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Media monitoring, August 10, 2021, a.m.

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Tuesday, August 10, 2021

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National news

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- [Moderna CEO promises to build an mRNA production plant in Canada \(CKRW 7 a.m.\)](#)
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- [Several southern US governors continue to outlaw mask mandates as cases surge in their states \(CKRW 7 a.m.\)](#)
- [UPDATE: The International Panel on Climate Change has released a new report saying the world is warming so quickly that it's approaching a point of no return \(CBC 7:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [UPDATE: Several southern US governors continue to outlaw mask mandates as cases surge in their states \(CKRW 8 a.m.\)](#)

Monday, August 9, 2021

CBC interviews, 4 to 6 p.m.

- 4:09 I. Gorfinkle, Vaccine Researcher, "Gorfinkle comments on the idea of Universities mandating vaccinations"
- 4:21 S. Kurl, President, Angus Reid Institute, "Kurl talks about a survey warning that many employees are likely to quit if forced back to full time work in offices"
- 4:38 J. McLean, Minister of Education, "McLean recognizes the important work of the Child and Youth Advocate but does not think the Advocate has the legal authority to review a case that is currently under investigation"
- 4:41 A. King, Child and Youth Advocate, "King says the Department of Education does not have authority to determine the scope or timing of Advocate's work"
- 4:44 K. White, Leader of the Yukon NDP, "White comments on the return of the article 'the' in government communications about 'the Yukon'"
- 4:54 C. Weeks, Reporter, *Globe and Mail*, "Weeks talks about reopened border pandemic protocols"
- 5:07 J. Butler, Editor, *The Whitehorse Star*, "Butler talks about the significance of Larry Bagnell's retirement and who might step up as the new Liberal candidate for MP"
- 5:19 G. McBean, Professor of Geography, Western University, "McBean comments on the recent International Panel on Climate Change report and the urgent need for action at every level of government"
- 5:42 M. Mazza, Executive Director, Terry Fox Foundation, "Mazza talks about *Terry Fox: The Power of One* special broadcast"
- 5:51 J. Osler, Reporter, CBC, "Osler covers the challenge of regulating loud vehicles"
- 5:54 J. Hayward, Comedian and Educator, "Hayward talks about trying to find her passion"

Local news

The Vuntut Gwitchin government has extended its COVID-19 emergency declaration (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

The Vuntut Gwitchin government has extended its COVID-19 emergency declaration. Council voted to extend the declaration, which has been in place since November 15th on Friday. Council also revised its COVID-19 emergency order. Under the new order, anyone aged 12 and up arriving on Vuntut Gwitchin settlement land from outside must immediately self-isolate. However, there is an exception for anyone who can prove they've been fully-vaccinated for at least 14 days and anyone who can provide a negative covid-19 test result from within the past 24 hours may also end their self-isolation.

The power is back on to some ATCO Electric customers who had outages along the South Klondike Highway (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

The power is back on to some ATCO Electric customers who got cut off earlier today. ATCO Electric reported outages along the South Klondike Highway, Tagish and Carcross. The company says it was due to a fallen tree on a power line. A wind warning is in effect for parts of southern Yukon. Environment Canada says wind gusts of up to 70 kilometres an hour are expected as a weather front passes through the region. ATCO says crews are patrolling the lines in the Carcross and Tagish areas, watching for any more trouble.

Group finishes walk from Yukon to B.C. honouring children and residential school survivors (CBC online)

A six-week, 2,000-kilometre walk to honour children and survivors of residential schools that began in Yukon ended Monday in Kamloops, B.C., "ground zero for where the truth broke out," says the man behind the Warriors Walk for Healing Nations. [full story](#).

'Very strategic, very bright': Family, friends, leaders remember Kristine McLeod (CBC online)

The Beaufort Delta region is remembering Deputy Grand Chief Kristine McLeod, who died in a car accident on the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway on Sunday morning. [full story](#).

Residential school deaths attract world-wide response (Whitehorse Star)

In May, Velma Olsen, from the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun, put out a request on Facebook for vamps for a project in honouring the remains of the 215 children discovered at the site of the former Kamloops, B.C. residential school. [full story](#).

Deputy grand chief's loss mourned (Whitehorse Star)

The Gwich'in Tribal Council in the Northwest Territories is mourning the loss of its deputy grand chief. [full story](#).

Group finishes six-week walk to honour children, survivors of residential schools (Toronto Star)

A six-week, 2,000-kilometre walk to honour children and survivors of residential schools that began in Yukon ended Monday in Kamloops, B.C., "ground zero for where the truth broke out," says the man behind the Warriors Walk for Healing Nations. [full story](#).

Territorial news

Yukon's Education Minister says the territory's Child Advocate doesn't have the authority to review safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary School (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

Yukon's Education Minister says the territory's Child Advocate doesn't have the authority to review safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary School. However, the Advocate disagrees. Child and Youth Advocate Annette King announced the review last week. It comes after Hidden Valley parents say they were never informed about an educational assistant that sexually abused a student in 2019. Education Minister Jeanie McLean says she respects King's work but thinks any review should wait until a lawsuit over the abuse and police investigations into new reports of abuse are settled. "The Child and Youth Advocate Office does not have the legal authority to conduct a kind of review that has been proposed. It's not the right time, given the active investigations that are happening right now." King says her office is independent from the government and doesn't take orders from them. "Our accountability is to the children and youth of the Yukon, and there was really an opportunity here for the Department of Education to work alongside us to address these serious safety concerns for children." King says she'll continue with her review and hopes the government will cooperate like it has in the past.

An evacuation alert has been lifted for the fire burning near Dawson City (CBC 5:30 p.m.)

An evacuation alert has been lifted for the fire burning near Dawson City. Cooler weather and rain has helped keep the Coal Creek fire from spreading. The fire had grown as large as 7,000 hectares. Fire Information Officer Julia Duchesne says crews managed to create a firebreak to prevent the fire from moving south towards homes and farms. "That cut line is complete, but we'll start taking equipment off of it. And we'll also start removing sprinklers, pumps, hoses, those resources that we've put in place on people's homes and buildings along the highways. We'll start removing that equipment now." Duchesne says officials are still monitoring the fire. She says because of its size, it will likely burn until snow falls.

Evacuation alert near Dawson City rescinded (Yukon News)

Evacuation alerts for neighborhoods outside Dawson City affected by the Coal Creek fire have been rescinded and there is no longer a need for the people there to prepare to leave on short notice. [full story](#).

Yukon reports 9 new COVID-19 cases, issues exposure notice in Whitehorse (CBC online)

Yukon is reporting nine new cases of COVID-19 and issuing one new exposure notice in Whitehorse. [full story](#).

YTA head anticipates smooth return to school on Aug. 23 (Whitehorse Star)

The president of the Yukon Teachers Association expects that returning to school this month will go smoothly. [full story](#).

YG awards \$42.8-M contract for school (Whitehorse Star)

Work on the first new Whitehorse elementary school in more than two decades is moving forward – but the Yukon Party is questioning the latest cost. [full story](#).

Role often misunderstood, children's advocate says (Whitehorse Star)

The war of words over the situation at Hidden Valley Elementary School (HVES) is hardly finished. [full story](#).

Evacuation alert rescinded (Whitehorse Star)

The wildfire evacuation alert issued last Tuesday by the Yukon Emergency Measures Organization for areas near Dawson City has been rescinded, the Yukon government announced this morning. [full story](#).

Hiker's body found after a search in Kluane Park (Whitehorse Star)

It's been a bad couple of weeks for hikers in the Yukon. [full story](#).

YG says it respects the process in vote decision (Whitehorse Star)

The territory's Liberal government has commented on the Yukon Supreme Court's rejection of former Liberal cabinet minister Pauline Frost's election challenge. [full story](#).

National news**Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Tribal Council speaks about his trusted colleague Deputy Grand Chief Kristine McLeod who died in a car crash at 38 years old (CBC 5:30 p.m.)**

The Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Tribal Council says Kristine McLeod was a vibrant, respected member of the community. McLeod died in a car crash yesterday. RCMP say another person was medevaced to Yellowknife for further treatment. McLeod was the Council's Deputy Grand Chief and had just turned 38 earlier this month. Ken Kyikavichik is Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. He's known McLeod since he was a teenager and also spent years working in similar fields before being elected to the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Kyikavichik says he could trust McLeod. "Very bright, very smart, intelligent and would ask the right questions. And it didn't matter who people were, where they were from. She always seemed to know what questions to ask that maybe others hadn't thought of and I think the one thing we're finding on social media right now is just how well connected she was, just how she connected with people at a very personal level." Kyikavichik says McLeod was most passionate about Gwich'in youth, language and culture and ultimately unity.

Canada welcomes back fully vaxxed U.S. citizens, permanent residents (Yukon News)

Canada is once again allowing U.S. citizens and permanent residents back into the country, provided they've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. [full story](#).

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

CBC interviews, 6 to 8:30 a.m.

- 6:14 Audio: J. Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, "Wilkinson comments on the significance of the International Panel on Climate Change report"
- 6:19 Zohreh Gervais, Creative Director, Polycoro Choir, "Winnipeg choir produces emotional recording of Dolly Parton song — together, while apart"
- 6:37 C. Wong, CEO, Planet Mushrooms, "*Small Spaces* segment about growing mushrooms"
- 6:46 A. Ballingall, Politics Reporter, The Toronto Star, "Ballingall comments on the political impact of the International Panel on Climate Change report"
- 6:53 K. White, Leader of the Yukon NDP, "White comments on the return of the article 'the' in government communications about 'the Yukon'"
- 7:19 B. Coulter, Reporter, CBC, "Coulter reports from the arrival of Warriors Walk for Healing First Nations in Kamloops, speaking with the walkers about what motivates their efforts"
- 7:26 J. Dutcher, Musician, "Dutcher talks about putting Cree pride into his music and fashion"
- 7:37 K. McGillivray, Reporter, CBC, "McGillivray talks to people on the street about climate change"
- 7:41 K. Mantyka-Pringle, Conservation Planning Biologist, CPAWS Yukon, "Mantyka-Pringle talks about what can be done about climate change"
- 7:53 P. Karchut, Automotive Correspondent, "*Karchut on Cars* segment about EV cars"
- 8:14 C. Howard, Past President, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, "Howard comments on the International Panel on Climate Change report"
- 8:25 "Excerpt from *Laugh Out Loud*"

CHON-FM interviews, 6 to 9 a.m.

- 8:05 D. Curtis, Whitehorse Mayor, "Breakfast with the Mayor: Council approves new Whistle Bend bus stops and reduced speed limits"

Local news

Whitehorse City Councillors debated development permits and pushed the matter to September (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

Whitehorse City Councillors debated a new bylaw for development permits last night. The bylaw was supposed to be voted on after a third reading, but not all councillors agreed with the timing of the vote. Some Councillors say more time is needed for developers and contractors to provide feedback. And the Councillors question why home builders will need to do the same paperwork as large developers and general contractors. Mike Gau is the Director of Development Services for the city. He says there was a lot of consultation with contractors and home builders, but their participation was low. "The bylaw has been debated in Council, has gone through a public hearing and we really are only hearing stories and concerns that Councillors have heard from members of the industry and public, but not so much directly to the department that could be responding to concerns." City officials say they're not sure what can be done to move the bylaw forward during the busy construction period of August. The matter has been pushed to September.

There is an outbreak of 25 cases of COVID in Haines, Alaska (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

An outbreak of COVID cases in Haines, Alaska, may slow down travellers from there into the Yukon. Canadian land borders open for non-essential travel from the U.S. yesterday. But the Borough of Haines reported 25 confirmed cases amongst residents as of yesterday evening. Carolann Wooton is

with the Haines Emergency Operation Centre. She says people are in quarantine and so far only showing mild symptoms. However, she says local people are worried. "You know, we knew this might happen, right? I mean, as things started opening up and this new variant is so easily transmitted that I guess we just have to go back to basics. We're just reminding people to go back to the things that we did right from the beginning." Wooton says people in Haines miss coming to the Yukon and they hope the outbreak doesn't jeopardise that. Travellers from Alaska must be fully-vaccinated and a negative covid test must be provided before they can cross into the Yukon.

Gwich'in Tribal Council Deputy Grand Chief Christine McLeod passed away unexpectedly Sunday morning (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

Gwich'in Tribal Council Deputy Grand Chief Christine McLeod passed away unexpectedly Sunday morning. She was raised in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. After high school, she moved south, where she studied commerce and financial accounting. She moved to Yellowknife in 2009, where she worked for the territorial government's Department of Finance and Department of Infrastructure for ten years and took on the role of manager of financial planning and budgeting before being elected Gwich'in Tribal Council Deputy Grand Chief. She served as the vice chair of the Yellowknife Gwich'in Society from 2011 to 2020 and as vice chair of the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation from 2016 to 2019. The Gwich'in Tribal Council office in Yellowknife was opened yesterday afternoon for people to gather and support one another.

Warrior Walkers greeted by hundreds as they reach the former residential school in Kamloops (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

[Audio clip of drumming and singing] Drumming and singing filled the air yesterday afternoon as hundreds greeted the Warrior Walkers as they reached their final destination, the site of the former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia. Included in those welcoming the walkers were a group of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations citizens, survivors and descendants. Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Chief Steve Smith said in a statement, this is a journey of healing for our people and for all of Canada. The discovery and acknowledgement happening today brings to light the young lives lost over decades at residential schools and honour survivors and their families who still live with intergenerational trauma today. The walkers left for there over 2,000 kilometre journey from Whitehorse to raise awareness of residential schools on June 26.

Territorial news

Flooding update (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

Yukon officials have lifted an evacuation order for a property on Shallow Bay Road. The property by Lake Laberge was the only one subject to an order as water started to rise across southern Yukon earlier in the summer. Flood warnings remain in place for the southern lakes and Lake Laberge. So do a number of boil water advisories, including one for people with private wells in Carmacks. Water levels at Bennett, Tagish and Marsh Lake are now about 20 centimetres lower than the peaks they hit in July. Lake Laberge is 41 centimetres below its peak in July. Flood responses are still underway.

Yukon's Child and Youth Advocate says the government can't tell her what to do (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

Yukon's Child and Youth Advocate says the government can't tell her what to do. Annette King announced last week that she was launching a review into safety and supports at Hidden Valley Elementary School. It comes after parents say they weren't told about an educational assistant who sexually abused a student in 2019. Yukon Education Minister Jeanie McLean told CBC she thinks the Advocate doesn't have the legal authority to do the review. But King says she doesn't take directions from the Department of Education. King: "The Yukon Child and Youth Advocate is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly, meaning we don't report or receive guidance from a Yukon government department. Our accountability to the children and youth of the Yukon. That's who we

speak for." Hong: King says she'll continue with her review and that she hopes the Yukon government will choose to work with her like it has in the past.

Yukon health officials reported nine new cases of COVID-19 on the weekend (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

Yukon health officials reported nine new cases of COVID-19 over the weekend. The cases were detected between 12 p.m. Friday and 12 pm Monday. Seven of the cases are in Whitehorse, while two are in rural communities. Officials also issued a public exposure notice for the Copper King in Whitehorse. That's for last Tuesday from 4:30 pm to close. There were 44 active cases of COVID-19 in the Yukon as of last night. There have been 633 cases since the start of the pandemic.

Yukon health officials report nine new cases of COVID-19 (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Yukon health officials have reported nine new cases of COVID-19 between Friday, August 6th and yesterday. There are seven new cases in Whitehorse and two new cases in rural Yukon. With recoveries, the active case count is now at 44. Chief medical officer of health Dr. Brendan Hanley has issued one public exposure notice. People may have been exposed to COVID-19 at the Copper King Tavern in Whitehorse on Tuesday, August 3rd, between 4:30 p.m. and closing time. Anyone experiencing symptoms could isolate and arrange for testing.

Environment and Climate Change Canada says the rain is on its way to Yukon again (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Environment and Climate Change Canada says the rain is on its way to Yukon again. Meteorologist Doug Lundquist says the forecast is showing rain with a chance for up to 20 millimetres if the conditions are right. "So I don't see any massive ridges coming to Yukon any time soon. So, you know, we'll have to enjoy the good days between the bad and just hope that the rain doesn't accumulate so much that it's going to affect those lakes that are already a bit too high." Lundquist says the forecast shows the rain starting the latter half of the week, with the potential to continue into early next week.

Yukon's Premier issues a statement remembering Gwich'in Tribal Council Deputy Grand Chief Christine McLeod (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Yukon's Premier has issued a statement in response to the passing of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Deputy Grand Chief Christine McLeod, Sandy Silver says McLeod focussed on health, safety and building capacity within the Gwich'in nation. He adds that McLeod will be sorely missed across the Northwest Territories and the Yukon as she was the champion who worked tirelessly for the Gwich'in people.

Yukon's Chief Electoral Officer says the recent Yukon Supreme Court decision validates the integrity of the electoral process (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

Yukon's Chief Electoral Officer says his office has been working on a matter that a court ruled on last week. The Yukon Supreme Court threw out a petition from former Vuntut Gwitchin MLA Pauline Frost. The court ruled a vote cast by special ballot was valid. Max Harvey is the Chief Electoral Officer. He says the court affirmed the work Elections Yukon has been doing to make voting more accessible. "Beyond removing physical barriers, there are many psychological barriers that cause some people to not vote. So many groups are underrepresented, especially those that are marginalised. Youth are one, people that are homeless." Harvey says Christopher Schafer, an Indigenous man, fits that bill. Schafer voted by special ballot from the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Frost's petition contested Schafer's vote, saying it didn't meet residency requirements to vote in the Vuntut Gwitchin riding. Harvey says the court's decision validates the integrity of the electoral process.

Government speeches, reports and ads will again refer to Yukon as "the Yukon" (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

Big news for fans of the word "the." The article is once again a part of official Yukon government communications. The change was originally an NDP promise during the spring election campaign. Leader Kate White admits it's not the most important issue. But she says it's one that's important to many Yukoners. "You know it comes down to identity and how we feel about ourselves and how we present ourselves to the world." The change doesn't affect the Yukon's legal name, which remains Yukon. But from now on, government speeches, reports and ads will use "the Yukon."

Wildfire evacuation alert for the Dawson area has been lifted (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

The evacuation alert for the Dawson area that was prompted by a wildfire last week has been lifted. Yukon Protective Services say the fire is still burning, but there's a very low likelihood of further spread. And the overall fire danger rating is low. Wildland Fire Management will continue to monitor the situation and notify the public if anything changes.

UPDATE: Yukon health officials report nine new cases of COVID-19 (CKRW 8 a.m.)

Yukon health officials have reported nine new cases of COVID-19 between last Friday and yesterday. There are seven new cases in Whitehorse and two in rural Yukon. With recoveries, the active case count is now at 44. Chief medical officer of health Dr. Brendan Hanley has issued one public exposure notice. People may have been exposed to COVID-19 at the Copper King Tavern on Tuesday, August 3rd, between 4:30 p.m. and closing time. Anyone experiencing symptoms should isolate and arrange for testing.

UPDATE: Environment and Climate Change Canada says the rain is on its way to Yukon again (CKRW 8 a.m.)

Environment and Climate Change Canada is calling for moisture and precipitation throughout the next week and a half. Meteorologist Doug Lundquist says the forecast rain is looking like it will arrive in the latter half of this week. "Friday the 13th into Saturday, so around about the end of the workweek or the beginning of the weekend, I think there is another rain event. And the interesting thing is we've had already about 30 millimetres of rain this month. We usually get only around 35. So, we almost got a month of rain already." Lundquist says there could be another 20 millimetres set to fall in southern Yukon next week if the weather system pushes through the weekend.

UPDATE: Yukon's Premier issues a statement remembering Gwich'in Tribal Council Deputy Grand Chief Christine McLeod (CKRW 8 a.m.)

Yukon's Premier has issued a statement in response to the passing of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Deputy Grand Chief Christine McLeod. Sandy Silver says McLeod was recognised as a strong leader with a passion for education and the happiness of others. She focussed on health, safety, building capacity within the Gwich'in nation. He adds that she worked tirelessly on behalf of the Gwich'in people throughout the North and she will be sorely missed.

National news**BC changes vaccination rules COVID-19 cases spike in parts of the province (CKRW 7 a.m.)**

A spike in COVID-19 cases in some parts of BC has prompted a change in vaccination rules. Provincial health officer Dr Bonnie Henry has shortened the interval by three weeks between the first and second vaccination. Henry says there's a small number of people in the province who have been infected even though they've already been vaccinated. "Most of our cases are people who are younger, and so hospitalisation rates, we know, are less in younger people and we're not seeing increased virulence. So, the Delta doesn't seem to be causing more severe illness in those younger people. So, yes, we are seeing hospitalisations, but there tend to be short lived." Henry says most of those in hospital for COVID-19 have not been immunised.

Moderna CEO promises to build an mRNA production plant in Canada (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel is promising to build an mRNA production plant in Canada. He'll sign an agreement with Federal Innovation Minister Francois Phillippe Champagne in Montreal this week. The specifics where it will be built have yet to be negotiated. Almost half of the \$2.2 billion allocated in the federal budget for reviving Canada's pharmaceutical sectors will go to support companies looking to expand or set up shop in Canada.

REPEAT: Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Tribal Council speaks about his trusted colleague Deputy Grand Chief Kristine McLeod who died in a car crash at 38 years old (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

The Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Tribal Council says Kristine McLeod was a vibrant, respected member of the community. McLeod died in a car crash yesterday. RCMP say another person was medevaced to Yellowknife for further treatment. McLeod was the Council's Deputy Grand Chief and had just turned 38 earlier this month. Ken Kyikavichik is Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. He's known McLeod since he was a teenager and also spent years working in similar fields before being elected to the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Kyikavichik says he could trust McLeod. "Very bright, very smart, intelligent and would ask the right questions. And it didn't matter who people were, where they were from. She always seemed to know what questions to ask that maybe others hadn't thought of and I think the one thing we're finding on social media right now is just how well connected she was, just how she connected with people at a very personal level." Kyikavichik says McLeod was most passionate about Gwich'in youth, language and culture and ultimately unity.

Canada allows US citizens and permanent residents back into the country (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

In national news, Canada is once again allowing US citizens and permanent residents back into the country provided they've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Here's the Canadian Press with details. After 17 months, a ban on non-essential travel across the Canada US border was finally eased at midnight. Though the Americans have yet to lift their limits on Canadian travellers, eligible visitors must live in the US and wait two weeks after receiving a full course of a Health Canada approved vaccine. They must also show proof of a recent negative molecular test for COVID-19 and use the Arrive Can app or online web portal to upload their vaccination details. The US, meantime, hasn't said when it might ease its restrictions on non-essential Canadian travellers at land crossings. Air, sea and rail travellers being exempt.

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh claims that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has gone easy on big polluters (CHON 7:30 a.m.)

And lastly, in international news, the secretary general of the United Nations says a new report must sound the death knell for coal and fossil fuels, raising renewed questions about the long term viability of Canada's traditional energy sector. NDP leader Jagmeet Singh claims that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has gone easy on big polluters and points to green jobs and technologies as essential to solving the problem. "Put a tax, or put a price on the cost of pollution. But that price on pollution exempts the biggest polluters. People ask, what's the point of that? He's shown again and again that he is not committed to fighting this crisis. We have said the only way forward is to make sure workers are part of the solution." The UN scientific report says the earth is heating up so quickly due to human activity that temperatures in about a decade will blow past the level of warming that world leaders have sought to prevent.

UPDATE: Moderna CEO promises to build an mRNA production plant in Canada (CKRW 8 a.m.)

US drug maker Moderna will sign an agreement with the federal government today to start making its COVID-19 vaccine in Canada. The Canadian Press' Mia Rabson has the details. The tentative agreement between Moderna and Ottawa will see the Massachusetts-based company build its first production plant in Canada. The memorandum being signed is just the first step in the process.

Details on where the plant will be and how much it will cost are still being worked out. The agreement is coming on what many expect is the eve of a federal election. And the Liberals have promised to rebuild Canada's decimated pharmaceutical industry. Canada's reliance on imported COVID-19 vaccines when Canadians had to wait last winter, while countries with their own vaccine production got served first.

Canadian Pacific ups its offer for Kansas City Southern to about \$31 billion (CKRW 8 a.m.)

Canadian Pacific is upping its offer for Kansas City Southern to about \$31 billion. That move could reignite a bidding war with rival railroad Canadian National. Kansas City Southern is the smallest of the remaining major US railroads, but it also controls critical cross-border routes with Mexico. The new bid comes ahead of an August 19 vote by Kansas City Southern shareholders on CN Rail offer valued at \$33.6 billion. CP Rail is urging KCS shareholders to reject the deal because of the regulatory uncertainty of its rival's offer.

A look at COVID-19 reopening plans across the country (Toronto Star)

As COVID-19 vaccination rates increase and case numbers drop across the country, the provinces and territories have begun releasing the reopening plans for businesses, events and recreational facilities. [full story](#).

International news

The International Panel on Climate Change has released a new report saying the world is warming so quickly that it's approaching a point of no return (CBC 6:30 a.m.)

The International Panel on Climate Change has released a new report. It says the world is warming so quickly, it's approaching a point of no return. The report says nations must urgently reduce their carbon footprints. It suggests even if the global 1.5 degree reduction target is hit, there will still be intense weather. The report offers a glimmer of hope. There's still a window of time, however small. Chrystal Mantyka-Pringle is with the Yukon chapter of the Wildlife Conservation Society. She says reducing emissions starts at the local level. "Think small and then go big. You can never make drastic changes for any global stressor at international scale." The Yukon Conservation Society's Lewis Rifkind says the report sends a sobering message the Yukon government should take seriously. Rifkind points to industrial projects, namely the Casino mine. "The greenhouse gas emissions that will be associated with that project are huge. So, you know, how do we address something like that?" Rifkind says proposed intensity-based targets in Yukon don't go far enough. He says mines should fall under the carbon tax.

Several southern US governors continue to outlaw mask mandates as cases surge in their states (CKRW 7 a.m.)

Several US governors in southern states continue to outlaw mask mandates and other COVID-19 safety restrictions as cases surge in their states. The Associated Press' Jackie Quinn reports. Texas Governor Greg Abbott is not lifting an emergency order banning governments from requiring mask use or social distancing. But he is looking for out of state health care workers to come help fight this most recent wave of COVID infections. South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster says the Delta variant poses a real threat, but there's no need to mandate masks for schools. "Mandating masks is not the answer. Personal responsibility is the answer. Common sense." McMaster is urging residents to get vaccinated. Arkansas set a new record for COVID hospitalisations. Fourteen hundred throughout the state, 12 children in ICU and eight are on ventilators.

UPDATE: The International Panel on Climate Change has released a new report saying the world is warming so quickly that it's approaching a point of no return (CBC 7:30 a.m.)

A Yukon environmentalist says there's still hope in the report from the International Panel on Climate Change. The report says there are already enough greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere to destabilise the climate for decades, but it says more intense weather patterns are not only the new normal, but likely more extreme and frequent. Chrystal Manyka-Pringle is with the Yukon chapter of the Wildlife Conservation Society. She says the pandemic is an example that when necessary, change can happen. "Where we've actually had significant behavioural changes and we've seen drastic declines in our global gas emissions. So we do have the power to make significant changes, we just have to want to do it." Mantyka-Pringle says change starts at a local level. She says it comes in land use planning, where conservation efforts are top of mind. Mantyka-Pringle says local changes can set examples for other communities and countries.

UPDATE: Several southern US governors continue to outlaw mask mandates as cases surge in their states (CKRW 8 a.m.)

COVID-19 latest surge hitting the US is pushing many hospitals to the brink. ABC News' Andrew Deibert reports. In Arkansas, which just saw the largest daily increase in hospitalisations, only eight ICU beds are available in the entire state. And Mississippi reports zero ICU beds in top level hospitals with 200 patients waiting for a room. One hospital official pleading with the public to only visit the E.R. if you're critically ill. McGraw: The US is averaging about 108,000 new COVID-19 infections a day. The average number of daily deaths is now above 500.

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