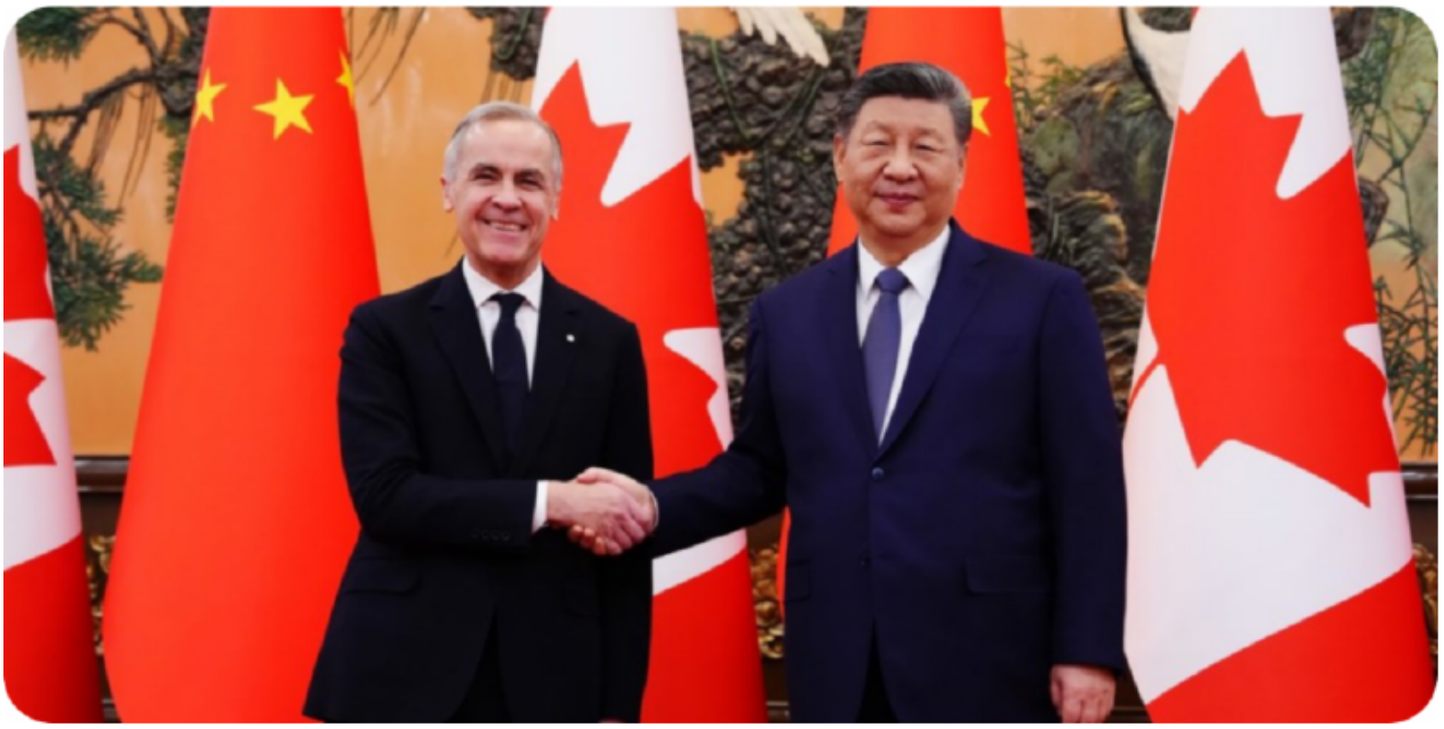
Jump to Olivia's feature

Prosperity News

SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP

National News

Canadian Agreement with China Brings Relief for Farmers and New Options for EV Buyers



Prime Minister Mark Carney recently completed the first visit by a Prime Minister to China since 2017, securing a preliminary agreement for deeper cooperation on clean energy, agri-food exports and two-way investment. The agreement also supports Canada's push to diversify trade beyond the United States. Canada will allow up to 49,000 Chinese electric vehicles into the domestic market at a 6.1 per cent tariff, a move

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This Week at SIPP
• Blue Economy Accelerator Opens Doors for Founders with Global Ambitions. Apply now.

expected to incentivize joint ventures, strengthen domestic manufacturing and expand affordable EV options for consumers.

China will lower tariffs on Canadian canola seed and suspend duties on canola meal, lobster, crab and peas, unlocking agri-food export opportunities for Canadian producers. Ottawa has set a goal to increase exports to China by 50 per cent by 2030 as part of its broader trade diversification plan. The two sides also agreed to deepen cooperation on global governance, public safety, cultural exchanges and tourism marking a turning point in relations.

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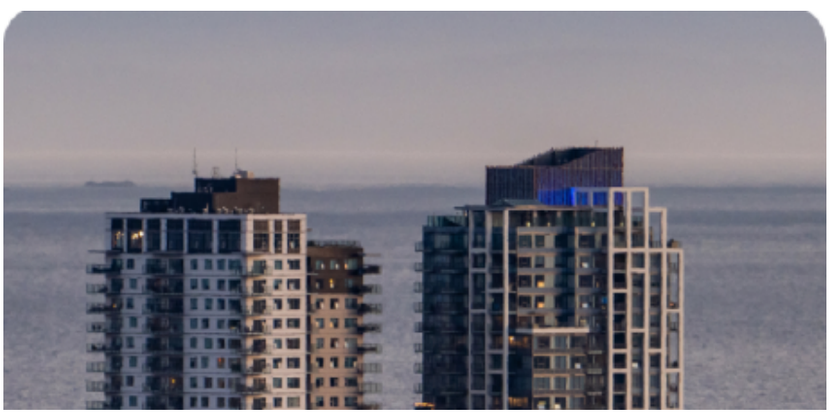
Provincial News

B.C. Leads Canada in Declining Rents as Renters See Price Relief



A recent report reveals price relief is reaching renters in B.C., driven by new construction, vacancy upticks and policy shifts. A new Rentals.ca report shows B.C. leading Canada in rental price declines for apartments, with asking rents dropping 12.1 per cent over three years. Greater Victoria rents are down 6 per cent over the past year. Housing Minister Christine Boyle says lower rents reflect government action on affordability, renter protections and construction of new purpose-built rentals.

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Municipal News

Floating Indigenous Centre and Museum Concept Could Reshape Victoria's Waterfront

On the Inner Harbour, a long-standing dream for a maritime museum and Indigenous cultural
space may soon cross from vision to negotiation as the province prepares for a crucial agreement. A proposed $40 million floating Indigenous exhibit space on Victoria's Inner Harbour is approaching a key milestone as the province nears a memorandum of understanding with project partners. The initiative, called the Future of History, brings together the Maritime Museum of B.C. with the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations and would open a new Indigenous welcome centre. The project is tied to the Belleville Street ferry terminal upgrade and anticipates an opening season in 2029.

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Member News

Law Firm Crawford

Munroe Thomson Marks a New Chapter and Fresh Identity

A familiar firm in B.C.'s legal community is starting 2026 with a new identity, backed by seasoned leadership in Vancouver and Victoria. The SIPP-member, formerly known as Pulver Crawford Munroe, unveiled its new identity as Crawford Munroe Thomson on January 12. Leadership remains steady, with Marcia McNeil and Jessica Thomson leading in the Victoria office.

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Municipal News

Ferry Terminal Replacement Reaches First Structural Milestone

A $416 million upgrade for Victoria's ferry Terminal is underway and crews are moving fast. Work on Victoria's new Belleville Street ferry terminal recently entered a major construction phase, with crews now driving the first of 320 piles for the foundation of the future wharf and terminal complex. The demolition of older Clipper facilities, utility relocations and archaeological excavation work are complete, clearing the way for new building activity. The project is expected to finish in late 2028 and will serve both the FRS Clipper from Seattle and the Coho from Port Angeles.

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Check Out the Latest Blog from SIPP's Dallas Gislason

Find Out How Optimism Becomes Economic Fuel for Growing Regions

Curious about why some cities buzz with creative energy while others feel stuck in place?

SIPP's Dallas Gislason explores the role culture plays in shaping entrepreneurship and economic vitality in his latest blog *Can a City or Place have an 'Entrepreneurial Culture?'.* He explains how cultures of possibility and opportunity form and why optimism fuels innovation. If you care about how a region grows, adapts and builds opportunity for the next generation, this is a read worth your time.

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Did You Know?

- The Victoria Conference Centre saw an increase of 127.38 per cent in attendees from November 2024 to 2025 with 10,637. - Chemistry Consulting

What's new at SIPP?

Young Entrepreneur Shows How Possibility Charter Moves from Idea to Impact

Since joining The Possibility Charter as a

signee and speaking at the launch event, Olivia Wein has remained a

clear voice for optimism and local ambition. The UVic entrepreneur behind pajama brand Isla Lune has recently received $45,000 in federal support through the Mitacs Accelerate program.

The year-long research project examines how AI-generated and user-generated marketing content influences conversion outcomes. The work highlights Greater Victoria as a place where young founders can flourish. If you believe in a region where talent can stay, build and thrive, join the movement. Add your name to The Possibility Charter and help move this vision forward.

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Blue Economy Accelerator Opens Doors for Founders with Global Ambitions. Apply now.

Blue Action Canada is back with a new cohort and a bigger ambition: find ocean ventures

with real

commercial pull and give them the network to grow. After a successful 2025 pilot, applications are now open for the 2026 intake, run by SIPP-initiative COAST, Founders Factory and Blue Action.

The accelerator, based in B.C., will support up to eight ventures solving challenges and creating opportunities across the blue economy from defence/dual use to renewable energy and autonomy. The 12-week program gives startups unique access to a global network of investors, governments and industry partners. The success of the first cohort, which included Seacork, Open Water Solar, Ocean AID and Celerity Craft, attracted over $2M in early-stage funding and saw successful industry pilots.

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Sponsor Rising Economy 2026

Highlight Your Brand at Greater Victoria's Premier Business Conference for Business Insiders

Put your brand front and centre at Rising Economy 2026 — Greater Victoria's most influential business conference, taking place **March 10 – 11** at the **Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort**. Produced by South Island Prosperity Partnership, Rising

Economy is an **award-winning, sold-out** gathering draws the leaders who turn “What-If” into “What’s Next” by shaping strategy, innovation and economic growth in our region.

As a sponsor, your brand goes beyond a logo. You gain:

- **premium visibility across every high-impact event touchpoint**
- **exclusive profile and stage moments that position you as a leader**
- **targeted social media amplification before, during and after the event**
- **curated, high-value networking with decision-makers who matter.**

If your brand wants influence, momentum and meaningful connections in 2026, this is where you show up. Ask us about sponsorship opportunities.

Reach Out

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Featured SIPP Members of the Week

We're proud to highlight these organizations as South Island Prosperity Partnership's Members of the Week. As dedicated members of SIPP, their leadership, collaboration and commitment to regional prosperity help strengthen the South Island economy and community. We thank them for the meaningful impact they continue to make.

- Hazelwood
- MNP
- RBC
- Township of Esquimalt

At a Glance

🧾 Tech solutions driving transformation in Canada's mid-market for 2026 - MNP

🇨🇦 Canada announces funding for 77 homes in Victoria - BC Government

🛠️ Registration for the Western Innovation Forum (WIF) is now open! WIF 2026 is an industry-oriented event that connects Western Canada's defence industry, cutting-edge innovators and researchers to innovation-driven investment, research, partnerships and ITB-related business opportunities.- WIF

⚖️ Development to replace Turner Building in Victoria ready to break ground next week - CHEK News

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Thanks for Reading!

Archival reconstruction of the newsletter content in the 16 supplied screenshots.
Phone controls and overlaps removed; obscured text re-typeset from the screenshots.
Some imagery cropped. Original button destinations are not encoded in screenshots.