 a.m. at the Raj Bhavan amid tight security. The beleaguered Congress and Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) leaders, however, protested against the swearing-in of Yeddyurappa and termed the Govern-



BJP supporters in Bengaluru celebrate as the party took early lead in the counting of the Karnataka pol on Monday. - IANS

nor's decision "unconstitutional".

"Constitutionally, we (JD-S and Congress) should have been given the chance to form the government as we together have the majority in the assembly. The Governor's decision to invite the BJP to form the government is against the Constitution," state unit Congress chief G. Parameshwara told reporters here.

Earlier, a three-judge bench of the apex court rejected a joint writ petition, filed by the Congress and the JD-S to halt the

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