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RIGHT TO THE POINT

COMMENT

Iranian embassy a dangerous proposition



HYUNGCHEOL PARK / POSTMEDIA NEWS

When then-prime minister Stephen Harper ordered the Iranian Embassy closed in 2012, his foreign minister called Iran, "the most significant threat to global peace and security in the world today." That, writes Beryl P. Wajzman, is still true.

CANADIANS MOVE TO U.S. FOR JOBS, HEALTH CARE, STUDY FINDS

38% of expats open to returning to Canada

TRACY MORAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. • Canadians may hate the idea of U.S. statehood, but some still see the grass as greener across the border. The question is why, and a new study says the answer is more complicated than tax envy or better jobs.

The data tell a mixed story: More Canadians seem to be heading to the U.S. in recent years, even as long-term permanent migration has declined. Nearly 20,000 Canadians emigrated to the U.S. permanently in 2022, a 65 per cent increase from the year before, according to Statistics Canada. But the average number of native-born Canadian-born people granted permanent U.S. residence fell from 15,600 in the late 2000s to nearly 11,000 in the late 2010s.

A new study, "Beyond the Borders: Unraveling Reasons for Canadians' Relocation to the United States," by Neil Seeman, an associate professor at the University of Toronto, and Jack Mintz, president's fellow at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy, tries to explain why Canadians are choosing the U.S.

The researchers expected job opportunities to rank No. 1 but were surprised by what came in at No. 2.

See **STUDY** on A12

'We'll never be the 51st state,' rocker Bryan Adams asserts in new protest song. A2
How to stop brain drain to U.S. Mintz and Seeman, A10

Double-digit prices for local strawberries leave bitter taste

LAURA BREHAUT

Seeing \$17 or even \$9 price tags for homegrown strawberries has some Canadians stopping in their tracks. Even the imported ones from the United States and Mexico have gone up in price.

In recent inflation numbers for May, the price of berries (including cherries) increased 2.1 per cent year-over-year. According to new data, you could be paying even more for strawberries, with double-digit monthly percentage increases in some cities.

Dalhousie University's Agri-Food Analytics Lab found that overall strawberries have become more expensive over the past month, with the average retail price for a 454-gram package sitting at \$5.73 in June — a 4.9 per cent increase from May. In its analysis of grocery-pulse.ca data, the lab looked at averages of regular retail prices across the country.

See **STRAWBERRIES** on A2

Hamas cracks down on anti-Hamas dissidents in Gaza

'A lot of people are fed up from the war'

DAVE GORDON

Gazans who tried to mount a mass protest "Day of Rage" against Hamas on June 26, demanding that the terror group disarm and step down, say their plans were crushed before they could reach the streets.

Multiple dissidents said in phone interviews that smaller protests went ahead in some areas, but the terror group forced participants to disperse, warning organizers and would-be demonstrators that anyone attempting to join would face violent reprisals.

"What the world doesn't really know, is that there is a strong opposition movement inside Gaza today that's developing against Hamas," said Hadeel Oueis, a U.S.-based Syrian-born journalist and editor of Jusoor News, an Arabic-language outlet that reports on Middle East news.

They maintain a network of contacts in the Strip, and she helped the Post arrange interviews with dissident Gazans.

"A lot of people are fed up from the war, fed up from Hamas's wrong choices, and they want to protest," demanding that Hamas disarm, and leave the Strip "in order to stop the war, to stop the Israeli attacks, and to rebuild Gaza."

See **DISSIDENTS** on A9

GIVING THE REGIME AN OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED Foothold ON CANADIAN SOIL FOR ITS IDEOLOGY THREATENS THE SAFETY OF JEWS AT HOME

BERYL P. WAJZMAN

The suggestion last week by Prime Minister Mark Carney that Canada should consider reopening an embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran for the sake of "engagement" could lead to dangerous results. Reopening embassies are not one-way streets. If Iran agreed, it would demand that its embassy in Ottawa be reopened. And if that happened, the world's largest state sponsor of terror and antisemitism would have an operations centre in the heart of Canadian soil.

Another justification that the prime minister put forward for considering a restoration of diplomatic relations with Iran is that it will help Canadians abroad. But how many Jewish Canadians will it hurt here at home? Or are Jewish Canadians not entitled to the same protections that should be equally afforded to all citizens?

Over the past two years, Canadians have witnessed the worst explosion of antisemitism in our country's modern history. Synagogues have been fire-bombed. Jewish schools have been shot at. Community centres have required armed security. Jewish students have been intimidated on university campuses. Demonstrations have featured calls for the destruction of Israel and rhetoric is increasingly directed against Canadian Jews themselves.

These events did not arise spontaneously. Hatred on this scale rarely does. Behind much of the global campaign against Israel stands the Islamic Republic of Iran. It finances Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations whose stated objective is not peace but Israel's destruction. It spends billions exporting revolutionary Islamist ideology and anti-Jewish propaganda around the world.

Iran has invested enormous financial resources into building a worldwide infrastructure of anti-Israel activism through proxies, front organizations and terrorist movements. Hamas and Hezbollah do not simply wage war in the Middle East. Their narratives, propaganda and ideological influence are deliberately projected into western democracies, where they fuel polarization and increasingly normalize antisemitism.

It is therefore impossible to separate the question of reopening an Iranian embassy from the question of rising antisemitism in Canada.

See **WAJZMAN** on A11

Ontario judge has no confidence CBSA will deport repeat thief

MASON KOSSAK

An Ontario judge says he has no confidence the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will deport a repeat liquor store thief, despite a standing order to remove him.

Justice Michael K. Wendt said the removal order against Manjeet Singh had stood since 2022, yet CBSA never acted on it.

"Ultimately, I have no confidence that the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will actually deport Singh," Wendt said in the June 23 decision. "Put bluntly, a deportation order has been in place for nearly four years. During that time, he has been in custody on serious criminal charges, under which CBSA could have readily located and removed him, yet no action has been taken."

See **SENTENCING** on A4



What's behind the surprise rebound in the economy.

Page FP1

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