



RECOMMENDED READINGS

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The IRRG is aware that subject matter experts, practitioners, students, and others are busy with current and developing projects and has provided the following list of readings to share knowledge of potential interest in support of efforts relating to the resilience, security, and risk management of critical infrastructure assets and networks.

2. STRATEGIC POLICIES AND LEADERSHIP

**10 NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL, TERRITORIAL NATION BUILDING
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

15 THE CANADA-U.S. MEXICO AGREEMENT (CUSMA)

16 NATIONAL SECURITY INITIATIVES

16 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

23 CYBER SECURITY

26 NATURAL DISASTERS



STRATEGIC POLICIES AND LEADERSHIP

Prime Minister Carney

- **G7 Leaders' Joint Statements - Evian, France, 16-17 June 2026, -- Leaders' Statement on Geopolitical Issues**
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/edgdrkoo/g7-leaders-statement-on-geopolitical-issues.pdf>
 Summary: The G7 Leaders committed to accelerate the diversification of energy supply routes to reduce global vulnerability to the Strait of Hormuz and to increase our energy stocks. They also welcomed the potential for Canada to deliver significant additional capacity to global markets in coming years.
- **Prime Minister Carney secures new partnership in defence and critical minerals at the 2026 G7 Leaders' Summit**
<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2026/06/17/prime-minister-carney-secures-new-partnerships-defence-and-critical>
 Summary: At the 2026 G7 Leaders' Summit in Évian, France, this week. At the Summit, he worked with leaders to strengthen collective security and secure critical mineral supply chains. In Évian, **Canada welcomed 13 new partnerships and initiatives with more than eight countries through the Critical Minerals Resilience and Production Alliance**. Launched during Canada's 2025 G7 Presidency, the Alliance brings together trusted partners to diversify critical minerals supply, reduce market concentration, and create a reliable buyers' club that can attract investment and accelerate production for projects. Together, these projects and initiatives will unlock more than \$5 billion in capital investment for projects across the Canadian critical minerals value chain, including:

 - German company RCT Solutions will partner with Canada's Sio Silica and other partners to support a high-purity silica project to extract 99.9%+ pure silica sand and build a fully integrated solar manufacturing hub in Manitoba.
 - Japanese company Hanwa Co. Ltd. will partner with Canada's KAP Minerals to boost the development of phosphate and rare earths in Ontario.
 - Italian company Eni is investing in Canadian-based Nouveau Monde Graphite's Matawinie Mine to produce graphite in Québec.
 - Denmark's Export Credit Agency and Italian companies SACE, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, and SIMEST – including Italian engineering group MAIRE – will support Canada's First Phosphate in relation to a new phosphate mine and phosphoric acid processing production facility in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Québec.
 - Dutch company Liminal By WMC will partner with U.S. company Regeneration Enterprises Inc. on critical minerals recovery and restoration projects in New Brunswick, British Columbia, and the Yukon.
 - French company Schneider Electric will partner with Canada's Torngat Metals to advance rare earths mining and processing in Québec.



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- Japanese company Sumitomo Corporation will partner with Canada's Ucore Rare Metals Inc. to supply rare earths for magnet makers across Japan and North America.
 - Portuguese company Lifthium Energy will partner with Canada's NORAM Electrolysis Systems Inc. (NESI) to provide Canadian technology services for lithium refining in Portugal.
- **Prime Minister Carney expands Canada's partnership with Ireland across Science, technology and culture June 14, 2026,**
<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2026/06/14/prime-minister-carney-expands-canadas-partnership-ireland-across>
- Summary: In Dublin, Prime Minister Carney met with Taoiseach Martin to elevate the bilateral relationship with stronger cooperation across key sectors, guided by a new joint statement. This includes:
- Partnering on artificial intelligence (AI) by deepening cooperation and leveraging Canada's AI for All strategy and Ireland's new "Digital Ireland" strategy. Canada is committed to harnessing the AI revolution to seize opportunities, improve well-being, and save lives. Results are immediate, with Canada-based OpenText announcing yesterday their investment of more than \$160 million in Cork, Ireland, to establish their European hub for AI.
 - Strengthening resilient health systems and supply chains through collaboration on regenerative medicine, pharmaceutical manufacturing, workforce development, and biomanufacturing skills. This cooperation is reflected in the following recently signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU):
 - An MOU between the Toronto-based Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) and Ireland's RINN Advanced Therapies national research centre toward exploring the establishment of a CCRM Ireland hub. This would accelerate the development and commercialisation of innovative health technologies while creating new market opportunities for Canadian companies.
 - An MOU between the Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences (CASTL) and Ireland's National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) to expand collaboration on workforce development in the biopharmaceutical and life sciences sectors.
 - Advancing food security and agri-food cooperation by increasing two-way investment, harnessing opportunities enabled by Canada's National Food Security Strategy, and pursuing a joint partnership on global food security.
 - Accelerating climate and clean growth cooperation, including engagement on clean technologies and methane mitigation, as well as joint leadership on emissions reduction through multilateral forums and international partnerships.
 - Deepening collaboration in research, innovation, and emerging technologies, including researcher mobility, commercialisation, research, and stronger links between Canadian and Irish innovation.



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- **Prime Minister Carney deepens partnership with France across trade, defence and advanced technologies, June 12, 2026**

<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2026/06/12/prime-minister-carney-deepens-partnership-france-across-trade-defence-advanced-technologies>

Summary: Prime Minister, Mark Carney, and Emmanuel Macron announced a series of new partnerships a new **General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA) between Canada and France**, which will strengthen defence and industrial cooperation, create new procurement opportunities for Canadian workers and companies, and deliver benefits to Canada's economy. The Agreement will:

- Make it easier to exchange classified information between Canada and France across defence, space, aerospace, cybersecurity, AI, and maritime systems.
- Expand access to French defence and security public procurement markets while enhancing the competitiveness of Canadian industry in pursuing French contract opportunities.
- Provide Canadian firms with greater opportunities to compete for contracts, participate in advanced research and development opportunities, and integrate into major international supply chains.
- Grow the Canadian economy with new procurement opportunities in the French defence market and high-paying careers for Canadian workers – from engineering to the skilled trades.

The leaders also discussed progress on aerospace cooperation and noted **France's recent purchase of two additional DHC 515 water bomber aircraft** manufactured by De Havilland Aircraft of Canada in Calgary, Alberta. The purchase, which builds on France's existing fleet of two DHC 515 aircraft, will:

- Strengthen France's capacity to respond to increasingly severe wildfire seasons and reinforce Europe's emergency response fleet.
- Expand Canadian aerospace exports in Europe and position Canada as a trusted supplier of critical emergency-response capabilities, while supporting Canadian aerospace jobs and expertise.
- Bolster climate adaptation and resilience.

- **Prime Minister Carney launches National Food Security Strategy to build a more affordable resilient food system in Canada, June 11, 2026**

<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2026/06/11/prime-minister-carney-launches-national-food-security-strategy>

Summary: Prime Minister, Mark Carney, launched Canada's first-ever National Food Security Strategy. The \$3 billion investments over ten years, the strategy will break open the market for independent retailers, boost domestic food production, and build a stronger, more independent, and more affordable food system for all Canadians.



The strategy has four objectives:

1. Spur grocery store competition and create more choice for Canadians
 - Invest \$1 billion in food infrastructure to build new and expanded food terminals and hubs – helping independent grocers buy and move competitively priced products without relying on large retail chains.
 - Provide the Competition Bureau and Competition Tribunal with nearly \$130 million to investigate, prevent, and combat anti-competitive business practices.
2. Boost domestic food production across Canada
 - Launch a new \$1 billion Agri-food Project Finance Fund through Farm Credit Canada (FCC) to provide seed capital financing for businesses to expand food processing capacity.
 - Establish a \$150 million Food Security Fund to help small and medium-sized businesses upgrade their equipment to grow, produce, and process more food in Canada.
 - Create a \$100 million Collaborative Food Innovation Fund to help producers expand agri-food processing.
3. Grow fruits and vegetables year-round
 - Invest \$750 million to drastically expand year-round Canadian production of fruits and vegetables, including through greenhouses, vertical farms, and other enclosed growing spaces.
4. Cut red tape across the agricultural supply chain
 - Modernise key regulations; speed up approvals for seeds, feed, fertilizers, and veterinary products; and reduce backlogs that slow down the system to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers and producers.
 - Help provincially licensed food businesses meet federal requirements so that a Canadian product made in one province or territory can more easily reach a shelf in another.

Minister of Defence

- **Minister McGuinty Announces Strategic Investment in Sovereign Space Launch, March 16, 2026**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2026/03/minister-mcguinty-announces-strategic-investments-in-sovereign-space-launch.html>
 Summary: Minister McGuinty announced an historic \$200 million investment in Canadian-owned core infrastructure for a Canadian-owned spaceport, along with other major new space-related capabilities and initiatives. The announcement is a significant step in Canada's sovereign space program outlined in Security, Sovereignty, Prosperity: Canada's Strategy. The Strategy contains five the following five key actions to enable Canada to equip, sustain and modernize its military, as well as support the defence industry to meet today's security challenges:



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1. Renewing our relationship with industry
2. Procuring strategically through the new Defence Investment Agency and a new Build-Partner-Buy framework
3. Investing purposefully to strengthen an innovative Canadian defence sector
4. Securing supply chains for key inputs and goods
5. Working with domestic partners, including in Canada's North and Arctic

Minister of Industry Science and Economic Development

- **Government to announce 64 top researchers coming to Canada, August 27, 2026**
https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/government-to-announce-64-top-researchers-coming-to-canada/article_a15d09ff-632b-4c9c-be6e-d0559e09b681.html

Summary: At a news conference in Vancouver, Industry Minister Joly announced that 64 leading international researcher professors have been recruited under the Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada \$1 billion program to Canadian universities. Of the 64 new positions, 48 are researchers from American institutions, including researchers at Harvard, Yale, Duke, Cornell and MIT; others are coming from institutions in Europe and Asia; and 22 of the 64 are expat Canadians returning home.

This first round of the program is awarding \$541 million for the research chairs. The University of British Columbia will receive most of the new chairs, with nine positions, followed by the University of Ottawa with seven and the University of Toronto and McGill University, which are both bringing in six of the positions.

Other Ontario universities to attract talent include McMaster with five positions, Waterloo with three, and Trent, Western, Guelph, Queen's and Toronto Metropolitan University, which will all receive one of the chairs. The second round of intake is expected to be announced in six months.

- **Minister Joly Announces \$688M Investment in Canada's Satellite Sovereignty, June 30, 2026**

Summary: Industry Minister Mélanie Joly announces a \$688-million investment in aerospace company MDA Space to build, test and launch an additional satellite for the RADARSAT constellation. The investment aims to strengthen Canada's satellite sovereignty, including in the Arctic, while supporting surveillance, maritime security and emergency management capabilities. The project, which is tied to the country's defence industrial strategy, could create or maintain up to 100 jobs.



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Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

- **Government of Canada launches Nuclear Energy Strategy, June 22, 2026,**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2026/06/government-of-canada-launches-nuclear-energy-strategy.html>

Summary: the Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, announced the release of Canada's Nuclear Energy Strategy. A key complement to Canada's recently released National Electricity Strategy, this new Strategy targets doubling our workforce by 2050, catalyzing billions in private investment and enabling generational investments in this key strategic asset.

The Strategy will help attract investment through modern financing tools, grow and strengthen Canada's nuclear innovation and research ecosystem and ensure an efficient regulatory system for major projects while upholding Indigenous rights and environmental protection; as well as ensure Canada maintains critical sovereign capabilities in key areas such as reactor technologies and nuclear energy supply chains, including ensuring the availability of an updated CANDU design and support projects like the Darlington New Nuclear Project, which will be the first small modular reactor deployment in the G7.

The Strategy is structured around four pillars:

- Enabling New Builds Across Canada;
- Being a Global Supplier and Exporter of Choice;
- Expanding Uranium Production and Nuclear Fuel Opportunities and Supporting
- World-Class Long-Term Nuclear Waste Management; and,
- Developing New Canadian Nuclear Innovations (including fission and fusion)

Under the Strategy Canada will work with interested provinces, territories, Indigenous Peoples, unions, universities and the broader nuclear sector to shape the implementation of the Strategy.



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▪ **Nuclear Energy Strategy for Canada**

<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-sources/nuclear-energy-uranium/nuclear-energy-strategy-canada>

Key objectives

1. Ensure a modernized, cost-competitive CANDU design is available by 2030 in partnership with leading Canadian organizations, sustaining Canada's sovereign reactor technology tradition.
2. Enable construction of up to ten new large-scale reactors within Canada, with two under construction by 2035 and five more planned or under development by 2040. At least one nuclear deployment (including SMRs) operational or under construction outside Ontario by 2035. A Canadian microreactor demonstrated by 2035 and deployed to remote communities in the late 2030s.
3. Attract private financing to new builds, including from pension and sovereign wealth funds, with an increasing share of private capital for successive projects.
4. Increase Indigenous equity participation in nuclear energy generation projects, alongside broader economic and leadership opportunities for Indigenous communities.
5. Streamline the regulatory framework for nuclear projects to ensure projects are reviewed in an efficient manner without compromising safety, security, and environmental protection all while upholding the rights of Indigenous peoples.

▪ **Minister Hodgson advances Canada's mission to be an energy superpower at EMMC June 26, 2026,**

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/minister-hodgson-advances-canada-s-mission-to-be-an-energy-superpower-at-emmc-2026-832376304.html>

Summary: The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, announced at the 2026 Energy and Mine Ministers' Conference (EMMC) in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories -- the annual gathering of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for energy and mining initiatives by the Government of Canada to strengthen our mining and energy sectors to make Canada an energy superpower. These initiatives include:

- Strengthening Domestic Energy Availability and Security
- Building a Stronger and Better-Connected Grid - - commitment to - to support intertie and interprovincial transmission projects across Canada
 - The British Columbia–Yukon Grid Connect (800-km, +200-kV)
 - Restoring capability on the Alberta–British Columbia intertie (150 MW)
 - Upgrading the Alberta–Saskatchewan intertie (250 MW)
 - The Saskatchewan–Manitoba intertie expansion
 - The Prince Edward Island–New Brunswick Interconnection Expansion Project



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- Unlocking Canada's Mineral Potential - - \$73 million to advance sustainable mining, strengthen Indigenous partnership and leadership in the mining sector, and build the infrastructure needed to connect Canadian critical minerals to global markets.
 - Advancing momentum together - - commitment to ensure Canada's economy remains strong, sustainable and sovereign.
- **Government of Canada announces \$2.2 billion capital commitment for Chalk River Laboratories renewal, May 21, 2026**
<https://www.cnl.ca/government-of-canada-announces-2-2-billion-capital-commitment-for-chalk-river-laboratories-renewal/>
 Summary: Capital commitment under the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) / AECL, will allow CNL to continue to modernize the AECL-owned Chalk River Laboratories campus through the revitalization of essential site infrastructure and a significant investment in new, world-class science facilities. Chalk River Laboratories site which is over 70 years old, with underground and above ground infrastructure will be replaced or refurbished, including the renewal of approximately 60 buildings and facilities on the campus. The funding commitment will enable CNL to continue work which began in 2016, and has included the construction of several new, modern laboratories, support facilities, site infrastructure and office buildings. A key focus of future capital spending will be on sustainable investments into the campus, including energy efficient heating and cooling; and roof and exterior improvements to meet government of Canada's net zero greenhouse gas investments into the campus, including energy efficient heating and cooling; and roof and exterior improvements to meet government of Canada's net zero greenhouse gas emission goals some of which is already well underway. Funding will also support the continued design & construction of the Advanced Nuclear Materials Research Centre (ANMRC), a state-of-the-art research complex that will be one of the largest nuclear research facilities ever built in Canada. Once complete, the 12,700 square-metre facility will feature 23 laboratories and 12 shielded hot cells that will enable post-irradiation examination of small modular reactor (SMR) and next-generation nuclear fuels in addition to glovebox facilities to support the development of advanced fuel fabrication concepts.



NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL NATION BUILDING DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Major Projects Office Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/major-projects-office/about-us.html>

- *The Major Projects Office (MPO) established in August 2025, is a special operating agency supported by the Privy Council Office with a mandate to advance nation-building projects in Canada to connect the economy, diversify industries and trade opportunities, and create high-paying careers while protecting the environment and advancing the interests of Indigenous Peoples.*
- *Projects referred to the Major Projects Office for further review:*
 - *Contrecoeur Container Terminal Project, Contrecoeur, Quebec - Industrial*
 - *Canada Nickel's Crawford Project, Timmins, Ontario - Mining*
 - *McIlvenna Bay Foran Copper Mine Project East-Central, Saskatchewan – Mining*
 - *North Coast Transmission Line (Phase 1), Northwest British Columbia – Electricity*
 - *North Coast Transmission Line (Phase 2), Northwest British Columbia – Electricity*
 - *Northcliff Resources' Sisson Mine, Sisson Brook, New Brunswick - Mining, Critical Minerals*
 - *LNG Canada Phase 2, Kitimat, British Columbia – Energy*
 - *Alto High-Speed Rail, Toronto-Québec Corridor – Transportation*
 - *Port of Churchill Plus, Manitoba – Transportation*
 - *Critical Minerals Strategy, All provinces except for Prince Edward Island – Mining*
 - *Transmission InterConnect Investment Strategy, All of Canada – Electricity*
 - *Atlantic Energy Strategy, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador - Electricity/Energy*
 - *Pathways Plus, Alberta – Energy*
 - *Northwest Critical Conservation Corridor, Northwestern British Columbia, Southern Yukon - Electricity, Mining*



CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR - QUEBEC

- **N.L., Quebec announce new Churchill Falls agreement worth billions — with help from Ottawa August 18, 2026.**
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/new-churchill-falls-deal-announced-wakeham-carney-frechette-9.7309135>
 Summary: Prime Minister Mark Carney, alongside N.L. Premier Tony Wakeham and Quebec Premier Christine Fréchette, announced a new agreement on Churchill Falls and other electricity projects in Labrador. These projects, valued at nearly \$70 billion represent the largest clean energy investment in North American history and will nearly triple the current generating capacity of Churchill Falls, with enough power to light, heat and cool all the homes in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver combined; and create 23,000 jobs. This new agreement is in effect until March 31, 2027. The federal government will provide \$10 billion in financing to upgrade and expand the Churchill Falls generating station, develop the Gull Island hydroelectric project, build transmission lines and implement a 2,000 MW onshore wind energy project in Labrador. Tripling the current generation capacity of Churchill Falls to that 14,000 megawatts of renewable power would be more than the entire generating capacity of B.C. Hydro, more than double the output of Bruce Power, the largest nuclear plant on this continent.

Alberta

- **Canada and Alberta advance west coast pipeline project proposal and Pathways Project Carbon Capture Initiative – to build a stronger, more resilient Canadian economy July 2, 2026,**
<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2026/07/02/canada-and-alberta-advance-west-coast-pipeline-project-proposal-and>
 Summary: The Prime Minister, Mark Carney, announced that the Government of Canada will refer the Government of Alberta's proposal for a southern route for a west coast pipeline project to the Major Projects Office (MPO). The pipeline when completed will transport one million barrels per day of oil toward global markets. The proposed route will largely follow the existing Trans Mountain corridor and will fully respect the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*.

The MPO will now initiate the process for the pipeline's potential listing as a national interest project under the *Building Canada Act* and immediately begin consultations with Indigenous groups, provinces, and territories.



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Under the project Canada and Alberta will each share equal partnership in the project, with meaningful equity stake reserved for Indigenous Peoples. Consultations with Indigenous representatives will begin immediately. Pembina Pipeline Corporation will be a private sector investor and will contribute its expertise to the project's development. The Trans Mountain Corporation will lead the project. The project is presented as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and a historic partnership between government, the private sector, and Indigenous Peoples to build nation-changing infrastructure that unlocks our resources and delivers them to global markets.

The construction and operation of a west coast pipeline project and the Pathways Project will create approximately 175,000 new jobs in Alberta, British Columbia, and across the country. The related economic development opportunity inherent in Indigenous Peoples participating in holding an ownership stake in the pipeline, the project will generate significant economic opportunity for Indigenous communities through business development, contracting opportunities, jobs, training, and opportunities for equity ownership.

British Columbia

- **Canada and British Columbia strike new cooperative prosperity partnership to build a stronger, more sustainable economy, July 2, 2026.**
<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2026/07/02/canada-and-british-columbia-strike-new-cooperative-prosperity>
 Summary: the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, and the Premier of British Columbia, David Eby, signed the new Canada-British Columbia Cooperative Prosperity Agreement to further accelerate the construction of major energy and trade corridors throughout the province, including:
 - **LNG Canada Phase 2, Ksi Lisims LNG, Cedar LNG, and Woodfibre LNG:**
 - The federal government will work with proponents, communities, and First Nations to accelerate the permitting, financing, and construction of these projects to boost LNG supply for Canadians and our allies.
 - **Red Chris Mine Expansion:**
 - Commitment to invest \$500 million to expand Red Chris Mine, to increase Canada's annual copper production by more than 15%, support critical minerals demand for clean energy and manufacturing, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 70% once operational.
 - **North Coast Transmission Line:**
 - Provide \$3.9 billion, through various tools, toward the total capital costs of Phases 1 and 2 of this project, to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to communities across British Columbia. The project has the potential to create



- \$10 billion in new economic activity, while reducing emissions by up to three million tonnes annually. It will become the backbone of a clean-energy corridor, including a proposed Yukon-British Columbia Grid Connect that will increase the Yukon's energy security and affordability, as well as a potential interconnect with Alberta to optimise power reliability and sustainability in that province.
- In parallel, Canada and British Columbia are building the trade infrastructure we need to ship Canadian energy to new markets around the world, including:
 - **Transforming the Port of Vancouver-Roberts Bank trade corridor:**
 - The federal government to invest in infrastructure upgrades to Roberts Bank Terminal, expanding the capacity of the Port to ship to new export markets overseas.
 - This project is estimated to create over \$100 billion in new trade capacity and add approximately \$3 billion to Canada's economy every year.
 - **George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project:**
 - Provide up to \$3 billion to replace the aging four-lane transport tunnel along Highway 99 with a modern eight-lane tunnel. This will break down a key Lower Mainland trade bottleneck to enable British Columbia and Canada to export more of what we produce, faster – while cutting travel times for people and goods across Greater Vancouver and traffic bound for BC Ferries to Vancouver Island.
 - **Port of Prince Rupert and the Port of Stewart:**
 - Canada to work with port authorities and First Nations to maximise the potential of these ports to serve as vital trade corridors for Canadian goods and services, including critical minerals.

Manitoba

- **GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, MANITOBA AND THE ARCTIC GATEWAY GROUP WELCOME NEW RESEARCH CONFIRMING FEASIBILITY OF YEAR-ROUND SHIPPING FROM CHURCHILL, AUGUST 21, 2026,**

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/?item=74918>

Summary: The governments of Canada and Manitoba alongside the Arctic Gateway Group welcome new research confirming the feasibility of year-round shipping from the Port of Churchill using existing ice-class vessels, while changing sea-ice conditions are expected to make marine access increasingly favourable over the coming decades. Two studies completed by researchers at the University of Manitoba and Fednav Limited, as well as the preliminary findings from the feasibility study by the Arctic Research Foundation (ARF), show that existing marine technology and Arctic operating experience make year-round navigation through the broader Churchill shipping corridor possible



now using modern ice-capable vessels. The research also shows that declining sea ice is extending the navigable season in Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait, with further gains projected throughout this century.

“Feasibility studies on ice conditions and shipping will help better inform our understanding of the infrastructure, operational, technical, and economic considerations involved in the Port of Churchill, and support continued discussions with Manitoba, northern communities and other partners about the future of Churchill as a gateway to the North. The ARF study’s preliminary results identified significant opportunities for northern supply chains, resource exports, community resupply, Indigenous economic participation and Canadian Arctic sovereignty.

Ontario

- **Premiers of Ontario, Alberta unveil route for proposed new pipeline, July 6, 2026**
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/calgary/article/danielle-smith-doug-ford-announce-proposed-cross-canada-oil-pipeline-corridor/>
 Summary: Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Alberta Premier Daniel Smith to announce the details of the proposed Northern Shield Energy Corridor pipeline 3,300 kilometres from Hardisty, Alta., to Sarnia, Ont. to transport between 500,000 and 800,000 barrels a day using Canadian steel and labour. The project would include possible extensions to new and existing ports, including an option that would allow Manitoba and the Manitoba-Crown Indigenous Corporation to study a possible extension to the Port of Churchill.
- **Ontario signs agreement to boost trade with Utah amid ongoing trade war June 29, 2026**
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/toronto/article/ontario-signs-agreement-to-boost-trade-with-utah-amid-ongoing-trade-war/>
 Summary: The agreement is part of Ford’s ‘Fortress North America’ plan that was launched in response to the trade war. It is effectively a commitment for Ontario and Utah to work together to boost trade in several key sectors, including critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, energy and nuclear technology, life sciences, forestry and information and communications technology. With nearly \$7 billion in annual trade between Ontario and Utah already, today’s agreement will help deliver new opportunities for our province’s world-class workers and companies and create lasting prosperity in both regions.” Under the agreement with Utah, Ontario is specifically pledging to work with officials to develop opportunities for collaboration in the energy and energy-infrastructure sectors with an emphasis on “advanced nuclear technologies, grid modernization, and innovative energy storage solutions.” It is also committing to promoting “collaborative projects” in the field of critical minerals with a focus on “critical mineral supply partnerships, mineral processing infrastructure, and mine-technology/innovation.”



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Inuit Quebec (Northern Community)

- **Carney promises Arctic investment will benefit Inuit during meeting with leadership June 30, 2026,**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/carney-kuujuaq-icpc-meeting-9.7252693>

Summary: Prime Minister Mark Carney and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed in Kuujuaq, the largest community in the Nunavik region in northern Quebec give to ensure Inuit benefit from the tens of billions of dollars slated for shoring up the Canadian military's presence in the Arctic is one of the key priorities.

Quebec

- **Prime Minister Carney announces the largest shipbuilding contract in Quebec history, August 24, 2026**
<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2026/08/24/prime-minister-carney-announces-largest-shipbuilding-contract-quebecs>

Summary: The Government of Canada announced an investment of more than \$11 billion to build six new program icebreakers for the Canadian Coast Guard in partnership with Chantier Davie Canada Inc. This historic investment grows Canada's domestic shipbuilding industry, strengthens our ability to keep critical trade routes open, and reinforces our strategic autonomy. The investment will create 5,000 good jobs in the construction phase alone and contribute nearly \$650 million annually to Canada's GDP. Under the government's Buy Canadian Policy, these vessels will be built with Canadian steel and other domestic materials, while maximising opportunities for Canadian manufacturers, suppliers, and small and medium-sized businesses. Construction will begin in 2027, first ship will be ready five years later, and the full fleet will be in service by 2038.

THE CANADA-U.S. MEXICO AGREEMENT (CUSMA)

- **Mexico, Canada have formed a common front on CUSMA talks, says Sheinbaum June 22, 2026,**
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/cusma-canada-mexico-9.7244946>

Summary: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has confirmed that Mexico has formed a common front with Canada during talks on the future of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). The CUSMA deal is set to expire in 2036, unless party to the agreement gives six months notice to terminate. A virtual meeting is scheduled for July 1 to discuss extending the trade agreement for another 16 years or continue the discussion.



NATIONAL SECURITY INITIATIVES

- **Canada solidifies agreement with Australia to buy Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar system June 21, 2026,**
<https://apple.news/AXbquI9X3QISVL08csoORyQ>
 Summary: Secretary of State (Defence Procurement) Stephen Fuhr signed the \$2.5-billion agreement with Richard Marles, Australia's deputy prime minister and defence minister, in Canberra, Australia. Since the system is foreign manufactured, a comprehensive industrial benefits deal calling for investment in the Canadian defence industrial base was also signed. Over-the-horizon radars are seen as a crucial investment in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) to monitor airspace for aircraft and lone-flying missile threats over the Far North. The transmitting and receiving stations will be located in southern Ontario, in the Kawartha Lakes region. The system is expected to be operational by 2029.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Leading Religious / World Warnings, Regulatory Compliance:

- **'This is crazy. This is insane': Bill Gates has changed his mind about AI and jobs, August 26, 2026**
<https://www.semafor.com/article/08/25/2026/this-is-crazy-this-is-insane-bill-gates-has-changed-his-mind-about-ai-and-jobs>
 Summary: Bill Gates says it's time to hit the AI panic button. The technology has crossed dangerous thresholds in biology, cybersecurity, white-collar work, and human relationships, Gates said in an interview with Semafor. His warning is a shift from three years ago, when he wrote that the coming "bumpy" AI job disruption would lead to a "manageable" transition and that the technology would help people work efficiently. Now, he says it will wreak economic catastrophe, with "far fewer" jobs than exist today, thanks to the speed of AI's advancements and what he calls a non-existent response from government and tech leaders. He now sees the need to create new policies to protect workers and to tax companies based on their use of it. Unchecked AI could create a backlash and society turning against it entirely, thus, derailing its potential to improve humanity, particularly through advances in science and health.



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- **Man, Robert Peston who predicted Covid and 2008 financial crash fears we are heading for economic devastation, August 4, 2026**

<https://www.ladbible.com/technology/ai-warning-economic-ruin-robert-peston-future-tech-prediction-904919-20260804>

Summary: In his latest novel *The Kill Switch*, which is focused on a fictional world where 'megalomaniac technocrats' run the world and malevolent AI super-intelligence threatens humanity. According to Peston "The good is that AI harnessed in the right way, can make us more productive, and make societies richer. However, the negative side of AI is potentially hugely serious and troubling - which is the AI super intelligence being somehow created or born with a will of its own and an autonomy.

He cautions the world about AI potentially gaining the 'ability to improve itself without any human intervention', as the latest AI models are showing. AI experts are warning about the risk of AI becoming this artificial super-intelligence which just decides to rework its own code to eliminate all the protections that the developers have put in to protect humanity.

The big question Preston he wishes people to focus on is "If millions of people are losing their jobs, where are the tax revenues going to come from to pay for our schools and hospitals?"

- **UN Secretary-General seeks ban on AI weapons, July 8, 2026**
<https://www.semafor.com/article/07/08/2026/un-secretary-general-seeks-ban-on-ai-weapons>

Summary: The UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for a ban on "killer robots," saying the decision to take life "must remain forever human."

- **UN's Guterres warns AI outpacing oversight, urges global rules to protect children, July 6, 2026**
<https://www.reuters.com/technology/un-chief-warns-ai-is-developing-faster-than-rules-can-keep-up-2026-07-06/>

Summary: At the two-day inaugural U.N. Global Dialogue the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that artificial intelligence is developing faster than anyone can keep up, calling for globally harmonised rules to reduce potential risks - especially to children.

- **Shopify shareholders shoot down proposal to create AI policy, June 26, 2026,**
<https://apple.news/AbcjN6edSRyqCSziO5dNuyg>

Summary: Shopify Inc. shareholders voted against a proposal to create an AI generative systems policy against the negative impact on human rights, agentic caused misinformation, manipulation and erroneous automated transaction put forward by the



Shareholder Association for Research and Education on behalf of the United Church of Canada's pension plan, a Shopify investor.

Regulatory Compliance:

- **ChatGPT, Reddit, Roblox to adhere to EU's "very large platform" rules, August 31, 2026**
<https://www.reuters.com/world/chatgpt-reddit-roblox-adhere-eus-very-large-platform-rules-2026-08-31/>
 Summary: Under the EU Digital Services Act, ChatGPT, Reddit and Roblox is required to comply with the "very large" requirements as they now have at least 45 million users. The regulation requires these platforms to assess and mitigate risks of illegal content, and limit risks for fundamental rights, electoral processes and public security.

AI Data Centres

- **'Never seen this level of objection': Scotland pushes back against datacentre boom, August 25, 2026**
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/aug/25/never-seen-this-level-of-objection-scotland-pushes-back-against-datacentre-boom?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1
 Summary: Billed as the second-biggest datacentre in the world, – 35 metres high, with an area larger than 100 football pitches the development in Auchertool, Fife, in a village 21 miles north of Edinburgh has attracted 1,600 objections. Similar objections are being expressed across Scotland, including the planned developments in towns such as Airdrie and Larbert.
- **Data Centers Are Sucking Up So Many Construction Workers That There Isn't Anybody Left to Build Houses, Expert Says, August 23, 2026,**
<https://apple.news/ASGXaSa4ZRYyJiJLn-l84Yw>
 Summary: The move to construct data centres is having an unintended consequence by pulling away skilled trade workers from the housing building sector. According to the Home Builders Institute CEO, Ed Brady the American skilled trades industry is already short some 300,000 workers overall. And the trickle who are available at all, are flocking to jobs developing the tech industry's new data centers.
- **Meta building its first Canadian data centre northeast of Edmonton, July 8th, 2026**
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/meta-data-centre-sturgeon-county-alberta-9.7263271>
 Summary: Meta has announced it will build a massive one-gigawatt \$13 billion data centre northeast of Edmonton, in Sturgeon County; and invest additional \$60 million to



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improve local infrastructure. The project will use a closed-loop, liquid-cooled system with “dry cooling” to eliminate operational water use; and will be powered by electricity drawn from the grid as well as power generated on-site by natural gas. The project is estimated to create 3,000 jobs during construction, and 300 jobs once the facility is operating.

- **Pennsylvania governor signs order imposing new rules to set up AI data centers in state, August 18, 2026**

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/pennsylvania-governor-signs-order-imposing-new-rules-set-up-ai-data-centers-2026-08-18/>

Summary: Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro on Tuesday signed an executive order requiring companies setting up AI data centers in the state to meet environmental and transparency safeguards and secure local community approval for the projects.

The state has become a sought-after location for data centers due to its abundant natural gas from the Marcellus shale basin, existing power infrastructure and proximity to major population centers on the East Coast. Opposition to the rapid build-out of data centers have steadily grown across the U.S. this year. A [June Reuters/Ipsos poll](#) found that only a third of Americans approved of the pace of data center construction, while just 14% supported a data center being built in their community.

The order, effective immediately, removes all data centers from the state's Fast Track permit program, and bars any office or agency under Shapiro's jurisdiction from signing non-disclosure agreements with data center developers. Several other states have taken similar measures. New York imposed a one-year moratorium on large new data centers, and in July, Texas Governor Greg Abbott also paused approvals for new projects citing concerns that rising electricity demand could threaten reliability.

- **Ontario proposes data-centre framework, including higher electricity rate for large projects, August 13, 2026**

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-ontario-data-centre-framework-electricity-rates-environmental/>

Summary: Ontario government plan encourages developers to build their own power-generation facilities by imposing building standards. The province want to protect digital sovereignty, but not at the expense of higher water and utility bills, or environmental destruction.



AI Security Risks

- **Unchecked AI progress may pose catastrophic risks, UN panel warns July 1, 2026**
<https://www.reuters.com/business/unchecked-ai-progress-may-pose-catastrophic-risks-un-panel-warns-2026-07-01/>
 Summary: A United Nations independent panel has warned that developments in artificial intelligence will cause catastrophic harm as there are no effective regulations for the rapid evolution. Existing safety tools often depend on limited testing data disclosed by companies, many countries lack the capacity to assess or shape advanced AI systems, and governance is fragmented.
- **AI will create more jobs for humans, not replace them, Amazon founder Bezos says**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ceqdrw2yy3vo>
 Summary: AI will lead to more need for workers by unlock new opportunities and increase demand for human labour rather than make people redundant, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos predicted during an appearance at a tech conference in Paris. This contrasts with some other tech and political figures - including former UK prime minister Rishi Sunak, now an adviser to Microsoft and AI firm Anthropic, who recently said AI was having an impact on young people's job prospects.

AI Strategy and Business Impacts

- **Top AI tools including Claude, Codex, and Hermes installed suspicious code inside corporate networks, August 30, 2026**
<https://www.techradar.com/pro/security/top-ai-tools-including-claude-codex-and-hermes-installed-suspicious-code-inside-corporate-networks>
 Summary: Increasing number of websites now contain "llms.txt and llms-full.txt" document conventions that allow AI agents to read the contents of the websites. To help fix the vulnerability researchers recommend companies first clean up their documentation and make sure it's not pointing towards non-existent or malicious content. These steps will prevent cybercriminals from using hallucinated, outdated, and incorrect website documentation to deliver malware to unsuspecting victims through AI agents.
- **Young people looking to 'AI-proof' trade jobs while employers want human skills**
<https://www.the-independent.com/tech/hays-andy-burnham-prime-minister-b3037894.html>
 Summary: A recent survey by Checkatrade's found that 48% of young people, aged between 16 and 25, were considering a trade career, but 12% of trade businesses took on an apprentice last year; 80% said AI has made them worried about office-based job



security. Young people are increasingly showing interest in “AI-proof” trade jobs while employers are placing more weight on interpersonal skills. Tradespeople are typically older, with a large proportion over the age of 50, and fewer younger people entering the industry. However, that is changing now, as the young people are now interested in an AI-proof jobs.

- **Behind the Curtain: The new existential threat to AI, August 19, 2026**
<https://www.axios.com/2026/08/19/data-centers-ai-political-opinion>
 Summary: The danger to AI and any AI-related economic boom is rapidly rising public opposition to U.S. data centers; it is not energy, chips, or China.
- **Middle managers aren’t being replaced, their job is, August 16, 2026**
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/careers/article-middle-managers-arent-being-replaced-their-job-is/>
 Summary: AI is reshaping middle management by automating traditional responsibilities such as reporting and task monitoring, while putting greater emphasis on judgment, coaching and leading teams of people and AI.
- **AI is 'not smart' so what's next in artificial intelligence?**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj6gr0xkyr3o>
 Summary: Yann LeCun, one of the leading figures in the world of artificial intelligence, and founder of AMI Labs, is developing a new AI system to move AI beyond current systems like ChatGPT, Claude and Gemini to handle more complicated real-world situations.

Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT are extremely good at some things like coding, mathematical problems and generating text, however, they are well defined and predictable problems; [LLMs] basically just accumulate knowledge, regurgitate something they are trained to regurgitate, but they're not particularly smart. As they do not have an underlying understanding.

The system his company is developing, called Joint Embedding Predictive Architecture (JEPA), is set up to deal with problems by creating abstractions of the real world that allow it to assess the outcomes of actions.



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- **Ford Had to Rehire Veteran Engineers After Its AI Flopped. Other Employers Should Take Notice July 1, 2026,**

<https://www.cnet.com/roadshow/news/ford-recalls-veteran-engineers-ai-falls-short/#ftag=CAD-09-10aai5b>

Summary: After a year of announcing that artificial intelligence is "going to replace literally half of all white-collar workers in the US." the automaker had quietly rehired more than 350 of what it internally calls gray beard engineers to help fix the AI quality-control systems that were not getting the job done.

Between Ford, General Motors and Stellantis it is reported that US automakers have cut over 20,000 jobs or 20 % of the workforce.

Introducing artificial intelligence and ingesting the design requirements does not always produce a high-quality product. Artificial intelligence is a fantastic tool, but it's only as good as the information used to train it.

- **Meta Paid Hundreds of Contractors to Pretend to Be Teenagers While Barraging Its Competitors' AI With Disturbing Content**

<https://futurism.com/artificial-intelligence/meta-contractors-competitor-ai-with-disturbing-content>

Summary: Meta conducted a secretive program, internally known as "Cannes," that directed hundreds of contractors to pose as teenagers while bombarding its competitors' AI models with disturbing prompts ranging from suicide to cannibalism. The project run by Meta contractor Covalen, targeted OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, and Character.AI chatbots using throwaway under-18 accounts.

- **Major Union Livid After 1,000 Factory Workers Were Replaced With 50 Robots**

<https://futurism.com/robots-and-machines/uaw-union-general-motors-layoff-robots>

Summary: Detroit Business reports that the installation of 50 AI-integrated manufacturing robots, which GM installed in its Factory Zero plant, a major all-electric vehicle facility in Detroit resulted in over 1,000 workers at General Motors' leading Detroit factory.



CYBERSECURITY

Threat Landscape, Critical Infrastructure, and Technology

- **US says Chinese hackers broke into Justice Department, NASA, Federal Reserve, Senate, August 27, 2026**
<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-sponsored-hacking-platforms-seized-by-us-justice-department-says-2026-08-26/>
 Summary: The U.S. says it has disrupted a Chinese hacking operation responsible for break-ins and attempts on the Justice Department, NASA, the Federal Reserve, the Senate, and other sensitive government agencies. The Justice Department is reported to have seized domains used by two hacking platforms, dubbed QScan and QTRouter, used as part of the campaign.
- **Tech Companies Call for Improved Cyber Defenses After AI-Enabled Attacks, August 28, 2026**
<https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/tech-companies-call-for-improved-cyber-defenses-after-ai-enabled-attacks/>
 Summary: In an open letter "**A call for collective action on cyber defense,**" signed by 128 companies, including some of the biggest players in the AI space, Microsoft, Google, Anthropic and Oracle warn that "AI-enabled cyberattacks will become far more widespread and sophisticated as models around the world become increasingly capable," putting companies, governments and infrastructure at risk. To address the risk companies must invest much more in security teams to fix old bugs and other vulnerabilities, share their cyber-capable AI tools with other companies and mobilize globally and collectively to "raise security standards and find new solutions." Calling for 'Urgency and coordination' of both private and public to address the "highest -risk weakness" must undertake the following four steps: 1. deploy only highly secure AI-generated code and strengthen permission and access controls, 2. strengthen defenses against AI attacks and help deploy them for critical infrastructure operations, 3. invest more funds in cyber defense for underfunded departments (hospitals, water utilities, and local governments) and 4. AI companies should, ensure agentic identities are traceable and accountable and share credible threat assessments with governments, security partners, and open-source maintainers. In addition, all parties must also train new cyberwarriors by investing more resources to develop cyberhygiene tools and methods and share them — at no cost — with infrastructure organizations; provide scholarships to train cyberdefenders, who can work at various organizations and make them more secure if society is to be resilient against cyberattacks.



- **What Meta's \$18B US settlement means for teens on social media, August 28, 2026**
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/meta-settlement-explainer-9.7322782>
 Summary: Meta, parent company of social media platforms Instagram and Facebook, has agreed to a multi-state settlement worth up to \$18 billion US, a settlement considered to be the largest state consumer protection in history compared to the Big Tobacco settlements of the 1990s. For Instagram and Facebook accounts of users under 18, the settlement means stronger age verification and age-related content restrictions, time limits and pauses default of two hours daily across both platforms in total, plus prompts and pauses after 15, 60 and 90 minutes of continuous use to disrupt "endless scrolling, Blackout periods on most usage between midnight and 6 a.m. and notifications muted between the general school hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- **Canada must 'be vigilant' of foreign actors targeting technology: minister, August 6, 2026**
<https://globalnews.ca/news/12011473/canada-be-vigilant-technology-mcguinty/>
 Summary: To help ensure Canada is vigilant in protecting its intellectual property against foreign actors targeting the country's technology, the Minister of National Defence David McGuinty has announced a \$20.3 million investment to establish Canada's third Defence Innovation Secure Hub at the University of Calgary, dedicated to advancing quantum technologies. The hub will bring together researchers, industry partners and the Canadian Armed Forces to accelerate the development of next-generation defence capabilities as "Countries that lead in quantum will help shape the next generation of military capability."
- **North Korea's hackers using AI for attacks, cybersecurity firm says, August 10, 2026**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2026/8/10/north-koreas-hackers-using-ai-for-attacks-cybersecurity-firm-says>
 Summary: The Kimsuky, a hacking group linked to North Korea's intelligence services are using artificial intelligence to bolster cyberattacks against targets in the military, diplomacy and academia, a report has found. Since 2026 the group has used AI-generated documents in a "pattern" of spear-phishing attacks according to a South Korean cybersecurity firm Genians. The attacks have used AI to automate the creation of malicious files disguised as legitimate documents, such as research reports and invitations. To avoid detection, Kimsuky has used open-source tools such as Ollama, GPT-4All, and Msty to run large language models without an internet connection. AI can generate highly polished documents on a wide range of topics within a short period of



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time, making it a highly efficient tool for threat actors,”. “This change is noteworthy because it goes beyond a shift in how decoy documents are created and demonstrates that AI can enable the automation and large-scale production of social engineering attacks.” Kimsuky and other North Korean state-linked groups have been blamed for numerous cyberattacks in recent years, many of them aimed at extracting financial gains. North Korean hackers stole cryptocurrency worth more than \$2bn in the first nine months of 2025, according to a report by British blockchain analytics firm Elliptic.

- **US Department of Homeland Security says it is probing a cyber breach at information-sharing network July 2, 2026**
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/us-department-of-homeland-security-says-it-is-probing-a-cyber-breach-at-information-sharing-network/ar-AA275PMa>
 Summary: The Department of Homeland Security was investigating a breach in an unnamed information-sharing network involving an unclassified legacy information sharing environment but did not provide further details and did not respond to follow-up questions.
- **US water facilities targeted by ‘malicious cyber actors’ – who’s to blame? August 4, 2026**
https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2026/aug/04/us-cyber-attacks-water-minnesota-iran?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1
 Summary: The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) reports that malicious cyber actors were targeting water and wastewater facilities in at least seven states hitting Minnesota the hardest hit with 30 of its water systems hit by cyber-attacks, leading to disruptions in the state’s water supply.
- **Digital Malevolence: The Dark Psychology of Online Manipulation, Exploitation, and Violence, July 27, 2026**
<https://icsve.org/digital-malevolence-the-dark-psychology-of-online-manipulation-exploitation-and-violence/>
 Summary: The study presents the concept of Digital Malevolence, a three – tiered behavioral framework for understanding how the maladaptive behaviors associated with socially malevolent personality traits manifest, spread, and are reinforced within digital environments: Tier 1: Behavioral Detection, Tier 2: Threat Assessment and Escalation, and Tier 3: Prevention and Disruption.



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- **Attempted copper theft to blame for Calgary internet service outage, Rogers says, August 10, 2026**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/12016295/copper-theft-rogers-outage/>

Summary: Telecommunications company Rogers blames an attempted copper theft for the widespread interruption that left some of its Calgary customers without services. The interruption is seen as part of a “troubling rise” in vandalism to its network infrastructure across the country causing service interruptions and affecting Canadians who rely on its networks to stay connected. Besides the significant inconvenience to customers, the thefts also have serious impact on public safety.

NATURAL DISASTER

Wildfires:

I Canada

- **Canadian wildfire season has "accelerated significantly": officials, August 18, 2026**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/12025222/2026-canadian-wildfire-season-update/>

Summary: Wildfire activity in Canada “has really grown and accelerated significantly” with over four million hectares have been burned across the country. There are currently 582 active wildfires burning across Canada, and 31 are labelled as out of control. It is estimated more than 8.3 million hectares were burned in 2025, 150 structures destroyed or damage. More than 500 international firefighters from Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and Costa Rica are supporting firefighting operations in B.C.

- **Ford calls for purchase of 60 water bombers as part of national wildfire strategy August 18, 2026**

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-doug-ford-water-bombers-national-wildfire-strategy/>

Summary: Ontario Premier Doug Ford is proposing Canada purchase at least 60 new water bombers to build a national fleet as part of a Canada-wide wildfire strategy. Canada is one of the few G7 countries without national wildfire strategy.

- **B.C. wildfires being exploited by bad actors, Russian operatives, profiteers, August 17, 2026**

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/vancouver/article/bc-wildfires-being-exploited-by-bad-actors-russian-operatives-profiteers/>

Summary: British Columbians return to their homes to see what’s left in the wake of aggressive wildfires have another issue to deal with. Misinformation researchers are warning that the crisis is being exploited by bad actors, including profiteers and foreign



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operatives. It is recommended the public rely on government sources like BC Wildfire Services and legitimate news outlets as it is difficult to distinguish AI generated videos from official photographs and videos.

- **What you need to know about B.C. wildfires, Aug. 16, 2026**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/what-you-need-know-british-columbia-wildfires-august-16-9.7308877>

Summary: Evacuation orders for District of Summerland, Clinton, area east of Highway 97 downgraded, traffic re-opened; unstable weather pattern likely to cause lighting induced fires; air quality index ranging from 3 (low) to 6 (high).

- **Why did NASA fly a former Cold War spy plane over B.C. wildfires?**
<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/weather/forecasts/why-did-nasa-fly-a-former-cold-war-spy-plane-over-b-c-wildfires>

Summary: NASA used a high-altitude aircraft, once a Cold War spy plane, to fly over B.C. wildfires as part of its research program. B. C.'s wildfires provide a favourable weather conditions create new blazes and help existing fires grow. Some of the wildfires this year have been so intense they have created their own thunderstorms, a visually stunning phenomena known as pyrocumulonimbus clouds. To study them further, NASA flew one of its two Airborne Science ER-2 aircraft over B.C. wildfires. The flight and its onboard instruments were part of NASA's FireSense program and the Injected Smoke and PYrocumulonimbus Experiment (INSPYRE) project. Pyrocumulonimbus' clouds are extreme, fire-generated thunderstorm systems driven by the intense heat and massive updrafts of severe wildfires.

These clouds always start off as pyrocumulus clouds, formed when a cumulus cloud develops over the top of a wildfire's smoke column. Only a small fraction of pyrocumulus clouds transition into pyrocumulonimbus clouds, and researchers are still trying to figure out the exact mechanisms for this transition.

- **James Moore: Canada's wildfire crisis demands a national strategy August 10, 2026**
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/article/james-moore-canadas-wildfire-crisis-demands-a-national-strategy/>

Summary: As of Aug. 10, 2026, there are more than 600 known and officially active wildfires in Canada covering more than four million hectares. British Columbia with over 100 active wildfires covering more than 341,000 hectares of land has declared a state of emergency. Since the 2022-2023 season the federal government has spend more than \$346.1 million for training and equipment. Provincial governments have also increased. Given the growing tragic results there is an urgent need federal leadership and governance beyond the current and historical reactionary approach.



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- **Ottawa sells 10 retired military planes to convert for aerial firefighting, August 7, 2026,**
<https://globalnews.ca/news/12013127/canada-hercules-firefighting-aircraft-convert-sell/>

Summary: In response to the growing demand for Canada to update and expand its fleet of firefighting aircraft the federal government announced the sale of 10 CC-130H Hercules retired military planes to a B.C. aviation company, Coulson Aviation in Port Alberni that will convert the aircraft to fight wildfires across the country. It is estimated that it will take the company 20,000 hours to convert each plane to aerial firefighting plane, with the first plane expected in service within 12 months.

- **Over 20,000 flee as B.C evacuation orders in full swing due to aggressive wildfire, August 8, 2026**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/12014029/bc-wildfire-evacuation-order/>

Summary: More than 20,000 residents have been forced to evacuate British Columbia communities near Okanagan Lake overnight as the explosive wildfire continued to spread. Within few hours the wildfire grew in size to 5,000 hectares and expected to reach 9,500 hectares. According to the BC Wildfire Service the fire is “displaying aggressive rank 5 behaviour, with an organized flame front with a fast rate of spread and moderate to long-range spotting”.

- **B.C. premier declares wildfire state of emergency, August 8, 2026.**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/12014199/bc-wildfire-evacuation-update/>

Summary: On August 8th, Premier David Eby announced the declaration a provincial state of emergency as a fast-moving wildfire in the Okanagan forced thousands from their homes and officials warned of extremely dangerous fire conditions.

- **‘Explosive’ Summerland wildfire creating conditions ‘never seen before’ August 8, 2026.**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/12014564/explosive-summerland-wildfire-conditions-never-seen-before/>

Summary: The BC Wildfire Service says the Bald Range fire is one of the most challenging fires this province has ever faced, involving helicopter rescues of dozens of people trapped behind the fire line.



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- **Wildfire-ravaged countries are clamouring for the Canadair, as production of the water bomber begins anew, August 15, 2026.**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/bakx-de-havilland-canadair-calgary-super-scooper-alberta-wildfire-dhc-515-9.7307819>

Summary: In response to severe wildfire season in Canada, the United States and Europe there is a growing demand to manufacture the Canadair "Super Scooper" water bombers to increase production, and on the federal government to bulk order the planes. Calgary-based De Havilland is taking steps to reviving production of the Canadair. First produced in the 1960s, the Canadair amphibious firefighting plane was designed for fighting vast fires in the Canadian wilderness. Its unique design allowed it to navigate narrow canyons at low altitude and scoop thousands of litres of water directly from lakes, rivers and oceans in seconds. De Havilland — which produces a range of aircraft and employs about 4,000 people predominantly in Calgary, Ontario and Victoria — will be able to produce about 10 water bombers annually at full capacity. A second production line would eventually increase output to 20 each year.

De Havilland has existing orders for 38 water bombers. The wait time for delivery of any new orders is between 2032 and 2033. The Canadair require tens of thousands of parts, of which about 80 per cent are made in Canada.

// U.S.

- **New satellites, AI cameras cut wildfire detection to minutes across the western US, August 27, 2026**

<https://www.thecooldown.com/green-tech/new-satellites-ai-cameras-wildfire-detection/>

Summary: Catching a blaze right after it starts can mean stopping it before it threatens a much larger area. What matters in a wildfire is not only how it starts but how quickly anyone notices. A small ignition can turn disastrous in minutes; newer satellite and camera tools are being built to catch trouble much earlier than previous systems, FireSat a ground-based camera systems, including Pano AI's camera network, creating overlapping warnings that could help firefighters move faster. Older weather and Earth-monitoring satellites tend to do better once a blaze is already substantial. FireSat is being built to identify fires as small as a beach bonfire and, once the full network is operating, to pass over every location on Earth about once every 20 minutes. The system combines infrared imaging with AI. Pano AI operates more than 1,400 cameras in 17 states, mounted on towers and mountaintops that watch over wide landscapes.



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- **Hundreds evacuated as Texas wildfire explodes, August 25, 2026.**
<https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/hundreds-evacuated-as-texas-wildfire-explodes-268857925891>

Summary: A massive wildfire is burning out of control in Texas, forcing families to evacuate.

III Europe

- **At least 35,000 excess deaths recorded in Europe's back-to-back heatwaves, August 25, 2026**
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/aug/25/at-least-35000-excess-deaths-europe-back-to-back-heatwaves?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

Summary: The consecutive heatwaves across western Europe since May shattered all-time historical temperature records across hundreds of weather stations, with France recording its hottest national average day on record. At least 35,000 more people died during Europe's four record-breaking, back-to-back heatwaves this summer than would normally be expected, according to incomplete figures from barely half the continent. Mortality in three of the EU's larger countries – Germany, France and Spain – alone exceeded 25,000. Records fell for three straight days in Germany in late June, when 46 stations topped 40C (104F), while Spain recorded persistent highs above 42C. Scientists say human-made global heating is making such extreme events more frequent and intense.

- **Belgium's biggest wildfire on record heads towards Germany, August 16, 2026**
<https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/belgiums-biggest-wildfire-record-heads-towards-germany-2026-08-16/>

Summary: Belgium's 3,000 hectares wildfire, biggest on record was heading to the German border prompting authorities to advise residents to leave because of smoke pollution. EU has deployed 3 helicopters and 2 water bomber aircrafts in response to Belgium emergency request. The blaze is attributed to the summer heatwave. This wildfire is more than double the 2011 wildfire that burned 1,400 hectares.

- **Two dead and hundreds evacuated after twin fires break out on Greek island, August 16, 2026.**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c87nnwlpe5no>

Summary: More than 200 firefighters, a number of aircrafts and 50 fire engines and water tankers, and construction equipment deployed to keep the twin fires from converging on the island of Salamina, with a population of 37,000.



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- **Dozens injured and thousands evacuated in Croatia wildfire, August 15, 2026**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9342wn2x27o>

Summary: More than 300 firefighters in Croatia are dealing with devastating wildfires because of extreme summer heat and dry conditions.

- **Europe on fire as record-breaking temperatures hit continent, August 14, 2026.**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/europe-extreme-heat-fires-landes-france-west-midlands-b3033149.html>

Summary: The historic temperatures are linked to human-caused climate change and are hitting countries more designed for long cold seasons and ill-equipped for this sort of heat, with limited air conditioning. Crews across Europe struggled against multiple blazes on Friday as a fresh spell of record heat swept across parts of the continent, with exceptionally parched landscapes further complicating their task. With France facing its driest year on record, a new fire spread through woodland overnight in the Landes region on the south-west coast. The regional administration said on Friday that over 500 people had been forced to evacuate their homes in the town of Luglon as hundreds of firefighters were deployed to the area. UK recorded its hottest day of the year on Thursday, firefighters spent Friday tackling blazes across West Midlands in central England. The incidents prompted thousands of emergency calls and forced people to flee burning homes, with 19 hospitalised, the ambulance service said. Meanwhile, efforts to contain a wildfire in Germany were complicated by unexploded World War II munitions and shifting winds in Croatia spread flames deeper into a coastal suburb and forced more than 1,000 people to flee.

Fire in Croatia leaves 14 hospitalised

In Croatia, 14 people were hospitalised, of whom seven remained in life-threatening condition early Friday, from a fire that raged overnight by the coastal town of Omis and forced more than 1,000 people to evacuate their homes.

The fire erupted late Thursday in an Omis suburb and quickly spread because of strong wind. Public broadcaster HRT said the blaze came close to the town's center, and parts of Omis were left without electricity while many cars were burned.

Firefighters keep Albania's largest wildfire from spreading to homes Albania

The country has been battling several wildfires in recent weeks, with 11 active fires reported across the country Friday.

The largest fire is in the Gure-Lure area, where the perimeter near residential homes has been brought under control, eliminating the risk of the flames spreading to the houses.

Belgium expected to set another heat record

After marking its hottest Aug. 13 on record, with a high of 32.6 C (90.68 F) Belgium recorded temperature of 37 C (98.6 F) in the capital, Brussels.

Belgium is going through its third heat wave of the summer and fears about a severe drought have been high, with some water restrictions in place in certain towns.

