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**Maurizio Bevilacqua**  
**"The People's Mayor"**  
Feature Story

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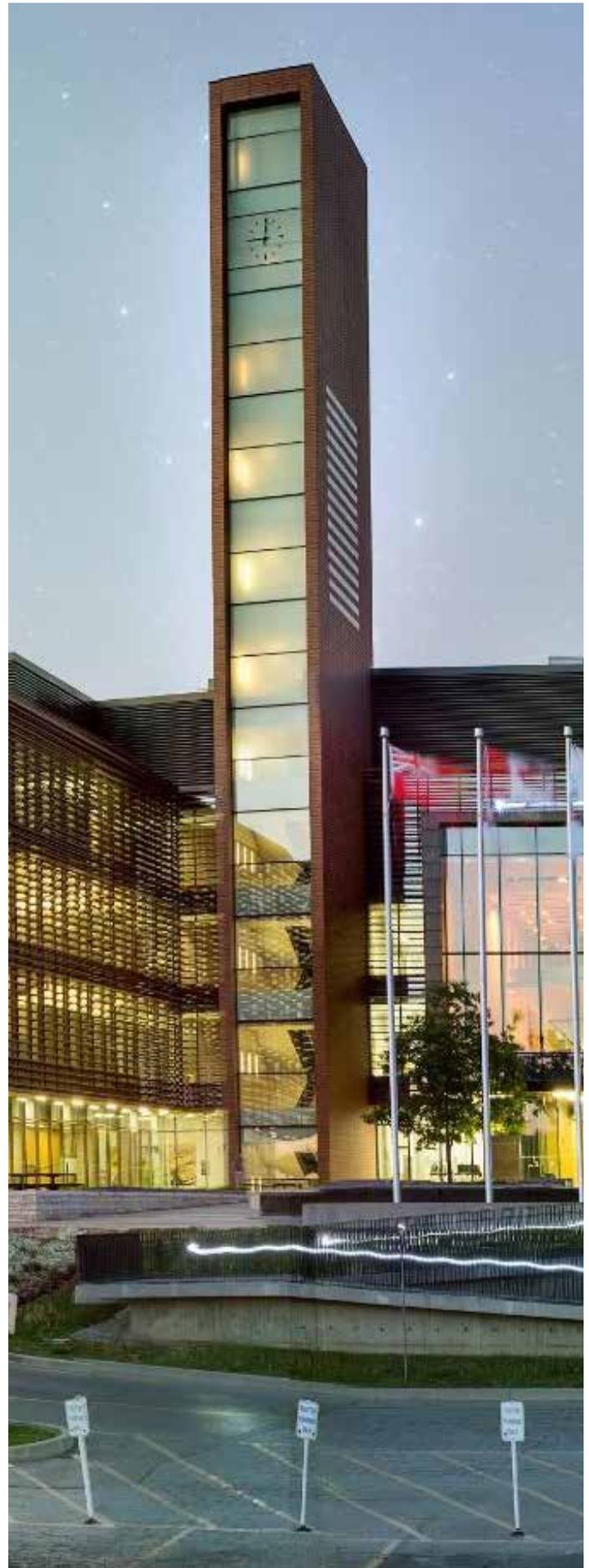
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## Letter from the Editor



The Voice 2020 enters 2022 with hope and fulfillment to our readers. Twenty twenty one has been a horrendous year due to the COVID-19 virus. As it has taken over the world we shall never see the normality as in the past similar to the tragedy of 9/11. Humanity has faced tougher challenges and we have survived them by

strengthening our social ties and listening to our scientists.

Many of us live by spiritual or inspirational philosophies others by musical artists who have written songs of emotions and feelings. One of my favourite songs, “I will survive” by Gloria Gaynor, gives me thoughts and energy to live a positive life.

This year is also municipal election year. Our feature story explains how dedicated leaders improve our quality of life in our community. I recommend you to read our feature story of Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua who has served three terms as mayor in Vaughan because of his great accomplishments.

January is a month of hope and reflection for the past and future. In February I wish for you to celebrate Valentine’s Day with your loved ones and truly find your valentines.

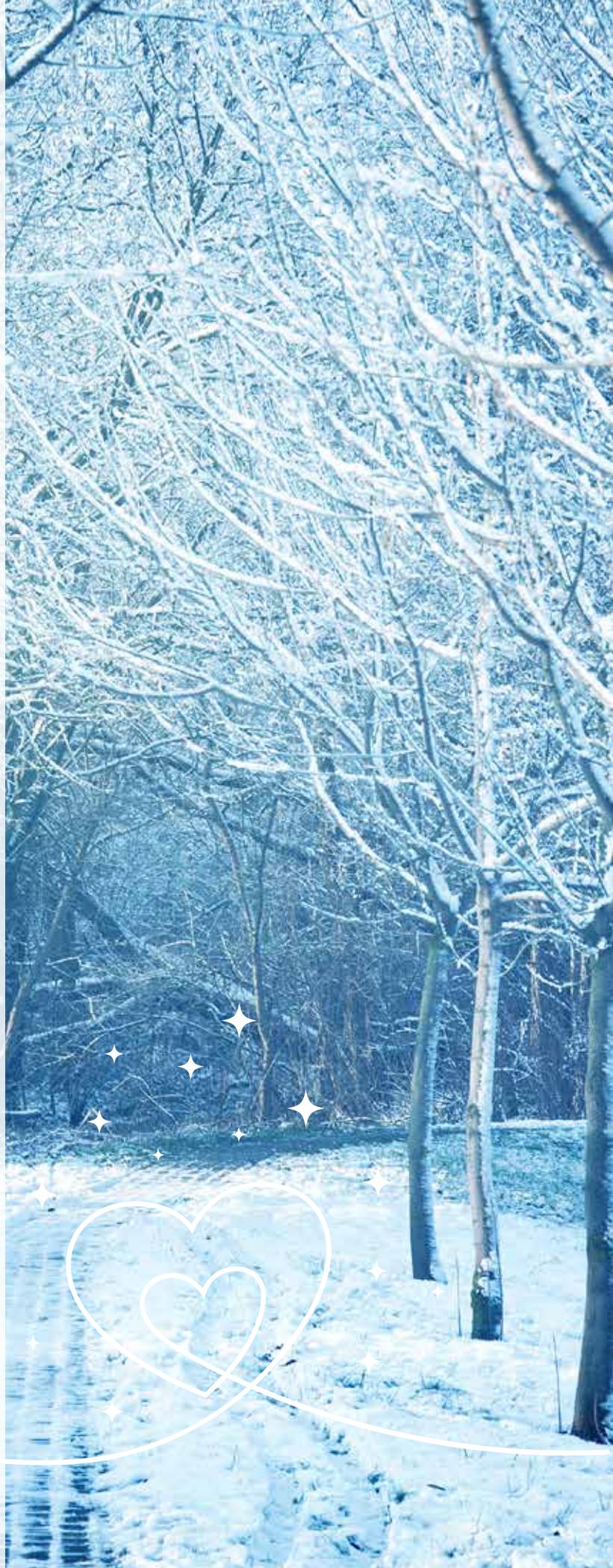
Let us take time in practicing the safety protocols to defeat this very contagious omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus. Stay safe, eat healthy, exercise, walk daily to fill our lungs with fresh air and don’t forget to always smile.

May you have peace, good health and happiness.

***Happy New Year to All!***



Josie Alonzi





# Vaughan welcomes 2022 stronger than ever Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

**Happy New Year!** I hope you and your family had a safe and joyful holiday season. I always look forward to starting a new year because it provides a unique opportunity to reflect upon the past year and look ahead with a renewed sense of hope and optimism. It is a time to take stock of how fortunate we are and continue to pursue our goals to create a better, brighter future for ourselves and the world around us.

Goal setting and creating an agenda for the year ahead are critical to effective city-building. An enlightened city leads with purpose and strives to elevate the quality of life and standard of living for its people. A city that uses investment-ready planning thinks strategically about how to best attract job-creating investments, create new and welcoming neighbourhoods, and ensure we have the public transit and infrastructure in place to move people, goods, services and our economy forward.

In Vaughan, we are laser-focused on building on our momentum to raise our city to new and unprecedented heights. The important work continues to strengthen our local economy, support small businesses, construct affordable housing, expand healthcare services, drive innovation, advance diversity and inclusion, and protect our environment. The City's 2022 Budget is the roadmap that will guide our efforts to deliver on these critical priorities while generating opportunities for growth and investment.

Vaughan's transformation is only just beginning, and with several significant city-building initiatives on the horizon, the best is yet to come. I look forward to working together as a community to unleash our city's full potential. By sharing a common vision and pooling our resources, we can make a positive and lasting impact on future generations.

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# The Voice 2020

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## Cinema: Italy and Canada Strengthen Their Partnership

*The international conference spotlights the bright future of public screenings, productions, and animation*

ICFF Industry Days 2021: record attendance with 500 industry professionals and media joining from Pinewood Toronto Studio and online from around the world

TORONTO – Over 500 participants, among media and industry professionals, came together for the annual ICFF Industry Days conference, presented by Lavazza and organized with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Toronto. The initiative, in partnership with SIRT Sheridan and Take 5 Productions, took place over the course of two days, November 30th and December 1st, at Pinewood Toronto Studios, and reconnected Italy and Canada to talk and discuss the future of cinema, animation, and productions worldwide.

Kicking off the conference was Derrick de Kerckhove, the former assistant of Marshall McLuhan and one of the most renowned mass media experts of the 21st century, with an introduction on media and the evolution of public screenings. What transpired in the unavoidable conflict between “films online and on-life”: watching films on streaming platforms and enjoying movies at the theatre.

To the question “what will the future of public screenings look like?”, all panelists agree the answer lies in the storytelling of the films. “If a film is good people will go see it. We all wanna go to the movies to reconnect with the stories”, confirms Vincenzo Guzzo, CEO of Guzzo Cinemas. He also added, “The theatrical release is required, it is an added value,

and it is what will give more eyeballs to the streaming release afterward”.

The conversation highlighted that streaming can’t compare to watching films together with an audience; “there is nothing like crying or laughing with an audience. That is all about being human, and it cannot be replicated by streaming service as home”, affirms Sarah Timlik, Director of Sales Distribution & Development at Elevation Pictures, supported by Ezio Greggio, present as President of the Monte-Carlo Film Festival.

In addition, the technologies at the cinemas, particularly the new Christie’s laser projectors, have no competition when it comes to the quality of images, confirmed Don Shaw, Senior Director, Cinema Sales at Christie Digital. Especially now that the audience is getting used to watching international content with subtitling, sharp images hold a key role.

“A lot has changed in the entertainment industry in the past two years but, as it was highlighted in the conference, the symbiotic relationship between studios and movie theatres remains intact,” says Cristiano de Florentiis, ICFF Co-Founder and Artistic Director. He also continues, “As a festival, ICFF looks forward to facing all the upcoming challenges and bringing people back together with new captivating events that aim to reconnect Italy and Canada”.

From cinemas to animation, ICFF Industry Days, sponsored by Blackmagic Design, hosted two of the most respected masters in the field, Iginio Straffi, CEO and President of Rainbow Group, and Andrea Iervolino, CEO and Founder of ILBE S.p.A. Both announced their upcoming projects, “Pinocchio”, and “Puffins” voiced by Johnny Depp, and discussed their filmmaking journey from the early days until

their latest successes.

The second part of the day focused on animation with incredible names and companies such as one of the creators behind Netflix's hit series *Tear Along the Dotted Line* by Zerocalcare, Giorgio Scorza, CEO, Director and Art Director of Movimenti Production. Moderated by Tony Tarantini, Professor in the Department of Animation of Sheridan College, the panel discussion featured speakers live from Pinewood Toronto Studios: Vincenzo Nisco, Art Director of Rainbow, and Frank Falcone, President and Executive Director of Guru Studio. The table discussion was also rich in virtual interactions from the panelists on Zoom with Peter Nalli, Head of Animation and VFX at ILBE; Alan Barillaro, Oscar-winning director of *Piper*; and Alan Vele, CEO and Producer at AI One.

One of the key queries that arose during the panel was the challenges and benefits of animation co-productions. The answer is far from easy but the bottom line is, "work with the creatives who understand and respect your pipelines and workflow", said Frank Falcone, supported by the rest of the panelists and animators.

Co-productions are the core of the development of the film industry at large, and the second day of the conference focused on highlighting that. Since the establishment of the co-production agreement between Canada and Italy in 1997, the two film industries have been flourishing and benefitting from the collaboration of the countries, both from the quality and value of the content created, and from a technical and technological point of view. Italy and Canada have influenced each other but have also grown together, experimenting with new storylines and creating new opportunities for future filmmakers. This positive attitude on what's to come has been reiterated by the outstanding producers and experts who have joined and participated in the event.

The Industry Days, organized with the support of Ontario Creates and the City of Toronto, and in collaboration with ANICA and the Italian Trade Commission, featured a spotlight on international co-productions. The event set the stage for the producers and directors of some of the most awaited blockbusters of the season: *Cyrano* by Joe Wright, starring Peter Dinklage of *Game of Thrones*, and line produced by Enrico Ballarin; *Across the River Into the Trees* by Paula Ortiz and starring Josh Hutcherson and Matilda De Angelis, and produced by Andrea Biscaro and Robert MacLean; *Muti* directed by George Gallo and starring Morgan Freeman.

The key topics of the discussion moderated by Senior Vice President at Take 5 Productions, Nick Iannelli, were the funding and grants available in Italy and Canada for

all filmmakers. Featuring the extraordinary participation of Francesca Accinelli, Vice-President of Promotion, Communications and International Relations at Telefilm Canada, the conversation underlined the incredible opportunities available across the country and the beneficial placement of Toronto within the film industry landscape, being one of the top five screen-based industries in North America.

The section dedicated to Virtual Production, coordinated by Spencer Idenouye, Production Lead at SIRT, underlined the growing importance of the role played by the most advanced techniques already available today. The demonstration of the potential of Virtual Production has confirmed the excellence achieved thanks to the latest developments that took place in this field. In addition, thanks to the extraordinary participation of Blackmagic Design, WarnerMedia, Luno Studio, and AMD, the conference brought to light some of the most pivoting changes in the world of virtual productions which are sure to have a great impact in all upcoming sets.

During the Conference, the ICFF introduced the producers and the director of the documentary *Dean Martin: King of Cool*, a preview of the evening screening (held at the TIFF Bell Box) of the film, which marked the highly anticipated return of the Festival to theatre screenings. Karen Gordon, acclaimed TFCA film critic, hosted a live conversation with Deana Martin, the daughter of the famous actor and entertainer, Tom Donahue, the director, Paul Barry, the executive producer, John Griffith, and Ilan Arboleda, the producers of the film.

The virtual and in-person participation in the event brought to light the upsides of what social platforms can offer to people looking to reconnect and, in many ways, opened new doors and horizons for future collaborations and opportunities. Industry Days concluded its record-breaking 9th edition with the wish to fully reunite people next July for the multicultural festival, and for another incredible season of the conference in November 2022.

ICFF Industry Day is organized by a committee made up of: Cristiano de Florentiis, Artistic Director of ICFF; David Dexter, Director of SIRT Sheridan; Nick Iannelli, Vice President of Take 5 Productions; Moira Romano, Founder of ETV Films; Sari Ruda, Industry Day Coordinator; Mara Cataldi, Director of Operations at ICFF; and Diane Cappelletto, Director of Technical Production Services at TIFF, and is presented through the sponsorship of Castlepoint NUMA, Pinewood Toronto Studios, Ken Cancellara and ETV Films.

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## Why Do New Year's Resolutions Fail? How To Make Them Stick

by Dr. Haley Perlus

Studies show that only 8% of Americans who make a New Year's resolution keep them all year, and 80% have failed by the start of February. Making yearly resolutions dates back 4,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. While the motivations have changed since then, the practice remains. The two most common goals that we make in the US are eating healthier and vowing to exercise. So why do these best-laid intentions often fail to come to fruition and what can people do to change that? We tapped the expertise of Haley Perlus, a sports and performance psychology Ph.D.

### Why New Year's Resolutions Fail?

*Your mindset needs to change before you can expect different outcomes from others.*

Any resolution can be a worthwhile goal, but it likely won't come to fruition until you make changes from within to achieve it. Even when you know what you want and why you want it, we all have stories that prevent us from personal growth, make us victims to our circumstances. Until we reframe our stories, we will have trouble keeping our resolutions.

*You don't have an accountability structure to help you sustain change.*

Big changes and lofty goals do not occur like magic. Despite the struggles, challenges, and pushback, they demand sustained action towards the goal. Unwavering action is hard to achieve independently because it takes us out of our comfort zone and habits. The larger the goals, the more critical is it to have outside accountability assistance, especially as time goes by after the "honeymoon" phase of the excitement wanes and the challenges arise.

*Achieving your dream scares you and subconsciously, you sabotage them.*

Your conscious self may want to achieve a goal, if your subconscious is scared, it likely won't happen. This is what's known as a "hidden barrier."

### Setting Resolutions That Stick

How often have you heard people say, "this is the year I'm going to get in shape." When you think about it, that's a vague statement. Does that mean the person has a number on the scale they want to hit? Do they intend to complete a marathon? Do they have a body fat percentage goal? Do they want to walk 10,000 steps a day? The point is, you need to have clearly defined goals. They also need to be goals you believe you have control over and can actually achieve.

*Track your progress.*

In psychology there is a core principle: "if you can measure it, you can change it." What this means are that measurements serve as a source of inspiration to allow you to see where you began and where you are. Keeping track of your goals also helps you identify the successful journey

along the way to achieving the end result. You also can evaluate plateaus or “glitches” in your progress and tweak your efforts.

***Don't keep your goals a secret from everyone***

You don't have to post your resolution on social media, but telling some trusted friends or family members could give you the support you need and hold you “accountable.” Let's say you want to quit vaping, perhaps by sharing your goal, you might take it more seriously as others know you have set an intention to do something. Make sure you choose people you really don't want to let down. This might be difficult, but take the challenge on to help yourself.

***Stop “all or nothing” thinking; it's progress not perfection***

Many of us are guilty of this type of thinking. If we are dieting and eat French fries, instead of viewing it as a blip on the radar, we think, “well, there goes my diet, might as well have dessert now, and I'll restart next Monday.” Or, “I don't have time to work out for an hour as I intended, so what good are 20 minutes going to do?” Often, something is better than nothing and taking baby steps toward our goals is better than taking no steps at all. People throw in the towel on one bad day or when they didn't achieve “the full goal” intended. The secret is to keep pushing forward.



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## Building a resilient Canada for all

by MP, Francesco Sorbara

### *Greetings and Happy New Year!*

**This is our moment, to build, to grow and to foster an economy that truly works for everyone.** With one of the most successful vaccination campaigns in the world, Canadians are taking the right steps to protect themselves, their family, friends and loved ones.

In the Speech from the Throne, our government recommitted to helping Canadians reach their goals by making life more affordable. That includes a more flexible First-Time Home Buyers Incentive, a new rent-to-own program, and by reducing the cost for first-time home buyers. **We are committing \$4 billion dollars to the Housing Accelerator Fund** which is set to grow the annual housing supply by helping municipalities build better, more and faster.

We are creating a future where **\$10-a-day childcare** is a reality for all Canadians and parents no longer have to choose between their careers and looking after their children. Presently, our Government has signed nine childcare agreements with provinces and territories which will cut fees in half as early as next year.

**In the first 18 days of the 44th Parliament, our Government has passed legislation that stands up for a more diverse, inclusive, and safer community. On December 8th, we made history when C-4, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy), received Royal Assent.** This comprehensive law makes it illegal to use cruel practices known as conversion therapy in Canada.

Canadians deserve an economy that provides them the tools to succeed now and into the future. That's why on October 21, 2021, our government announced that we are taking targeted action to create jobs and spur economic growth, including moving from the very broad-based to more targeted measures that will provide help where it is needed, while prudently managing government spending.

**We'll make sure that businesses that are still deeply affected by the pandemic get the support they need through our proposed support programs:**

- Extending the **Canada Recovery Hiring Program** until May 7, 2022, for eligible employers with current revenue losses above 10 per cent and increasing the subsidy rate to 50 per cent.
- **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program**, which would provide support through the wage and rent subsidy programs.
- **Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program**, which would provide support through the wage and rent subsidy programs.

**To ensure that workers continue to have support and that no one is left behind, our government is proposing:**

- To establish the **Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit** which would provide \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers.
- To extend the **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit** and the **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit** until May 7, 2022.

Our government will continue putting forward measures that support Canadians, allow us to build a more inclusive Canada, and prioritize job creation and a strong economic recovery.

Sincerely,

*Francesco Sorbara*

Member of Parliament for Vaughan-Woodbridge



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## There have been more COVID-19 deaths in 2021 than in 2020 but with More people Being Vaccinated the death rate seems to be going down in Industrialized Countries with Vaccines

By *Herb Scribner@HerbScribner*

The number of COVID-19 deaths in 2021 has already surpassed the number of coronavirus deaths in 2020, The Wall Street Journal reports. RELATED Both Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are 91% effective, CDC says

### How many people died of COVID-19 in 2020?

The World Health Organization said that 1,813,188 people died from the novel coronavirus in 2020. That said, that doesn't even tell the whole number of deaths associated with COVID-19.

•“COVID-19 deaths are a key indicator to track the evolution of the pandemic. However, many countries still lack functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems with the capacity to provide accurate, complete and timely data on births, deaths and causes of death,” according to the World Health Organization.

### How many people died of COVID-19 in 2021 so far?

Per The Wall Street Journal, the world surpassed the 1.88 million mark for COVID-19 deaths in six months, the world has already rolled past the death numbers from 2020.

•“These numbers underscore how unevenly the pandemic spread around the globe, often hitting poorer nations later, but before they had access to the vaccines that have benefited Europe and the U.S.,” according to The Wall Street Journal.

### Vaccine access may be causing a Fifth Wave?

Health experts have cautioned that billions of people worldwide may not have access to vaccines this year, a prospect that raises the risk of further mutations of the virus emerging — possibly undermining the effectiveness of existing vaccines — and prolonging the pandemic. “The very unequal access to vaccines between rich and poor countries is probably the most stark example of how global inequalities are manifesting themselves during the Covid-19 pandemic,” Dr. Michael Baker, an epidemiologist at the University of Otago in Wellington, New Zealand told CNBC.

Many groups have been pushing for the waiving of certain intellectual property rights on Covid vaccines and treatments, including the WHO, health experts, former world leaders and international medical charities. President Joe Biden's administration has thrown its weight behind the calls, but a small number of governments — including the U.K., EU and Brazil, among others — have stonewalled a landmark proposal submitted at the World Trade Organization.

The WHO's latest figures show that while the number of new cases worldwide has declined for eight consecutive weeks, this trend masks a worrying increase in cases and deaths in many countries.

“The rate of decline in most regions has slowed and

every region has countries that are seeing a rapid increase in cases and deaths. In Africa, the number of cases and deaths increased by almost 40% in the past week, and in some countries, the number of deaths tripled or quadrupled,” Tedros said at a briefing on Monday.

A study in The Lancet medical journal, published on May 22, found that Africa has the highest global mortality rate among critically ill Covid patients, despite recording fewer cases than most other regions.

“While a handful of countries have high vaccination rates and are now seeing lower numbers of hospitalisations and deaths, other countries in Africa, the Americas and Asia are now facing steep epidemics. These cases and deaths are largely avoidable,” Tedros said.

**Is A fifth Wave of the Omicron Covid-19 Mutation coming to Canada? On December 17th, 2021, the Province of ONTARIO announced:**

New restrictions, including cutting gathering sizes and slashing capacity limits to 50 per cent for most indoor settings, as COVID-19 cases soar in the province. Starting at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday December 19, 2021, gathering sizes will drop from 25 people to 10 people indoors. Outdoor gathering limits will be lowered to 25. Ontario is reintroducing capacity limits of 50 per cent at most indoor settings across the province. This includes places like restaurants and bars, personal care services, retailers, and shopping malls.

Additionally, bars, restaurants and strip clubs will be ordered to close at 11 p.m., with the exception of take out and delivery service.

The number of people permitted to sit at a table will be restricted to 10 people, and patrons will be required to remain seated in restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments.

Dancing will not be allowed, except for workers or performers.

The government has also ordered the suspension of food and drink services at sporting events, concert venues, theatres and cinemas, casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments, horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues.

The sale of alcohol will be restricted after 10 p.m. These limits do not apply to any portion of a business that is being used for a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite, or ceremony, the government says.

Sources told CTV News Toronto on Friday that Ontario expects to report 6,000 COVID-19 per day by the end of the weekend.

“While our intensive care units remain stable, we expect the number of admissions to grow as more people catch

COVID-19, particularly the unvaccinated,” Premier Doug Ford said Friday.

“The experts have been very clear, nothing can stop the spread of Omicron, it’s just too transmissible. What we can do, what we are doing”, is slowing it as much as possible to allow more time for shots to get into arms.”

Ford also said it’s “too soon” to say for sure whether schools will re-open as scheduled following the break for the holidays.

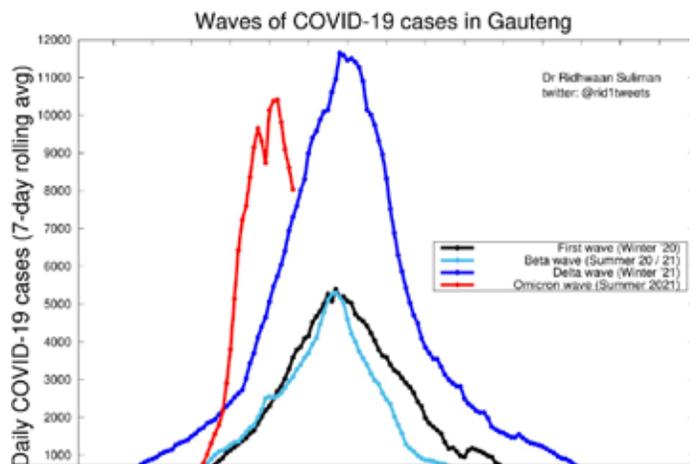
The new restrictions come one day after new modelling suggested Ontario could see intensive care capacity reach unsustainable levels in January without an “immediate circuit breaker” to blunt the spread of Omicron. According to the Ontario’s Science Advisory Table, increasing vaccination is “not enough to slow this wave.” The experts suggest an “immediate circuit breaker,” where people in Ontario cut their contacts by at least 50 per cent and COVID-19 booster shot campaigns ramp up to 250,000 shots per day.

Earlier this week, Ontario announced it would be expanding eligibility for COVID-19 booster shots to anyone 18 and older starting Monday.

The required interval between a person’s second dose and booster shot was shortened from six months down to three months.

The province also said it would be limiting capacity in some indoor spaces with more than 1,000 people to 50 per cent.

“I know you are tired,” Ford said. “Over the last 20 months, you have been asked to sacrifice so much. We’ve all dug so deep and now we need to dig a little deeper. We’ll get through this.”





The dream of a Vaughan Hospital becomes reality at the groundbreaking ceremony.

## Maurizio Bevilacqua the leader who transformed Vaughan

by Angelo Filoso

Maurizio Bevilacqua is a different type of politician. Anyone that has followed his career can attest that he is in public life for all the right reasons. At age 61, Bevilacqua is known for his Zen-like approach to life. He is disciplined, committed and more importantly, knows exactly what he wants. He is laser-focused on delivering real results.



Audience with Pope John Paul II a Saint and transformational leader.

The Mayor of the City of Vaughan's life journey is a very interesting one. It all began in Sulmona, Italy, where he was born on June 1, 1960. The birthplace of the famous poet Ovid is where a young Maurizio spent his formative years. As a child, he focused on school, soccer and church. He remembers getting up early in the morning to serve Latin mass at the nearby church, Chiesa del Crocifisso. He openly

states that his views of life are deeply rooted in hope, faith and optimism.

His late parents, Azeglio and Filomena, were his greatest teachers who provided a balanced view of life. His father was a well-known champion cyclist who taught Maurizio the power of tenacity, perseverance and focus. He taught him how to win and what it takes to be a champion. His mother was a seamstress – she had the great capacity to be fully immersed in the moment. She lived her life at the higher frequency of love, compassion and understanding. His parents' values today are manifested in the lives of his children Jean-Paul and Victoria.

Mayor Bevilacqua always says what while we don't choose our parents, he was very fortunate to have his. In public life, roots matter because they shape one's character. Integrity, selflessness and passion are traits that come to mind when describing Mayor Bevilacqua's more than 30 years in public



The beginning of a 34-year public service journey. Parliamentarians welcome Maurizio Bevilacqua to the House of Commons.



**October 25, 1993 the night when Maurizio Bevilacqua set the record for most votes received by a federal candidate in Canadian political history.**

service, which he describes as a vocation, never a career or job. Mayor Bevilacqua is a ‘servant leader.’ He puts people first because he believes that the main purpose of life is to improve the human condition. The Jesuit-educated Bevilacqua, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from York University, a Master of Arts degree from Fordham University, and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Toronto, has built a solid reputation as an intelligent, talented and charismatic leader. To know Bevilacqua is to see him as a genuine and authentic person. He carries a strong presence in the city, which has been rewarded by the citizens of Vaughan with three landslide victories.

As a former Member of Parliament who has served the citizens of Vaughan since 1988, Bevilacqua held several prominent positions, including Minister of State for Finance, Minister of State for Science, Research and Development, and Chair of the influential Standing Committee on Finance. To this day, he still holds the all-time Canadian record for most votes received by a candidate in a federal election. Bevilacqua’s record of 71,535 votes has not been broken in almost 30 years. To put matters into perspective, Bevilacqua’s leadership completely transformed the City of Vaughan. In 2010, when he was first elected as Mayor, Vaughan did not have a subway, a hospital, a university, a downtown core, a 900-acre park, or the positive image that the Mayor has realized for the city. There were also 65,000 fewer jobs before he took office.

Today, Vaughan is a respected city, a city transformed, and a city of choice. The Mayor’s experience, energy and unwavering commitment have been the driving force behind the city’s transformation.

A hands-on type of leader, he was instrumental in bringing Niagara University to the city of Vaughan. Its arrival in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre in 2019 marked the first university in Vaughan’s history. His commitment to advancing higher education is evident in his vigorous pursuit to bring a medical and public health school to the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct. Bevilacqua chairs Mackenzie Health’s \$250 million Ultimate Campaign. To date, more than \$200 million has been raised, and the Mayor is determined to reach

the campaign goal by the end of 2022. This is the largest hospital fundraising campaign in North America. If the successful capital campaigns for Hospice Vaughan, the Reena Foundation and his involvement in the YMCA are predictors of future success, the Mayor is on track to deliver results yet again. He was the driving force behind the advocacy work that brought Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital to his city. The project was fraught with challenges and naysayers who believed that the hospital would never be built. He thought differently and never gave up. His patience and perseverance paid off as Vaughan is now home to Canada’s first smart technology hospital.

Using his exceptional negotiating skills and driven by his desire to fulfill the promise of bringing the hospital to Vaughan, he skillfully navigated through uncharted waters and brought the project to fruition.

When asked about the hospital’s successful completion, Bevilacqua quickly gives credit to the community, his government colleagues, and everyone involved in building Vaughan’s first hospital.

Ask anyone in the know, and they will quickly point to the leadership of the Mayor as the determining factor for the hospital’s success. He is tireless, diligent and is accessible.

He always says that for every disciplined effort, there are multiple rewards. The Mayor believes that the purpose of life is to improve the human condition. He promotes the philosophy that life is more interesting and fulfilling when you add value to families, communities and the world. He is a firm believer that ultimately, it all comes down to value-added and self-respect.

Early in his life, Bevilacqua recognized that he was put on this earth for a special purpose. As a grade 8 student at St. Roch Catholic School, he was chosen to represent his classmates as valedictorian. That happened three years after he immigrated to Canada from the United States of America.

In high school, he was the captain of the soccer team and at York University, he was president of the Student Council. He also played on the National Soccer League’s championship team, the Toronto Jets.



**Maurizio a member of the NSL Championship Team Toronto Jets.**



**Maurizio with his late parents Azeglio and Filomena. His greatest teachers and source of inspiration.**

Throughout his life, Bevilacqua has always exercised the leadership qualities that brought positive energy to all of his endeavours.

Mayor Bevilacqua's undeniable success can be attributed to his strength of character, integrity and ability to lead. Ultimately, he is a Mayor with a clear and ambitious vision for Vaughan. A subway, university, downtown core, a 900-acre park, over 60,000 jobs and a world class hospital all under his watch.

Coming into office back in 2010, he knew exactly what he wanted to achieve. One can just take a few minutes to reflect and think about the vision he espoused during his inaugural speech. That evening, he stated: "I see a City that will be praised for its character and integrity. A City that will be acclaimed for its responsible, sustainable planning and economic leadership. A City that will be renowned for its first-class administration, its transparency, its accountability and respect for the hard-earned taxpayers' dollars. A City that will inspire an era of cultural splendor bringing about a renaissance that will promote sports, the arts, music, theatre and architectural excellence, beautifying its landscape while nourishing its spirit. A City that will exercise a leadership role well beyond its borders, contributing its ideas, intellectual capacity and sharing its knowledge widely. A City with a



**Reaching out to today's students to build together a bright, hopeful and fulfilling future.**

downtown core that will become an expression of modernity and avant-garde thinking inspiring people from everywhere to admire its sophistication and experience its vibrancy. A City where people from all over the world, speaking 70 different languages, view their diversity as a unifying strength and a defining characteristic of their citizenship. A City willing to get out of its comfort zone, willing to innovate, take on challenges driven by the knowledge that history does not reward those who play it safe. This will be Vaughan's new image. An image anchored to stable governance and a deep respect for Vaughan residents, their thoughts, their ideas and their willingness to be engaged in the life of our city. Tonight, I believe we are beginning a new era in Vaughan - an era of positive change."

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua has delivered on his vision, transformed his city and successfully elevated its image. We all await what is next on the Mayor's agenda but if past results are any indication of the future, he will continue to lead the city to reach unprecedented heights. As Vaughan continues to flourish, he will of course, thank everyone because that is what true leaders do!



**Reflecting about diversity, equity and inclusion while sitting on Dr. Martin Luther King's porch in Atlanta, Georgia.**

## **Vaughan Is The Place To Be**

*Lyrics by Maurizio Bevilacqua - May 2011*

Everyday I dream of what our city can be  
 Everyday I feel the energy setting me free  
 The excitement of our future is here for us all to see

Never will we surrender  
 Until our dream becomes reality  
 Everyone agrees  
 Vaughan is the place to be

We built our future with honesty and integrity  
 The time has come to make our mark fulfill our destiny  
 Have faith in tomorrow and our abilities

Never will we surrender  
 Until our dream becomes reality  
 Everyone agrees Vaughan is the place to be

Humble beginnings is where we come from  
 People with vision is who we've become

Never will we surrender  
 Until our dream becomes reality  
 Everyone agrees  
 Vaughan is the place to be...



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## For all the “I love you’s”, we forgot to say

*Virtual solo photography exhibit*

*By artist Cindi Emond*

*Contact Photography Festival 2021*

Shot in Abruzzo, Italy in the abandoned village of Frattura Vecchia, devastated by an earthquake in 1915, this series documents how the histories of migration to escape the poverty and hardships of central and southern Italian towns like Frattura Vecchia are deeply felt to this day. Focusing on the resilience of remote rural communities facing harsh conditions, adversity and the complexity of their relationship with the land, the series examines Italian heritage, the persistence of cultural traditions and national identity.

I am a Canadian Italian photographer who has lived and worked in Rome for the past 20 years. This virtual exhibit is a series of 15 images shot in Abruzzo, Italy in the abandoned, earthquake-devastated village of Frattura Vecchia.

The series documents how the histories of migration to escape the poverty and hardships of central and southern Italian towns such as Frattura Vecchia are deeply felt to this day, a theme that will resonate with generations of Italian Canadians.

The 1915 earthquake that destroyed Frattura Vecchia killed half of the population, in specific, the women, children and the elderly of the village. Many died, trapped under the rubble. The already difficult to travel roads were made treacherous by ice and snow and it took days for

rescuers to arrive at the isolated village.

The men, however, were mostly saved. When the quake struck, most of the village men had already emigrated to Canada and the US. The remaining men, known for their excellence in sheep shearing, were away on the traditional “transumanza.” This is a centuries-old, UNESCO-recognized tradition, where shepherds move their flocks south to warmer regions of Puglia for the winter. This allows the sheep to be pastured on unfrozen ground, as winter is very harsh in the Abruzzo region.

The photographic series is shot among the lush overgrown ruins of the village and in the interior of a still-standing house, abandoned and frozen in time a century later with beds, a crib, blankets and a pair of women’s lace-up boots. In the dim kitchen, a pot still sits on the stove and wine bottles on the table, a suspended scene of domestic life never to be reprised.

These evocative and melancholic images are testament to the fortitude of the people who lived there. Because the village lies on geological fault lines, authorities decided not to rebuild it. The remaining survivors of the tragedy had to wait until almost 20 more years before a replacement town, Frattura Nuova – “New” Frattura was built.

Yet signs of life there persist. Plots of gardens belonging to the families of Frattura Vecchia are being harvested today and I shot images of a farmer working (he invited me to help him harvest white beans) at a distance with the lush green surroundings and the Apennines mountain range in the distance. I also documented a shepherd passing through the ghost village with his flock, walking with him for an hour, as he told me about this lasting tradition and the fate of his village.

# Moving Forward for Autism Awareness... One Step at a Time!

by *The Honourable Tony Loffreda, CPA*  
*Independent Canadian Senator (Quebec)*

Before Santa starts making his list and checking it twice, Members of Parliament and Senators still have a bit of work left before Parliament breaks for the Holidays. Several important government bills including legislation that would provide emergency funding to the hospitality and tourism sector, that would provide paid sick leave for federally regulated employees and that would appropriate the necessary funds to pay for government programs and services must still be adopted. Other bills, equally important, have also been introduced since the opening of the 44th Parliament last month.

One such bill, which is near and dear to my heart, is Bill S-203, legislation introduced by my colleague Senator Housakos in partnership with Senator Boehm that would empower and oblige the Minister of Health to develop a federal framework on autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Canada desperately needs to establish such a framework that could consider, among other things, support for caregivers and families, financial tax benefits, the implementation of a national research network, data collection, online resources on best practices and a national public awareness campaign to enhance knowledge and understanding about ASD.

On December 7th, I was honoured to speak in favour of Bill S-203. In my remarks, I underscored some of the outstanding work being conducted in Québec on ASD and some of the resources and support mechanisms offered to individuals with autism and their families. Of note, I spoke about Giant Steps, a school in Montreal that offers exceptional educational services to ASD students between the ages of 4 and 21. I've been involved with Giant Steps for more than a decade and I truly feel like they are a global leader on ASD.

In fact, earlier this week, I was honoured to attend a ground-breaking ceremony to inaugurate the forthcoming Giant Steps Autism Centre construction site in the presence of children, parents and teachers who will all benefit from this new, cutting-edge facility that will include a specialized school, a training centre for adults, a community resources centre and a research hub.

Across the river from the future Autism Centre in Varennes is a newly inaugurated, custom-built home that the Véro & Louis Foundation developed and funded for

adults with autism, which I also referred to in my remarks. Clearly, autism awareness, resources and services are increasing in Québec and that's great news.

I also shared with Senators another wonderful success story out of Milan, Italy called PizzAut, a new Italian pizzeria run by young adults with autism that offers work, training and, above all, dignity to people with autism. Each autistic person receives personalized training to become pizza chefs or waiters. Every workspace and tool have been designed to help and support them in their daily work. In many ways, PizzAut is a trailblazer: it offers patrons an opportunity to enjoy great pizza while doing some good, promoting diversity, embracing inclusiveness, creating a feeling of community, and giving these young adults a sense of accomplishment and belonging. The model is so successful that there is already talk about expansion and even replicating the model in Canada.

The day after I called for Bill S-203 to be sent to committee for further study, the Senate voted unanimously to refer it to the Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, a clear indication that it deserves further consideration. I am hopeful that it will successfully be adopted by the Senate at third reading, and eventually by the House of Commons after which it could become law.

Of course, the Holiday Season is all about counting our blessings, gathering with loved ones, and giving hope to those in need. In some little way, I hope the autism community welcomes this new piece of legislation and finds some comfort in knowing that many Senators, including myself, are strongly advocating for them in Parliament.

For many families however, the Holidays are also a time of financial hardship, distress and loneliness. I hope we all have these families in our thoughts during this festive time of the year and, if you can, please donate to your local food bank or non-profit organization. Any donation, big or small, can help families stay warm this winter or enjoy a nice Christmas meal. No doubt it could help some of us make it onto Santa's nice list.

Please enjoy the Holidays, be responsible and stay safe. May the year 2022 shine a little brighter and be a little better for us all. Hope, health and happiness throughout!





## 7 Essential Natural Spices For Healthy Cooking

by *Floriana Urbisci R.N.C.P.*

[florianaurbisci.com](http://florianaurbisci.com) | [@florianaurbisci](https://www.instagram.com/florianaurbisci)

In everyday cooking, natural spices can be very useful and beneficial for making tasty meals, a hot beverage or even a favourite baked treat! Aside from salt and pepper, consider adding some of these interesting and healthy seven essential natural spices below.

### 1. Turmeric “The Golden Spice”

Turmeric is a traditional Indian spice that has been used in India for thousands of years as both a spice and medicinal herb. Nutrients in turmeric include calcium, iron, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, zinc, vitamin B1, B2, B3 and vitamin C.



Curcumin is the main active ingredient in turmeric with powerful anti-inflammatory properties and a very strong antioxidant. It is known to fight free radicals, protect the liver against toxins, aid in circulation, lower cholesterol levels, improve blood vessel health and is good for all arthritic conditions.

Studies have also shown that turmeric and especially the active compound curcumin has the potential to improve heart health and prevent against Alzheimer’s and cancer.

Adding turmeric in your daily meals like stews, soups, an omelette or even in a stirfry can help promote the benefits this amazing spice provides.

### 2. Cumin

Cumin is known for its potent seed and most often is ground up and sprinkled into food as a seasoning or for even more intense flavor roasted whole before being used.



Cumin is naturally rich in iron. One teaspoon of ground cumin contains 1.4 milligrams of iron. Therefore, adding cumin in meals will increase the iron potency in the food even when used in small amounts as a seasoning. Other beneficial nutrients in cumin are manganese, copper, calcium, magnesium, vitamin B1 and phosphorus.

Some benefits of cumin include lowering risk of iron-deficiency anemia and may support and manage cholesterol levels. The cumin seed has anti-viral, anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties which act as a natural remedy to nourish the respiratory system and help with cough and cold symptoms.

### 3. Saffron “The Sunshine Spice”

Saffron is an ancient spice with an enticing fragrance that has and is still used traditionally as a seasoning and as a natural color for culinary delicacies.



This valuable spice is rich in vitamins and minerals including vitamin A, C, folic acid, riboflavin, niacin, copper, potassium, calcium, manganese, iron, selenium, zinc, and magnesium.

The history of saffron can be traced back to 3000 years and according to the books of Ayurveda it was believed that even a few strands were enough for a healthy body and mind! Adding just a small pinch of saffron is enough to enhance the flavor and color of any favorite dish and can help boost immunity because

of its nutrients and antioxidants that it provides. The medicinal properties of saffron have beneficial effects on skin, digestion and can help uplift moods acting as a natural anti-depressant.

#### 4. Clove

Clove is a versatile spice which is found in both whole and ground form. This sweet and aromatic spice can be used to season meat, add flavor to hot beverages and used in homemade baked goodies.



Adding cloves for flavor to food provides several important nutrients including calcium, iron, manganese, zinc, vitamin A, B1, B2, and C. They are mostly rich in the essential mineral manganese which plays an important role in brain function and building strong bones.

In addition, the medicinal properties in cloves can help to support the liver and can stabilize blood sugar levels. a natural color for culinary delicacies. This valuable spice is rich in vitamins and minerals including vitamin A, C, folic acid, riboflavin, niacin, copper, potassium, calcium, manganese, iron, selenium, zinc, and magnesium.

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#### 5. Cinnamon

Cinnamon is made from the bark of the cinnamomum verum tree. This bark contains several special compounds that are responsible for its many health-promoting properties.



As one of the oldest spices in the world, cinnamon has been used medicinally for centuries as it contains natural antimicrobial, antibiotic, antifungal and antiviral properties. These immune boosting compounds help defend the body from illness and can relieve symptoms like diarrhea and nausea.

Nutrients in cinnamon include calcium, chromium, copper, iodine, iron, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, zinc, and vitamins A, B1, B2, B3 and C.

Some additional benefits of cinnamon include better digestion especially with the metabolism of fats and it is useful for diabetics as it can help lower blood sugar levels. Sprinkle cinnamon in your favorite hot drink, on oatmeal or your favorite fruit including watermelon!

#### 6. Ginger

Fresh ginger root or ground ginger one of the most popular spices in the world today. It is loaded with antioxidants and is known for its therapeutic and anti-inflammatory properties.



Ginger can help to stimulate digestion and can help with digestive disturbances such as bloating, acid reflux and heartburn. It can also be beneficial for reducing any symptoms of nausea.

Fresh ginger root can be sliced or minced and steeped in hot water for tea or added to smoothies to give it a zesty taste! Ground ginger can be added to any favourite meal or even great to use for baking. A versatile and easy spice to add to any recipe!

#### 7. Paprika

Paprika is a wonderful pepper-based spice made from a variety of peppers including red bell pepper, chilli pepper and cayenne pepper. The heat level of this spice depends on which peppers are used to make the spice.



There is a distinctive variety of red colors in paprika and it is known for having a smoky, slightly sweet flavor. These red colors have a massive amount of vitamin A in just one tablespoon which accounts for almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the daily recommended intake.

Vitamin A and large amounts of antioxidants including lutein and zeaxanthin are present in paprika which can help prevent diseases that damage the eyes and can help decrease any type of inflammatory condition.

Some of the overall health benefits attributed to paprika are also associated with the spice's capsaicin content. It is an important nutrient found in the hot peppers which give peppers their heat. Capsaicin plays a key part in the prevention of illness and disease.

**While these 7 essential natural spices can be a great start to have in your spice cabinet it is also good to slowly expand your spice collection and add more flavors so you can enhance the overall taste and profile of everything you cook!**

**An important tip to keep in mind when storing spices is making sure they are always sealed in a glass spice jar or airtight container away from any heat or direct sunlight.**

**Many spices do offer additional health benefits too and the variety of different spices can make meals taste more delicious. As William Cowper once wrote "Variety's the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavor."**



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Being an outdoorsy girl, many of Karina's pieces are inspired by the changing seasons and nature's natural beauty that surrounds our every day lives. Along with her classic wrapped Marie Bouquets, Marie Lavender offers every day arrangements, bridal arrangements, bloom boxes, home and corporate decor.

*"My love for the outdoors is one of the reasons why I decided to pursue a career in floral design. I love the fact that I get to work with my hands while working with beautiful living plants and flowers. This work allows me to fuel a creative outlet and get lost in time".* - Karina Marie

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A New Year marks a New Beginning and a time to reflect on our past endeavours and move into the future with hope and fortitude for better things to come.

There is no doubt that these are indeed most difficult and challenging times. As we continue to adapt and learn, making sacrifices on the way, all in hope of returning to a “better world”, we come to appreciate not only the importance of family and friends but also the need to work together. We must be positive in our mind, heart and action as we move with hope toward a better world.

The law firm of Campione & Associates sincerely extends its best wishes to you, your families, relatives and friends for a most healthy, peaceful, prosperous and Happy New Year.

We look forward together with The Voice 2020 in launching The Legal Corner, in its next issue, which will bring you pertinent information on legal topics and issues.



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## A golden story at McDonalds

by *Lawrence Greenspon*

I was managing a McDonald's in Florida. Unlike today, staffing was never a real problem. I was searching for someone to work three hours a day at lunch.

I went thru all my applications and most were all looking for full time or at least 20 hours. I found one however, buried at the bottom that was only looking for lunch. His name was Nicky. Hadn't met him but thought I would give him a call and see if he could stop by for an interview. When I called, he wasn't in but his mom said she would make sure he would be there.

At the accorded time, Nicky walked in. Nicky suffered from Downs Syndrome. His physical appearance was a giveaway. I was young. Had never interacted on a professional level with a developmentally disabled person. I had no clue what to do, so I went ahead and interviewed him. He was a wonderful young man. Excited to be alive.

For only reasons God knew at that time, I hired him. 3 hours a day, 3 days a week to run a grill. I let the staff know. Predictably the crew made sure I got the message, "no one wants to work with a retard." To this day I find that word offensive.

We had a crew meeting and prepared for his arrival. Nicky showed up for work right on time. He was so excited. He clocked in and started his training. Couldn't multi task, but was a machine on the grill.

Now for the fascinating part..... Back in that day, there were no computer screens to work from. Every order was called by the cashier. It required concentration to get the

order right. While Nicky was training, the sandwich maker next to him asked the grillman what was on the next sandwich. Nicky replied, "single, no pickle no onion."

A few minutes later it happened again. It was then that we discovered Nicky had a hidden and valuable skill. He memorized everything he heard! What a skill set.

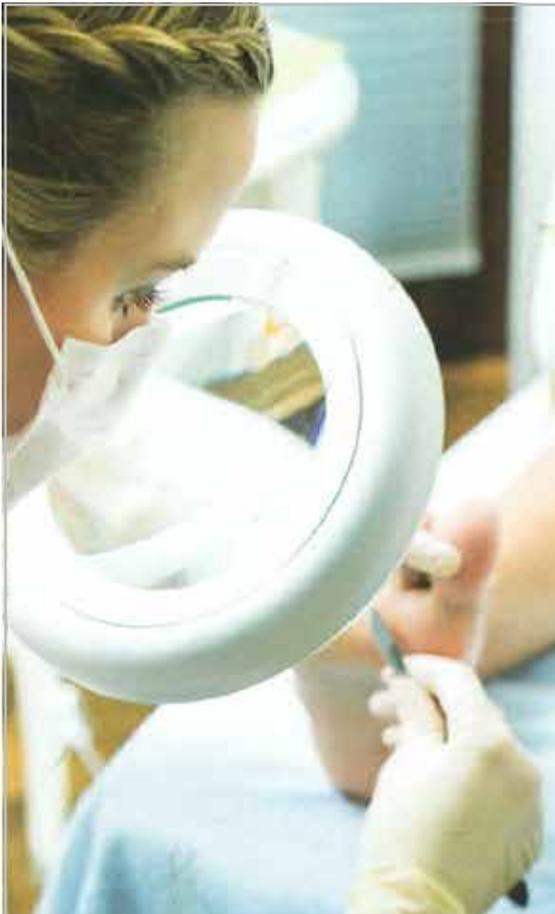
It took 3 days and every sandwich maker requested to work with Nicky. After his shift he would join the crew. It was then that they discovered another trait. Nicky was a walking perpetual calendar! With a perpetual calendar as a reference, they would sit for hours asking him what day of the week was December 22, 1847. He never missed.

His mom would come in at 2 to pick him. As I went to get him from the back, his mom said something I will never forget.

***"Let him stay there as long as he wants.  
He has never been accepted  
like he is here".***

Nicky had a profound impact. His presence changed a lot of people. Today I believe with every fiber of my body that Nicky's hiring was no accident.

This Christmas, I hope we all understand what we are celebrating. We are all like Nicky. We each have our shortcomings. God made us that way and God doesn't make mistakes. Nicky certainly wasn't a mistake. God doesn't care if you are rich or poor, republican or democrat or black or white. He cares about your heart. He wants us all to love and appreciate the gift HE gave us on Christmas, ***His son.***



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## Would a ban on blind bidding make homes more affordable?

by *Real Estate Magazine*

Perhaps Canadians read the platforms of political parties more carefully than they usually do during elections. Several pledges by the Liberals concern the housing market in Canada. Among other things, the party declared that a ban on blind bidding during real estate transactions would follow their return to Ottawa. Such bids do not let competing buyers know how much other people are offering for the same property.

### Do blind bids exist elsewhere?

In Australia, the house sales process is in stark contrast to how it is in Canada.

For almost two centuries, houses in Australia have usually changed hands in an open bidding process, conducted in an auction style. Prospective buyers gather in the open area outside the house to try and outbid others.

Canada's housing market is notorious for lack of transparency. Though there are valid arguments in favour of blind bidding, advocacy groups have pinned the blame for the frenzy in house prices on blind bidding. Their argument appears reasonable. A bidder does not know how much the second-highest bid is and hence the highest bid could be tens of thousands of dollars in excess.

That the Liberals' pledge is a sure-shot way to make houses affordable is debatable. But unfortunately, no reliable study can point toward the advantage of one bidding type over the other.

The argument against open bids is also reasonable on some counts. The auction-style bidding that is famous in the

Australian real estate market can trigger impulsive spending by competing bidders. In open bidding with little time to think about the justification for a higher bid, the bidders may speculate higher and higher. Consumerism in advanced economies, be it Australia or Canada, can trigger ego clashes.

Another argument is, what if the seller or the agent unscrupulously manipulates the open bidding war? This might add some tens of thousands of dollars to the final price. And what if the buyers decide to bring down prices of housing assets by collectively bidding at lower-than-justifiable prices? Retail investors in the U.S. did something of this sort to the stock market by artificially pushing up meme stocks like GameStop.

### Is it even possible to ban blind bidding?

Experts say that the federal government can do little in this regard because the provinces have jurisdiction over the passing of any such legislation.

Further, the new government will face resistance from Realtors and their associations. For example, the proposal to ban blind bidding met with criticism from the Ontario Real Estate Association and CREA. They say the measure is counter-productive and "criminalizes" families.

Consider this. House prices in Australia are surging at the fastest pace in almost three decades. According to industry experts, house price surges have far outpaced wage growth in Australia. In Canada, both the sales volume and the average price have been falling over the past few months. This is not the scene in Australia, where the price is growing monthly.

No two markets are the same, and no single method of transaction can be the best.

A ban on blind bidding is in no way a guarantee that houses will become affordable. Before Canada embarks on the ambitious yet controversial move to ban blind bids in the housing market, the federal government will likely concentrate on programs to help low-income and first-time buyers.



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# Rules of Style

by *Kaveh Janabi*

I think one of the deepest quotes comes from Diana Vreeland, the legendary editor of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar. "You gotta have style. It helps you get down the stairs. It helps you get up in the morning. It's a way of life. Without it, you're nobody. I'm not talking about lots of clothes." This quote at first glance may come across as shallow or even non-sensical but after a close examination one possibly can get the true meaning of it. Diana points out the fact that style is who one is so we might be more conscious of who we are and how we present ourselves to the world



***"You gotta have style. It helps you get down the stairs. It helps you get up in the morning. It's a way of life. Without it, you're nobody. I'm not talking about lots of clothes."***

Karl Lagerfeld, the legendary designer and the genius behind Chanel's revival once said "sweatpants are a sign of defeat", and I think it rings true even now -except during the pandemic that we were all stuck at home. Sweatpants tell the world that you do not care about the world and in consequence yourself. The moment you do not care about yourself indeed you are defeated.

"To be irreplaceable one must always be different." This is what Gabrielle Chanel said about style a while ago during an interview. When I look at some youth now who copycat things whether, from TikTok or social media, I am always remembered of this quote. When by accident I see



***"To be irreplaceable one must always be different."***

a slew of young girls or boys in the malls dressed the same with the same brands or latest trends, I cannot help but think that perhaps they sort of are interchangeable; Since one's thoughts are translated into their style and if styles are the same perhaps the thoughts and worldviews are the same: hence my earlier observation!



So, it is always prudent for one to make sure to present oneself with some thought and deliberation and stay true who he/she is, to keep his/her individuality. As the great Ms. Vreeland once said "the true elegance is in the mind if you have got that, the rest comes from it".

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