

Merry Christmas

Harsher Impaired Driving Penalties In Effect

OTTAWA: New rules that increase penalties for drunk driving and expand police powers to demand breath samples took effect across Canada on Tuesday, with some predicting the law will face a series of legal challenges.

The legislation, which passed in June at the same time as new rules for drug-impaired driving, is intended to curb injuries and death by helping police catch drivers with more than the legal limit of alcohol in their bloodstreams.

It gives police officers the right to ask for a breath sample from any driver they lawfully stop, lowering the bar from the previous legislation, which required that an officer have reasonable suspicion that a person had been drinking. Such a system is already in place in more than 40 countries.

Toronto-based lawyer Michael Engel, who often defends those charged with impaired driving, said the new rules are a big change that raise concerns about



baseless searches. "This is a radical departure from previous law, which insu-

lated people against warrantless searches without probable cause," he said.

The new rules could lead to a backlog in the legal system as lower courts wait for higher courts to make a decision on likely challenges to the law's constitutionality, he said.

"It's a brave new world," Engel said. "This is a wholesale change to the criminal code."

Civil rights organizations have also sounded alarms about the new rules, with the Canadian

Civil Liberties Association expressing concern that mandatory alcohol screening will unfairly affect racial minorities who are disproportionately singled out by cops for traffic stops.

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould has said she has "every expectation" the law will be challenged in the courts, but noted that she's sure it'll pass the test. She said it's in line with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Toronto police spokesman
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Trudeau Confident Of Winning 2019 Poll

Liberals To Run Campaign Similar To That Of 2015 Says PM



Speaker Geoff Regan, Leader of the Opposition Andrew Scheer and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stand with Members of the House of Commons as they pose before Question Period in the House of Commons Wednesday in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wylde

OTTAWA: Justin Trudeau says he's confident he'll win re-election next fall by sticking to a positive, thoughtful approach to difficult issues, in contrast to the Conservatives whom he accuses of resorting to bumper sticker slogans that prey on voters' fears and prejudices.

Although recent provincial elections suggest Canada is not immune to the anti-immigrant sentiment or nationalist populist sloganeering that has swept through the U.S. and other countries around the globe, the prime minister argues that Canadians are getting wise to political leaders who promise easy, simplistic solutions to complex issues.

"I think one of the big distinctions that we see around the world right now is folks who want to exacerbate, amplify and exaggerate those fears for short-term political gain versus those who are trying to thoughtfully allay those fears," Trudeau said in a year-end roundtable with the Ottawa bureau of The Canadian Press.

"Obviously, it's easier to spook someone than it is to explain a complex answer," he said. "But I fundamentally believe in trusting citizens' capacity to be thoughtful about where we're going ... and that is what I am going to be putting forward as a vision for our politics, for our country and, by extension, I think for the whole world." In that sense, Trudeau

is drawing much the same battle lines that propelled the Liberals to a come-from-behind victory in 2015.

In that campaign, he points out that Stephen Harper's Conservatives adopted a strategy with "Islamophobic undertones," including vowing to ban Muslim women from wearing the face-covering niqab during citizenship ceremonies and proposing creation of a "snitch line" to tip police to culturally barbaric practices.

By contrast, he said Liberals won by campaigning "on a thoughtful approach that was in total contrast with the versions of populism that were already be
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Congress Leader Sajjan Kumar Gets Life For '84 Killings

NEW DELHI: Thirty-four years after the gruesome killings, the Delhi High Court on Monday convicted Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in a horrific anti-Sikh riot case of 1984 here and sentenced him to imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life, holding that the violence was a "crime against humanity" engineered by politicians with assistance from police.

Setting aside the acquittal of Sajjan Kumar, the court convicted him and five others saying that the "criminals" had escaped prosecution and punishment for over two decades.

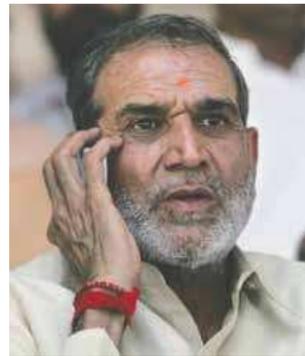
"This court is of the view that the mass killings of Sikhs in Delhi and elsewhere in November 1984 were in fact 'crimes against humanity'. They will continue to shock the collective conscience of society for a long time to come," a bench of Justice S. Muralidhar and Justice Vinod Goel said.

Sajjan Kumar, 73, was asked to surrender by December 31 and directed not to leave Delhi.

"In the summer of 1947, during partition, this country witnessed horrific mass crimes where several lakhs of civilians, including Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus, were massacred," the bench said.

"Thirty-seven years later, the country was again witness to another enormous human tragedy. Following the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, on October 31, 1984, by two of her Sikh bodyguards, a communal frenzy was unleashed.

"For four days between November 1 to November 4, all over Delhi, 2,733 Sikhs were brutally murdered. Their houses were de-



stroyed. In the rest of the country too, thousands of Sikhs were killed," the bench observed in its 203-page order.

The court said: "A majority of the perpetrators of these horrific mass crimes enjoyed political patronage and were aided by an indifferent law enforcement agency."
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Ottawa To Reconsider 'Sikh Extremism' Tag In Report

OTTAWA: Canada's public-safety ministry will reconsider the way Sikh organizations are described in a recent report outlining terror threats in Canada, the department's minister Ralph Goodale (pictured) said Friday.

The Canadian Sikh community, including one of Goodale's fellow Liberal MPs, wants him to do far more than fix a few words.

Goodale said he is confident the security officials who wrote the 2018 report on terrorism threats facing Canada did not mean to malign entire religions when describing Sikh, Shia and

Sunni extremism but he is still asking them to make changes to be more precise.

"Words matter," Goodale said. "We must never equate any one community or entire religions with extremism."

Balpreet Singh, a lawyer representing the World Sikh Organization of Canada, said Goodale has missed the point. Singh said this is the first time Sikh extremism has been mentioned in the annual terror-threat assessment but provides no evidence for doing so. He said the only incident the report mentions is the bombing of



an Air India flight leaving Canada for New Delhi and Mumbai. That attack killed 329 people but it

was in 1985. "Reevaluating the language is fine but just the fact that this section was there is very troubling given that there is absolutely no context beyond something that happened three decades ago," said Singh.

The report says "some individuals in Canada continue to support Sikh (Khalistani) extremist ideologies and movements."

Khalistan is the name for an independent Indian state proposed by some Sikhs. Extremists demanding Sikh independence were behind the Air India bomb-

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