

The Acorn

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BCGEU Strike

By Wren Mister-Mercer



BCGEU

The sound of car horns and chanting workers has become the new rhythm of British Columbia's streets as the BCGEU strike continues. Since the 72-hour strike notice on the 29th of August (and official striking on September 2nd), over 25,000 B.C. General Employees Union workers have been striking five days a week for the past seven weeks. 470 picket lines have appeared in over 20 ministries, agencies, and crown corporations throughout the province.

In January of this year, negotiations began for a new collective agreement, due to the current one expiring in March. The BCGEU is asking right now for a 4% wage increase per year of a two-year deal, and the government countered with 2% per year for two years. With this disappointing offer, the

vote to strike was launched. With an astonishing 92% of workers voting in favour, this has resulted in the longest service workers' strike in B.C. history. Union leaders have said that this isn't just about better wages; it's about ensuring fair treatment.

While citizens' reactions have been mixed, the general workers' consensus is dedicated to their cause and hopeful for a better offer from the government soon. Some people have been frustrated by the closures, specifically B.C. Liquor stores and delays caused by this, yet most fully support the BCGEU workers in their push for higher wages to match the cost of living.

As the strikers continue and negotiations persist, the outcome remains uncertain; the BCGEU workers' determination has inspired many unions to re-examine their agreements, sparking new waves of provincial change for many.

Ceasefire Declared Between Palestine and Israel

By Ava Navaee

A ceasefire between Palestine and Israel was announced on the 10th of October 2025. This is the 3rd attempt at a ceasefire this year, and the first successful one. The conflict has seen a recent escalation, including the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas, which led to a brutal response by Israel. This response has been categorized by the United Nations as genocide against the Palestinian people for the past two years. Water has been scarce, and food non-existent. But the conflict between Palestine and Israel did not



ChatGPT

CometAPI

ChatGPT may seem like the best implemented development that has happened to the world, but in reality, it hides a disturbing truth.

According to numerous websites, ChatGPT has been using significant amounts of water for cooling down its systems. The impact is small, but the combination of people who use it is way more horrifying than you think. Nearly 292 MILLION gallons of water is being consumed by ChatGPT YEARLY. That's about 10 to 15 million people's daily use of water. But that's only the tip of the iceberg.

The amount of people who rely on ChatGPT is astronomical; nearly 2.5 billion people use this site every single day. That means even if it's as little as 1 question, we are still technically relying on the AI. This fact takes in recognition that we are declining in critical thinking, originality, and many other useful and impactful skills. Another negative influence of ChatGPT is the misinformation it can spread. While not corresponding to ChatGPT directly, it is still massively underestimated how many people see its creation, being spread all over the internet like wildfire.

This is also used for academic dishonesty. About 93% of the questions it receives are academic-related. This doesn't only affect academic work, it also affects job

start only 2 years ago, the forceful and violent relocation of Palestinians from their homes has been happening since 1948, with full movement restrictions put in place in 2007 by the Israeli government on the Palestinian people. The Gaza Strip has been considered an open-air prison by multiple human rights organizations.

This is the first time there has been any real hope for the Palestinian people. This ceasefire is the only one that has actually stuck this entire year, with results already appearing.

Following the ceasefire, Israel is allowing minimal food and humanitarian aid to come into the Gaza Strip, and the hostages are being released. The 21 remaining Israeli hostages were released, and 1,900 out of the 11,000 Palestinian prisoners have also been released. Though this ceasefire is amazing news, it only means a pause in military attacks and some easing of blockades. Restrictions on movement, control over borders, and political disputes will remain, causing the oppression and occupation of the Palestinian land and people to unfortunately continue. A long-term political solution is necessary to guarantee a peaceful life for both sides.



The Guardian

applications, and causes job displacement with its intelligence. Your chats may not even be safe, as they can be sold to advertisements meaning there might not even be any privacy between you and ChatGPT. Its manipulative journey, and its advancement, shows how scary it is and how it can negatively affect everything it touches. Including you.



NPR

million Americans applied for these enhanced subsidies, and around 92% percent received them. That 24 million is up from the final year of President Donald Trump's first term in 2020, when the number of applicants was 11.4 million. These subsidies provide the necessary help to many millions of Americans who require assistance paying for their healthcare. As the Republican lawmakers in the Senate and the House try to pass the new government funding package, Democrats are holding firm and insisting that the enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies be extended past the end of this year, when they are due to expire. Along with these subsidies being extended they would also like to see healthcare funding that was cut in the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," restored. Republican lawmakers would like to see the government reopen, then discussions can begin about restoring healthcare cuts and subsidies. As this turmoil consumes Congress, President Donald Trump continues to threaten and order firings of employees from multiple agencies and departments. This tool has never been used by presidents during a government shutdown. A few thousand employees have been laid off from departments such as Health and Human Services, Education, Treasury and Commerce. 1,400 employees at the National Nuclear Security Administration, out of their 1,800, have been furloughed. This leaves 400 workers to safeguard the United States nuclear arsenal, in a time of great international nuclear uncertainty. Early yesterday Chuck Schumer, Democratic Minority Leader in the Senate, proposed an offer of a year of extended subsidies, in exchange for reopening the government. John Thune, the Republican Majority Leader in the Senate, swiftly struck down this measure. Now 10% of all commercial flights have been grounded or delayed in the US due to low staffing of aircraft control positions, who have received multiple blank paychecks. This means more than 1000

Ongoing US Govournment shutdown

By Ewan McKenzie

The government shutdown is still ongoing in the United States, now breaking its 41st day, becoming the longest government shutdown in US history. As the government continues to be shut down, essential services like Airport TSA Checkpoints are understaffed, and hundreds of government employees have been dismissed from multiple departments and agencies. The Republicans and Democrats in Congress continue to heft the blame on each other, as multiple continuing resolutions have failed in the United States Senate. The main sticking point in this standoff are the enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies that were introduced to beef up the Obamacare subsidies for the American public in 2021. In 2025, 24

flights have been canceled, but that number is believed to rise in the next few days, as up to 15% or even 20% of flights could be grounded in the next few weeks. In recent days negotiations have been ongoing between Republicans and Democrats, which sources say are making some headway. Also on Friday the United States Supreme Court has granted an appeal to the Trump Administration, vetoing a lower court ruling that stated the administration had to fully fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This gives Trump the authority to not fund the food benefit program that helps 41.7 million Americans survive per month. The lack of food benefits, flight cancellation, the furloughing of employees and programs being slashed left and right, all make the situation more dire as the days continue to tick by. As the resolve of Senators might be faltering and party members criticize each other constantly, Canadian observers can only sit back and watch to see what happens.

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