If we didn't have bad luck, we'd have no luck.

Evan: WELCOME TO "QUESTION PERIOD". I'M EVAN SOLOMON. ON THE PROGRAM TODAY NEW VARIANT.

WE NEED TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO PREVENT IT FROM ENTERING THE COUNTRY AND BE READY FOR IT IF IT DOES.

How dangerous is the new COVID variant of concern. Will Canada's travel ban affecting 7 countries be effective and do health care workers need protection. We get answers from the doctor of the medical association Dr. CATHERINE SMART.

Inflated programs.

Rt. Hon. Justin TRUDEAU: We are concerned about the rise in cost of living.

Evan: What can the federal government do of high inflation in the short-term, will it derail economic. The minister of family and social development KARINA GOULD joins us and the former governor of the Bank of Canada STEPHEN POLOZ. Plus internal battles.

I look forward to working hard with General EYHR on the most important priority for the Canadian armed forces and as large.

Reporter: General WAYNE EYRE is the new chief of defence staff but can he deal with the culture ripping apart the Canadian armed forces? How does he explain 19,000 current and past military personnel who signed on to class action lawsuit over sexual
MISCONDUCT.
THE NEW CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE
STAFF GENERAL WAYNE EYRE JOINS
US AS WELL.
THIS IS "QUESTION PERIOD".
LET'S GO GET SOME ANSWERS.
WELL, CONCERNS ABOUT INFLATION
AND A DANGEROUS NEW VARIANT OF
THE COVID-19 VIRUS ARE GROWING
THE MOST URGENT THREAT TO CANADA
STILL REMAINS THE FLOODING TO
BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE STATE
OF EMERGENCY THERE.
AS THAT PROVINCE FACES MORE
STORMS THE MILITARY IS HELPING
OUT SANDBAGGING HELPING TO
REPAIR INFRASTRUCTURE.
WHAT IS COMING NOW?
LET'S FIND OUT.
JOINING ME NOW IS CTV'S KEVIN
GALLAGHER IS IN THE PROVINCE.
KEVIN.
>> Reporter: MEMBERS OF THE
CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS HERE IN
ABBOTSFORD HAVE BEEN WORKING
OVER TIME TO TRY AND KEEP RISING
WATER LEVELS AT BAY.
NOW, THE MAYOR HERE IN
ABBOTSFORD ALSO SAID THEY HAVE
DONE ALL THEY CAN TO REPAIR THE
DAMAGE DIKE THAT BURST OF COURSE
NEARLY TWO WEEKS AGO AND STARTED
LETTING WATER IN TO SUMAS
PRAIRIE.
THIS COMMUNITY IS ONE EXAMPLE OF
MANY ACROSS THE PROVINCE THAT
HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE
EXTREME WEATHER THAT REALLY
RESULTED IN CATASTROPHIC EVENTS,
LANDSLIDES, HIGHWAYS OUT, SUPPLY
CHAIN ISSUES, AND ALL OF THESE
THINGS ARE ISSUES THAT PRIME
MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU AND BC
PREMIER JOHN HORGAN TALKED ABOUT
AS WELL.
THEY CREATED A COUNCIL OFSorts
THAT WILL PUT FEDERAL MINISTERS
AND PROVINCIAL MINISTERS AND
MEMBERS OF INDIGENOUS GROUPS ON
BASICALLY THE SAME MEETING BOARD TO TRY TO DISCUSS WAYS TO GET OUT OF THIS CURRENT CRISIS. ALSO PLAN BETTER MITIGATION FOR FLOOD, FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, FOR ADAPTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE THAT CAN BETTER HANDLE MORE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS THAT UNFORTUNATELY MANY CLIMATE SCIENTISTS SAY ARE ON THE WAY. NOW, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT EVERY ONE HERE IS MONITORING, EVAN, WE HOPE OF COURSE THAT MANY OF THE STORMS THAT COME OVER THE NEXT WEEK WILL NOT DEVASTATE COMMUNITIES LIKE ABBOTSFORD AS WE HAVE SEEN SO FAR.

>> Evan: THANKS FOR THAT KEVIN.

MEAN TIME AS THE MILITARY IS ON THE GROUND IN BC THEY'RE ALSO WELCOMING IN A NEW TOP SOLDIER. AFTER MONTHS OF SCANDAL WITHIN THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES GENERAL WAYNE EYRE IS TAKING ON THE PERMANENT ROLE AS THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF.

>> GENERAL EYRE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD IN REFORMING THE CULTURE OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES.

WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE AN INSTITUTION WHERE EVERY ONE WHO PUTS ON A UNIFORM FEELS SAFE AND RESPECTED AND PROTECTED.

>> Evan: GENERAL EYRE HAS BEEN ACTING IN THE ROLE FOR NEARLY A YEAR AND IN THAT TIME THE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CRISIS DEEPENED.

IN FEBRUARY ADMIRAL ART MACDONALD STEPPED ASIDE FROM THE TOP JOB OF SEXUAL ALLEGATION AFTER WEEKS HE TOOK THE JOB. POLICE CONCLUDED HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CHARGE HIM. BUT HE DIDN'T GET THE JOB BACK. THE DEADLINE PASSED OF CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS TO JOIN A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT.
AND GET THIS ALMOST 19,000
PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED ON.
HOW WILL GENERAL EYRE
CONTACT THAT.
JOINING ME THE NEW CHIEF OF THE
DEFENCE STAFF JOIN WAYNE EYRE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO
THE COUNTRY FIRST OF ALL.
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEW
ROLE.
IT'S A TOUGH ROLE.
I SPOKE TO THE MINISTER OF
DEFENCE LAST WEEK.
AND SHE SAID YOUR NUMBER 1 GOAL
IS TO FIX WHAT THEY CALL THE
BROKEN CULTURE INSIDE THE
MILITARY DUE TO SEXUAL
MISCONDUCT.
WHAT IS YOUR MOST URGENT FIRST
THINGS YOU NEED TO DO?
>> SO FIRST OF ALL, THANKS FOR
HAVING ME ON YOUR SHOW.
IT'S TRUE.
CULTURE CHANGE IS RIGHT AT THE
TOP OF THE LIST OF EVERYTHING WE
NEED TO DO TO MAKE OUR MILITARY
A BETTER PLACE.
AND IT'S ASPECTS OF OUR CULTURE
THAT WE NEED TO ADDRESS FIRST.
LET ME BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR.
WE HAVE ASPECTS OF OUR CULTURE
THAT WE MUST RETAIN.
THE WILLINGNESS TO PUT ONE'S
SELF IN HARM'S WAY TO PROTECT
OTHERS.
THE WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE HOME
AND PUT SERVICE ABOVE SELF.
THE WILLINGNESS TO BE PART OF
SOMETHING BETTER.
IT'S THE EXCLUSION THEIR ASPECTS
OF OUR ASPECTS THAT HAVE REALLY
COME TO THE FOREFRONT.
SO BRINGING IN THE VALUE OF
INCLUSION, ASSESSING INCLUSION.
MAKING IT PART AND PARCEL OF
WHAT WE DO EVERY DAY.
LET'S FACE IT, THE FACE OF
CANADA IS CHANGING.
TALENT IS RESIDENT IN DIFFERENT
PARTS OF CANADIAN SOCIETY THAT
HAS BEEN TRADITIONALLY THE PAST.
IT'S A PARADOX THAT AS OUR NATIONAL POPULATION IS GROWING, OUR TRADITIONAL RECRUITING POOL IS SHRINKING.
SO IF WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN THE BEST TALENT FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF CANADIAN SOCIETY, WE HAVE TO EMBRACE THAT VALUE OF INCLUSION.

>> Evan: GENERAL, THE QUESTION IS WHY SHOULD ANYONE IN THE MILITARY OUTSIDE TRUST YOU? AND TRUST HAS BEEN THE BIG ISSUE.
AS YOU KNOW THERE WAS A REVIEW BACK IN 2015 FROM THE FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE MARY DESCHAMPS AND BASICALLY NOTHING IMPLEMENTED.
THERE WAS ANOTHER RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE PHISH SAID NOTHING HAS CHANGED AND NOW ANOTHER JUSTICE ARBOUR DOING MORE RECOMMENDATIONS.
IF THINGS DIDN'T CHANGE IN 2015 WHY SHOULD THEY CHANGE NOW?
>> NOTHING I SAY WILL CHANGE THAT.
TRUST WILL COME FROM TANGIBLE DEMONSTRABLE ACTION ON THE GROUND.
THAT'S WHAT I'M AIMING TO DELIVER, ACTION NOT WORDS.

>> Evan: WHAT WILL THE FIRST ACTION BE?
I KNOW THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE HAS ALREADY SAID ANY ALLEGATIONS ARE GOING TO BE PROCESSED IN THE CIVIL COURT.
NO LONGER IN THE MILITARY JUSTICE TRIBUNAL.
THEY'RE YANKING THAT OUT OF THE MILITARY.
WHAT WILL BE THE FIRST ACTION THAT WILL BUILD THAT TRUST?
>> SO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW WEEKS
A number of initiatives that are going to be discussed in much more detail.
So there's been a tremendous amount of work going on behind the scenes.
You know, whether it's in terms of culture change, whether it's in terms of support for survivors or in terms of justice and accountability.
We can talk about what we're doing with leader selection, what we're doing in terms of changing our military ethos to address the inclusion aspect and address the character that is so necessary going forward.
And character as well as confidence to be trusted to serve.
We can talk about climate intervention teams that we're starting to pilot as we speak.
You know, some of the changes in leadership training that we're going to be bringing in.
The implementation of Bill C-77 and victim's bill of rights streamlining our complaint reporting system.
So many initiatives as I said done going.
The details which we want to get out very shortly.
>> Evan: General, the deadline passed last week for Canadian armed forces personnel past and present and department of finance personnel in a class action suit against the federal government and sexual misconduct in the military.
The numbers are staggering as you know.
Nearly 19,000 people submitted claims.
33% in the last month alone.
I think that's mind blowing number.
19,000 MEMBERS ARE SIGNING ON TO CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.
WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON INSIDE THE MILITARY?
>> THIS NUMBER TELLS US A COUPLE OF THINGS.
FIRSTLY IT SHOWS THE BREADTH AND THE DEPTH OF THE ISSUE AND THE HISTORIC COMPONENTS OF IT.
YOU KNOW, SECONDLY IT SHOWS US THAT PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO COME FORWARD NOW WHICH WE SHOULD TREAT AS A GOOD SIGN.
BUT ALSO AS THEY COME FORWARD, WE HAVE TO APPRECIATE THAT IT'S DIFFICULT AND IN MANY CASES VICTIMS CAN BE RETRAUMATIZED.
BUT THE STATS ALSO SHOW US THAT 42% ARE MEN.
THIS IS NOT JUST A WOMEN'S ISSUE.
THIS IS A CANADIAN ARMED FORCES ISSUE AT LARGE.
AND IT MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE A SEXUAL ISSUE.
IT QUITE POSSIBLY IS AN ABUSE OF POWER ISSUE.
THESE NUMBERS TELL US A NUMBER OF THINGS.
>> Evan: YOU KNOW SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DESCHAMPS REPORT IN 2015 WERE NEVER ACTUALLY DONE AND TALKING ABOUT THE PROSECUTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CASES OF MILITARY TO CIVILIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM.
SIX YEARS AGO RECOMMENDED AND JUST DONE NOW.
WHY DID THAT TAKE SO LONG?
WHAT DOES IT TELL YOU IT TOOK SO LONG.
>> AS WE LOOK AT THE RECOMMENDATIONS I THINK ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ONES THAT HAS NOT BEEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED IS AN INDEPENDENT REPORTING SYSTEM OUTSIDE OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.
>> Evan: RIGHT.
>> I FORONE WOULD WELCOME A SYSTEM LIKE THAT IF IT'S GOING TO INCREASE THE CONFIDENCE OF