

## Ottawa favours southern route for new Alberta-B.C. pipeline

Smith government has talked up advantages of moving oil to northern coast for export to Asia

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The federal government is eyeing a new oil pipeline route in southern British Columbia that some in Ottawa believe would face fewer environmental hurdles and less resistance from Indigenous groups than the northern route Alberta is proposing, two federal sources say.

Prime Minister Mark Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith signed a memorandum of understanding in November, with the goals of unlocking Alberta's en-

ergy sector and diversifying export markets in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war. The agreement laid the conditions for construction of a new oil conduit to the Pacific.

A new pipeline could carry an additional one million barrels a day destined for Asian markets and help fulfill the Prime Minister's promise to turn Canada into an energy superpower.

The MOU doesn't say what path the pipeline will take. Ms. Smith has talked up a northern route that would carry Alberta oil to the Port of Prince Rupert, B.C. Her government is expected to propose such a

route to Ottawa's Major Projects Office this summer. An Alberta government source said the province expects that the federal government will designate the pipeline a project of national importance in the fall.

But the two federal sources say Ottawa leans instead toward a route that would run through the province's south to the Port of Vancouver. That pipeline could either run alongside the Trans Mountain pipeline or follow another path. In either case, the sources said, it would require a new terminal for loading oil onto tankers.

■ PIPELINE, A7

## Officials tied to ArriveCan lose bid to have court dismiss CBSA report

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Two senior public servants linked to the controversial procurement process behind Ottawa's costly ArriveCan app have lost their bids to have the Federal Court overrule internal grievance findings related to allegations of misconduct against them.

Justice Avvy Yao-Yao Go issued the decisions Monday after two days of public court hearings in March.

Cameron MacDonald and Antonio Utano worked together at the Canada Border Services Agency as senior officials responsible for IT matters in 2020 when the agency launched the app for cross-border travellers at the onset of the pandemic.

Mr. MacDonald is now an assistant deputy minister at Health Canada, and Mr. Utano is a director-general at the Canada Revenue Agency.

Early last year, the CBSA prepared a draft Professional Standards Investigation Report that, according to Monday's rulings, contained "findings regarding several misconduct allegations" involving each of the two men.

The allegations are not detailed in the court's decisions and the CBSA's investigative findings have never been made public.

The public servants' relationships with private IT contractors have been under scrutiny amid questions about how the agency used outside companies to build ArriveCan, whose initial \$80,000 expense grew to in excess of \$56-million in the course of more than 70 updates.

■ ARRIVECAN, A7

[ FOLIO ]

## A BATTLE FOR THE AGES

Taking to the streets and even risking jail time, these senior Canadians are spending their twilight years advocating for climate action ■ A8



Don Brown, 100, wears a sign promoting clean energy in his hometown of Hamilton this month. Mr. Brown says his activism is for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. NICK IWANYSHYN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

## In climbdown, Eby says B.C. will work with First Nations on DRIPA plan

JUSTINE HUNTER VICTORIA

British Columbia Premier David Eby has backed down on promised amendments to the province's landmark Indigenous rights law slated for this spring. In a major reversal, his government will instead take the next six months to seek a resolution with Indigenous leaders.

For weeks, the Premier has been embroiled in a crisis over his "non-negotiable" plans to change the law, a proposal that has drawn fierce opposition from the province's First Nations leaders.

Mr. Eby first raised the alarm in December after the BC Court of Appeal ruled that a law related to mineral exploration was "inconsistent" with the government's obligations under the Indigenous rights law to uphold the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, or UNDRIP. He insisted his NDP government needed to act with urgency to remove legal liability to other provincial statutes.

The First Nations Leadership Council, which represents the top three political First Nations organizations in B.C., held an emergency meeting over the weekend after being told the government was planning to table proposed changes this week.

Mr. Eby said Monday that he changed his mind after B.C. Attorney-General Niki Sharma brokered an alternative.

■ DRIPA, A6

## Grilled by lawmakers, British PM insists he wasn't told of former envoy's failed vetting

PAUL WALDIE  
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British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has offered yet another explanation and apology for appointing Peter Mandelson, a long-time friend of Jeffrey Epstein, as ambassador to the United States, even after Mr. Mandelson failed a security clearance.

Mr. Starmer has faced days of awkward questions about why he wasn't told by the Foreign Office for more than a year that Mr. Mandelson had failed a security review before taking up the diplomatic post

in February, 2025.

Mr. Mandelson was fired last September after more details of his relationship with Mr. Epstein came to light in the media. But the Prime Minister said it was only last week that he was told Mr. Mandelson had failed a January, 2025, review by United Kingdom Security Vetting (UKSV), a special agency within the Cabinet Office that screens high-profile appointments.

Last Thursday, Mr. Starmer blamed the top civil servant at the Foreign Office, Oliver Robbins, for withholding the information and fired him.

On Monday, during a tense debate in the House of Commons that saw two MPs

ejected by the Speaker, Mr. Starmer said it was staggering that he had not been told about the UKSV recommendation and that the Foreign Office overruled the decision.

"Let me be very clear: The recommendation in the Peter Mandelson case could and should have been shared with me before he took up his post," Mr. Starmer told MPs. "Let me make a second point. If I had known before he took up his post that UKSV's recommendation was that developed vetting clearance should be denied, I would not have gone ahead with the appointment."

■ STARMER, A6



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