

JULY 2021

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BRIDGELANDRIVERSIDE

BRIDGES

THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Cover Photo by
Ximena Gonzalez

 **BRCA**
BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

We now offer direct billing to all Insurance companies.

Dental care should be as tailored as a fine suit.

We all have our own style and we all have unique health care needs. That's why I believe that no two dental care strategies should be the same, and it's also why I spend the time with you that you deserve.

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- Dr. Laura Brescia

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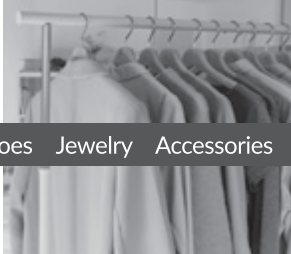
So don't hesitate, call Alpine Dental today or visit our website at www.alpinedentalcare.ca, and start a lifetime of great oral habits!





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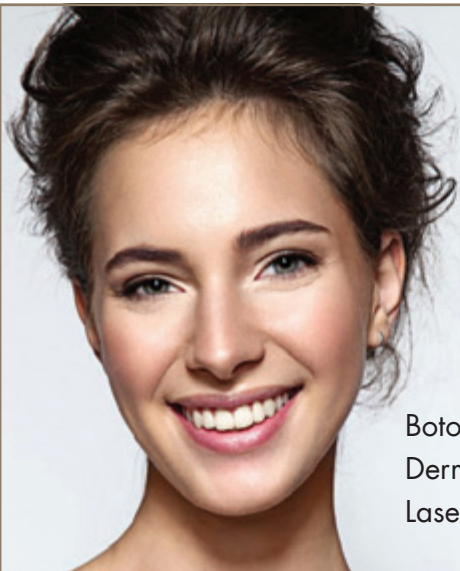


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IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

Contact us for birthday giveaways and promotions

by Alex MacWilliam

"There ain't no cure for the summertime blues"? Nope, too bleak.

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy"? Not so easy this summer.

Somewhere in between these two lyrical extremes lies my view of the summer of 2021. Lots to be positive about, but still plenty to be concerned with. The small punctures in each of my upper arms are hopefully going to protect me, and those around me, from the risks of severe effects of COVID-19. Our neighbourhood is opening up, as is the rest of our world. Trips to visit family and friends and vacations to near and far locations are being planned. Slowly but surely, life is returning to something to which we are more accustomed. Normal? A new normal? It is too early to tell. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer with few blues and as much easy livin' as possible.

I would be remiss in not recognizing the significant contributions made to Bridgeland-Riverside by our outgoing BRCA President, Brian Beck. Brian recently stepped down as President at the end of his three-year term, having spent a total of five years on the BRCA Board of Directors. Brian worked tirelessly to organize and guide the Board through some challenging times, particularly the pandemic. We are most grateful for his good-natured leadership and will miss his presence on the Board.



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BRCA FARMERS' MARKET COMMITTEE



July Farmer's Market Box on Sale

\$125 per box - limited quantity

ORDER BY:

- July 12 by 1:00 pm

PICK UP:

- July 15 - 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Bridgeland Community Association Hall

Please follow us on social media for the most up-to-date information.

Thank you for your support of our box and your favourite local vendors.

- https://www.brcacalgary.org/farmers_market.
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- Instagram: bridgelandfm
- Twitter: BridgelandFM



We are working on reducing our footprint

BYOB- Bring your own box/bag to pick-up!



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917 Centre Ave. N.E.
Calgary AB T2E 0C6



Membership type: (please check one)

Individual

Family

Senior

During this time, membership fees are waived; you can still sign up to be a member and when you do so, you will not be charged a fee.

Member information: (please print clearly, attach additional family member names)

Last name: _____

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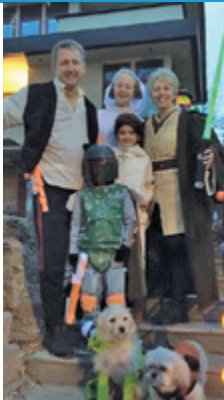
Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Or, please feel free to communicate with us about community events at events@BRCAcalgary.org

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Brian Beck

How long have you lived in Bridgeland-Riverside? What do you like about living here?

23 years. It's a great neighbourhood; small but complicated, friendly, always changing, and it's in the middle of everything, yet somehow it still feels tucked away.

How did you get involved in volunteering in our community?

The best way, through neighbours who have since become great friends.

What kind of volunteer activities have you done?

Community clean-ups, Farmer's Market set-ups, Passeggiata, helping to organize Christmas Carolling, lights in the Plaza, Planning Committee, Community Advisory Group (CAG)/ Area Redevelopment Committee, East Riverside Master Plan, BRCA Board of Directors (five years), President (three years); plus, many other day-to-day things I am probably forgetting.

What ideas do you have for volunteering in the future? What interests or excites you?

For right now ... time for a short break! But then, soon after I'm sure, the most fun things are events and placemaking that bring people together.

What would you tell others in the community about volunteering?

It's a bit like swimming – just jump in, the water's fine! Whatever interests you, whatever you are good at, can probably become your best way to help.

What do you like most about volunteering for the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association?

My friends and neighbours. Once you are an adult, how often do you really get the chance to make new friends?

During the pandemic are you still able to do volunteer activities in a safe manner?

Oh, sure. Meetings on Teams and Zoom are no replacement for what we had before COVID-19, but we kept things going. Being a volunteer in the community, and especially for BRCA, really just means joining a decades-long, ongoing conversation. Volunteering is helping, and most people

get a lot of satisfaction when helping others. During the pandemic there were obviously lots of restrictions, and fewer events, but the conversations aimed at helping others and making things better never went quiet.

What is a hidden gem in Bridgeland-Riverside that you have discovered and would like to share?

At the SE corner of the 9A Street park, there is a break in the chain link fence, and an entrance from the alley into the park. On a nice spring day, the laneway has rabbits and birds, and the threshold to the park is like a secret little entryway back to childhood. My youngest is 12 years old now, but with all three of our kids, we spent many happy hours in that park, or playing in puddles in that alleyway after rainstorms. I love pausing at that spot, where the park and its memories are always about to happen.

Baseball in Bridgeland-Riverside?

Did you know we have an amazing baseball diamond right here in our community? To be specific, in Bridgeland Park (aka McDougall Park).

Step 1 - To book this baseball diamond, go to <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/recreation/rentals-and-bookings/book-a-playfield.html>. Check availability and book a date and time, there is no cost to book.

Step 2 - There is also baseball equipment available. There is a locked tote at the baseball field with all the equipment you will need. To access the tote, email hall@brcacalgary.org or call the BRCA hall at 403-263-5755 to coordinated getting the key.

Step 3 – Play ball! And have fun!



We Are All Community Stewards

by Ali McMillan



The Green Streets Program: Volunteer gardening on traffic calming spaces

As folks who live, work, and play in this amazing community of Bridgeland-Riverside, we all want our community to be the

best it can be. Bridgeland has seen a lot of positive change and growth in the past five years. Our neighbourhood is maturing right before our eyes! Lots of this is due to the leadership and actions of some grassroots neighbours and local businesses who see something in need of improvement and take action to “be the change”. Some folks take on big, daunting projects, but most are modest heroes doing the day-to-day weeding of beds, picking up litter, and general neighbourhood maintenance. It’s not glorious work, but it is essential and impactful.

Most people assume these tasks are completed by the City, but in actuality much of this work is done by volunteers and residents. Did you know that Allan, Lucia, David, and Bertina are Plaza Stewards? They volunteer to wipe down tables in the plaza, straighten chairs, pick up litter, and chat with visitors. Do you know John, Marianne, Islo, and Wee Wild Ones kids are litter warriors in East Riverside? A volunteer resident replaces ping pong balls and ladder toss balls at Flyover Park. You too can be a steward. Why not join us! Stewarding can be done on your own time and schedule. You can do it whenever it suits you. It is as simple as picking up an empty coffee cup in the Piazza or Murdoch Park and tossing it in a nearby garbage can. It makes a difference.

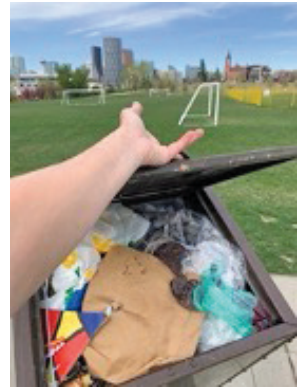
Why?

The benefits of becoming an active citizen are immense. You get to meet new people and it is very rewarding to be a part of something bigger than yourself. It is truly inspiring to see our neighbourhood change for the better by residents participating in a few small acts. Many hands make light work and if we all do our own small part, Bridgeland-Riverside will be the best it can be.

Litter, Litter Everywhere!

You don't have to join a committee to be a community steward. As residents, we can all be part of improving our community each and every day. Bridgeland is becoming more awesome, but an unfortunate side effect is litter! If litter is laying around and garbage cans are overflowing, some people will just throw their trash on the ground. With more people living and visiting our neighbourhood, all of us must tackle the mounting litter issues. We have partnered with the City Parks department and local businesses to add more garbage cans and have them emptied more often. If you see an overflowing garbage can, please report it to 311. This enables City dispatchers to send a crew. Please ask local businesses to use less waste; with the takeout

situation during COVID this has been worse, but the more you can make less waste, the better. Pack in what you pack out in our parks – encourage others to do the same! If you see someone littering, please politely ask them to pick it up. Best yet, if you see litter, please pick it up. Do your own walkabouts to steward your part of Bridgeland and be part of the Litter Brigade on the third Thursday of each month – Meets at 6:30 pm at the Piazza.



Adopt A Park

Our parks are cherished spaces and many neighbours (with support from local businesses and the BRCA) have “activated” them in the following ways: four new picnic tables in Murdoch Park, four yellow reclined-back chairs in Tyndale Park, games and seating in 9a St Park, games at Flyover Park, art in Riverside Park, tables and chairs in the Piazza. The City Adopt-A-Park program is looking for individuals and groups to adopt a local green space and help out with litter pick up, weeding, and general stewardship. We are currently looking for adopters for Flyover Park, Murdoch Park, and Tyndale Park. If you are able to help out or want to learn more contact beautifcation@brccalgary.org.

Be The Change

Lots of people think they need permission to make a positive change. BRCA is here to support your ideas if you want to be a steward and be the change. We are not here to execute your ideas for you but to support and enable you to make your vision happen. For example, the roundabout on McPherson Rd and 7a St is overgrown with burdock and other invasive weeds. Are there people in the nearby apartments who can give this spot some badly needed TLC? If you see an unloved boulevard, can you steward it?

Opportunity Is Everywhere

Organize a social club that includes neighbourhood betterment such as a monthly walkabout with friends that includes picking up litter. Adopt-A-Park near your home with some neighbours. Organize a bocce night in the park. Pick up litter on your walk to work or dog walk. See an area that needs some love and go for it!

Join the BRCA Beautification Committee by emailing beautifcation@brccalgary.org. Check out the list of volunteer opportunities with BRCA on our website at brccalgary.org.

Our community can only get better with neighbours performing simple, everyday actions which enrich Bridgeland-Riverside through stewardship.

Art on the Hill

by Deborah Millward

Tom Campbell Hill (TCH) is one of our city's jewels of natural beauty and a great neighbourhood off-leash park that is known and loved by many. COVID-19 has reminded us about the importance of our park spaces, as well as challenged us to find ways to connect with one another in a safe way. I have wanted to combine my appreciation of TCH with my love of art and have been fortunate to receive approval from the City to plan a COVID safe event. BRCA Beautification Committee has also been supportive of our endeavour.

The first community art show "Art on the Hill" is planned for Saturday August 7 on Tom Campbell Hill from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. The setting at the south end of the park is a perfect place, with its tree-lined promenade leading from Centre Avenue to the concrete pillars, and seating, complete with shade from the poplar trees and framed by dramatic views of the city and distant mountains. There will be space for ten artists to set up displays of their art, and sufficient space for people to safely view and purchase a special piece.

First things first - we want all artists to have the opportunity to join up. You will be responsible for your own set-up and take-down around the viewing area at the south end of the park. There will be a small fee to cover advertising and other expenses. For further details, please contact Deborah at communityarttch@outlook.com.

Watch for more details closer to the date on community Facebook pages, etc.

Plan to join us on August 7. What better way to enjoy a summer Saturday than supporting local artists and soaking up the panoramic beauty from our prairie park on the hill.



BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE
**CALL OUT
LOCAL ARTISTS**

If you are a local artist and interested in creative initiatives in our community, email hello@janemill.ca to find out how to get on the BRCA art roster!



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HELENIZE YOUR BACK ALLEY!!!

For your local artist roster and more information on this fun art initiative go to bracalgary.org

Who's Helen?

Helen is an amazing woman and community member right here in Bridgeland! She has brought joy with her smiles and waves and has created beauty to her own back alley with her green thumb skills!

Why Helenize?

How wonderful would it be to have beautiful back alleys that could be used for more than our garbage bins! Together we can create safer, more attractive and more useable back alleys. Mid-day strolls, bike rides, dog walks, family fun and more could be possible in our back alleys!

How?

Through back alley gardens and back alley art specifically garage doors, we can begin to beautify our alleys and create new and inviting spaces for our community! If you are interested in "Helenizing" your back alley with garage door art, read on for the 'how to'. We have created an easy step by step process to get your started!

Step 1: START!

Choose your artist!

Choose an artist from our list of interested local artists, find your own or do it yourself! Establish a fair cost and it is recommended to write up a short contract that lays out all assumptions and payment plan.

Step 2: DESIGN

Create a design you love!

Collaborate with your artist to create a design that; you love, are proud of and that will be visual pleasing to your friends and neighbours. Or, create your very own design!

Step 3: PREP

Prep and Wash

Prep your garage door by (sanding if wood) and washing surface with soap and water. You want a nice clean and DRY surface to work on!

Step 4: Get Paint

Source your paint & supplies

Go to SHERWIN & WILLIAMS and reference "Bridgeland Helenize Back Alley" to receive 25% on paint and supplies or source out your own exterior paint! Wood garages would need a 'multi-purpose' primer but most metal garages will NOT need a primer (unless in bad shape)

Step 5: PLAN AND PAINT

Make your plan and execute!

Watch while your artist works magic OR if you are doing it yourself, make your plan, draw it out on your door and then paint!! Better to paint early mornings or late afternoons while the weather is not as hot. No varnish or sealant necessary with Sherwin & Williams paint!

Step 6: ADMIRE

Love our new and improved garage door and back alley!

Complete your mural and admire your artists talent or your own creative skills! It is suggested to let door cure for at least a month before doing any heavy duty cleaning on it. Go for an art walk and love your new and improved back alley!

Happy Creating!!!,
The Beautification Team

Bridgeland - Riverside Parks Project



As first mentioned in the April 2021 issue of Bridges, many of our neighbourhood parks and green spaces do not have formal names, making it confusing to identify them. We want our parks to be well known to residents and be convenient to gather at for fun, rejuvenation, and socializing. Members of our Parks Project are on a 'Placemaking' mission to find names for eight parks and

green spaces that will reflect the history and uniqueness of our community and the diversity of those who have called it home. Over the coming months, we will spend time in each space and plan to talk with visitors and residents and get their ideas for naming. As all parks are considered city assets, specific criteria and clear guidelines must be followed when naming these spaces. Bridgeland Betty has been called into service this summer to highlight our presence in specified parks. Volunteers will be in attendance and will be seeking your feedback and asking you to complete a short survey and/or submit a proposed name for each park. For more information, contact brca.beautification@gmail.com. Also watch the BRCA website and community Facebook pages for updates.

Beautification Committee - Parks Project



Orange Ribbon

After hearing the devastating news of the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children on the grounds of a former residential school in Kamloops, a group of Bridgeland residents came together to honour and show solidarity with the Indigenous community. As people across Canada were encouraged to wear orange*, these Bridgeland residents came up with the idea to hang orange ribbons at various locations in the community. Twelve community members, many accompanied by their children, tied orange ribbons on trees throughout the neighbourhood. This tragedy has had an impact on so many and this was one small act that a group of our neighbours made to honour Truth and Reconciliation.

*Orange Shirt Day was created as an observance in 2013 and is designed to educate people and promote awareness in Canada about the Indian residential school system and its impacts on Indigenous communities for over a century. It is held annually on September 30 and was elevated to a statutory holiday by the Government of Canada on June 4, 2021.



Normie Kwong (1929-2016): Hero from Riverside

by Deb Lee, Heritage Committee



Normie Kwong image: CTV News

Most Calgarians have heard of Normie Kwong, but few are aware that he got his start in Bridgeland-Riverside. There is much to know about Norman Lim Yew Kwong CM OAE. He was the fifth of six children born to Charles and Lily Kwong, who had immigrated to Canada from China in the early 1900s. They owned and operated Riverside Cash and Carry grocery store on 4th Street (now the site of the Benevity building) and the family lived in an apartment at the rear of the store. Normie attended Riverside Bungalows One and Two, Langevin Junior High, and Western Canada High School. At Western, Normie excelled at football and soon advanced to the North Hill Jr. Blizzards. Normie's mother was not in favour of his athletic pursuits, so he hid his football gear from her until he made it to the professional league.

Normie was just 18 when he became a Calgary Stampeder, the youngest to be selected and the first player of Chinese descent. He was a running back; just 5'9" and 170 pounds, but wow, could he run and shake off tacklers, a skill he likely developed from hardscrabble kids-play in Riverside. During his three years as a Stampeder, Normie was part of the famous 1948 Grey Cup team. He joined the Edmonton Eskimos in 1950 and won three consecutive Grey Cups (1954/55/56) alongside teammates Johnnie Bright, Jackie Parker, and Don Getty. By the time he retired in 1960, "the China Clipper", as he was fondly known, had achieved much: CFL All-Star five times, Outstanding Canadian Player twice, and Canada's Athlete of the Year in 1955. Normie set 30 CFL records, including a record 1437 rushing yards by a Canadian in 1956. It took 56 years for this record to be broken by Stampeder Jon Cornish in 2012.

Normie was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1969. He achieved the rare feat...beloved by both Calgary and Edmonton football fans!

After his football career ended, Normie returned to Calgary, and with his wife Mary, started their family. As their four sports-minded boys grew up, Normie was a very involved dad, driving the kids to practices and supporting their individual endeavours. He went on to have a successful real estate career, but he had much more to contribute to Calgary and sports. In 1988, he joined the troubled Stampeder club as President and General Manager. His leadership helped stabilize the Stampeders financially and bring back exciting football for the fans. Normie was also one of the original owners of the Calgary Flames. He saw the team win the 1989 Stanley Cup, still a source of pride for Calgarians, and making Normie one of a very elite group of people whose names are engraved on both the Grey Cup and the Stanley Cup.

This Riverside native son accomplished great things on the sports field but there is much more to know about, and be inspired by, Normie Kwong.

To be continued.



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CREEPING AROUND BRIDGELAND



It is that time of the year when the notorious creeping bellflower emerges from the earth and threatens to overwhelm our hedgerows and flower beds. Some people are seduced into thinking it is a 'pretty flower' that must be watered and tended, but the seasoned Bridgeland gardener knows that this 'robust weed' must be dealt with before invading every inch of garden, suffocating our more genteel flora, and even creeping into the lawn and boulevard grass. What to do?

First, get to know what creeping bellflower looks like. It has triangular leaves on a single stalk that may grow up to 24 inches tall. In summer, purple bell-like flowers emerge along the stalk and mature into seed pods by fall.

If this nasty bellflower is in your garden, digging it up is essential. Once you have put the spade into the earth, you'll find a plethora of white roots with large white nodules. Gather all the root pieces and discard in a bag in the garbage (not the compost). For those areas where digging is not feasible, a miniscule amount of Round-Up, carefully dabbed with a Q-Tip on some leaves, may be the only answer to halt the advance of this creeping weed. Trying to contain it can be overwhelming, but the very least you can do is to remove the flowers before they go to seed and spread even further around the 'hood. Your neighbours will appreciate your efforts.

Then there is the 'belligerent' burdock, another noxious weed that has made itself at home in Bridgeland-Riverside. It does not creep but has a two-year process on its way to spawning large burrs with millions of seeds. These burrs can attach to your clothing or your dog's fur and spread

everywhere. The first year of growth, its green leaves look innocuously like a stunted rhubarb plant. You can easily dig it up at this stage, although the roots may go deep. The second year, an amazing 'Jack in the Beanstalk' type stalk emerges and can grow up to five feet tall. Talk about intimidating! The burdock's flowers are weird, unlike any flower you have seen, and you're unlikely to be tempted to pick it and put it in a vase. What's important now is to cut down the thick stalk before the burrs mature. Once again, remove all the branches/burrs, bag them, and discard in the garbage, not the compost.

By identifying and promptly dealing with the creeping bellflower and the 'belligerent' burdock, you will be less likely to receive a bylaw notice for noxious weeds. And you will be contributing to a happier, less weedy community. Let's all get after these unwelcome intruders in our 'hood.

Beautification Committee



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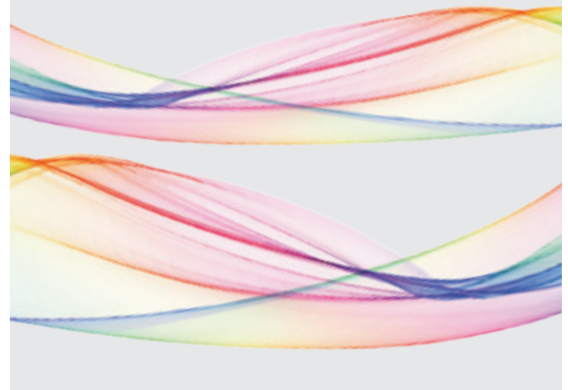


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It's summer of 2021, and while we are still coping with COVID-19 and the challenges it presents, the rates of vaccination are going up and there is hope on the horizon. Thank you to everyone who is continuing to follow the public health guidelines and doing their part to keep our neighbours safe.

Mountain View is a diverse riding filled with vibrant small businesses that make our communities thrive. They are a foundation of community and allow many to live, work, and shop locally. Our small businesses have struggled over the last year due to changing restrictions, so it is imperative that we are there to support them. That's why I was happy to join my colleagues in the NDP Caucus to call for the expedited distribution of Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grants and support for overhead costs that will help small businesses make it through this pandemic.

While we need to support small businesses now more than ever, we also need more support for workers. Over the last year, many Albertans have had to isolate as close contacts of positive cases. But no one should have to choose between personal safety and covering their bills. Even as we reopen, Albertans will need to isolate in order to limit the spread of COVID, putting continued pressure on household finances. As a member of the Official Opposition, we drafted a bill that would provide Albertans with 10 days of paid sick leave if they are ill or in quarantine. This measure would help limit the spread of COVID, allow Albertans time to recover, and ensure that our economy can remain open.

As always, I'm happy to hear from constituents. Please keep in touch through my constituency office at Calgary.MountainView@assembly.ab.ca or 403-216-5445.

Post Pandemic Travel

As vaccinations increase and COVID cases continue to decrease, Canadians are now starting to think about travelling or having visitors come to Canada. Any travel at this time puts you at increased risk of contracting COVID and should be carefully considered.

While many aspects of international travel are yet to be determined and travel rules remain fluid, we do know that travel will not return to normal for some time yet.

Anyone travelling in the foreseeable future must accept that rules regarding travel, border entry, testing, and quarantine requirements may change at any time and may result in unanticipated delays and additional costs. If you travel, you must be prepared to accept these unknown risks. Many requirements will be imposed by other nations and are beyond the control of the Canadian government.

Until travel returns to normal, it will be important to stay informed about the rules you or your visitors will have to follow.

Those planning on having visitors from outside Canada, or those returning to Canada, should consult www.travel.gc.ca/returning for the latest information. Requirements will likely be different depending on your mode of travel, port of entry, and the purpose of your trip.

Any Canadian travelling outside Canada should download the ArriveCAN app on their phone and register themselves at www.travel.gc.ca/register so that the Government of Canada can be aware of your whereabouts and get you critical information if needed. In the past, those registered have been prioritized for assistance abroad.

Any Canadian abroad can receive 24/7 emergency assistance by emailing sos@international.gc.ca or by calling collect to 613-996-8885. Those in need of assistance should call directly if possible.

Finally, while the COVID situation in Canada is improving, this is not the case in many countries. Anyone travelling is always advised to consult the Government of Canada travel advisories for their destination at www.travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories.



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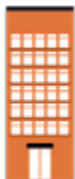
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