

Demand notes for Government rent issued

The Lands Department announced today (May 24) that the following demand notes for Government rent in respect of properties subject to the Government Leases Ordinance (Cap. 40) and certain other properties have been issued:

- (1) in excess of \$100 per annum for the half year ending June 24, 2024; and
- (2) not exceeding \$100 per annum to be paid only once every five years for the five years ending June 24, 2024.

Payers can settle Government rent through various electronic means including autopay, bank automated teller machines, e-Cheque/e-Cashier's Order, the Faster Payment System, payment by phone service (PPS), and bill payment services provided by banks and PPS on the Internet. Payment may also be made in person and in cash or through the Easy Pay System at designated convenience stores. For details, please visit the Treasury's website at www.try.gov.hk.

Payment may be made by sending a crossed cheque to PO Box No. 28000, Sham Shui Po Post Office, Hong Kong, or in person to any post office. Please ensure sufficient mailing time and postage to make sure the delivery is in order. Underpaid mail will be rejected. For locations of post offices and their opening hours, please call Hongkong Post's enquiry hotline at 2921 2222 or visit its website at www.hongkongpost.hk.

Government rent payers who have not received their demand notes should enquire at the Government Rent and Premium Unit of the Lands Department at 1/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong, or call 2231 3033.

Purchasers of properties are strongly advised to instruct their solicitors to ensure that Government rent has been paid to date at the time of purchase. Enquiries on outstanding accounts can be made at 2231 3033 or email to landsd@landsd.gov.hk. An enquiry fee is payable for each property if a written confirmation of accounts position is needed.

Speech by DCS at Canada Day Reception (English only) (with photos)

Following is the speech by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Cheuk Wing-hing, at the Canada Day Reception today (May 24):

Consul General Bedlington (Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao, Ms Rachael Bedlington), Deputy Commissioner Li Yongsheng (Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to be with you here today in honour of Canada Day. We're celebrating Canada Day a little early this year, and for good reason.

The Consul General will complete her Hong Kong posting in just a few days. The Consul General took up her role here in August 2021, following four earlier postings in China. I would like to thank her for being the bridge for Canada and Hong Kong in the past years, particularly for her promotion of the strong business advantages of Hong Kong to the Canadian community.

Our two economies have long worked together, long lived together. Hong Kong is home to more than 300 000 Canadian passport holders. There are also strong networks formed by various Hong Kong-Canadian associations and alumni associations of Canadian universities here.

On the other hand, about half a million people of Hong Kong descent call Canada home.

Such welcome sharing has long made for rewarding business and investment co-operation, I'm pleased to say.

While the pandemic put a brake on our bilateral trade these past few years, Hong Kong was still Canada's 10th largest export market last year, while Canada was Hong Kong's 27th largest merchandise trading partner in 2023.

And I'm also glad to note that our bilateral trade in services with Canada, which was Hong Kong's ninth-largest services-trading partner in 2022, jumped 16 per cent that year.

We have long invested in each other's businesses and opportunities. At the end of 2022, Canada ranked eighth among the major sources of inward direct investment into Hong Kong with a value of US\$32.8 billion. Over the same period, Canada stood 13th in outward direct investment from Hong Kong, valued at nearly US\$10 billion.

It's not surprising, then, that 112 Canadian companies were based in Hong Kong as of December 2023.

Our financial co-operation is strong and long-standing. Five Canadian banking groups maintain bank branches here, while two others offer local representative offices. Four Canadian banks or corporations have issued Renminbi bonds in Hong Kong. And we are seeing a wide range of issuers. The Royal Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada, for example, have issued Renminbi bonds here.

That's no surprise, given that Hong Kong continues to be the world's largest offshore Renminbi business hub. The continuing expansion of our "Connect" schemes and the mutual recognition of funds between Hong Kong and the Mainland have boosted Hong Kong's offshore Renminbi business, deepening mutual access between the Hong Kong and Mainland financial markets.

Given Hong Kong's pivotal role in the Greater Bay Area, and the opportunities we offer throughout China, thanks to our "one country, two systems" framework, I am certain that Canada's banking and financial sector in general will become more and more visible in Hong Kong.

It helps that Hong Kong's ties with the 10 member states of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and, increasingly, with the nations of the Middle East, are growing.

There's no shortage of promising opportunities in Hong Kong. What we need is strategic talent. We're working on that, too.

The Top Talent Pass Scheme, introduced nearly 18 months ago, is designed to attract high-income earners and graduates of the world's top universities.

It's doing just that and it may interest you to note that Canada is the scheme's second-largest contributor. As at end-April 2024, the number of successful applications from Canada is 708.

Hong Kong is also committed to becoming Asia's events capital. Earlier this week, the Government announced its calendar of mega-events for the latter half of this year. In the first half of 2024, we held more than 100 major events and expect a similar total for the last six months, beginning with our inaugural Chinese Culture Festival, taking place from June to September.

For the year as a whole, we expect some 1.7 million visitors. A good start, I'd say.

In the first quarter of 2024, Canada was the fourth-largest source of long-haul visitors to Hong Kong. Given that the passenger traffic at Hong Kong International Airport is expected to fully recover to the pre-pandemic level by the end of 2024, I'm confident that we'll see a further rise in Canadian travellers to this city.

Hong Kong treasures its deep and long-standing relations with Canada, in business and investment, education, culture and people-to-people bonds, and so much more.

Ladies and gentlemen, the first of July is a very special day, as it is Canada Day and also the Establishment Day of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. I wish you all double happiness on this special occasion. Happy Canada Day.



Fraudulent website and phishing emails related to Tai Sang Bank Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Tai Sang Bank Limited relating to a fraudulent website and phishing emails, which have been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the website or emails concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Employers, contractors and employees should be aware of electrical safety

at work during rainstorm

As the rainstorm warning has been issued by the Hong Kong Observatory, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and contractors that they should adopt necessary work arrangements and take suitable safety measures to protect the safety of their employees when they are carrying out electrical work or handling electrical plant.

A spokesman for the LD said today (May 24) that employers and contractors should avoid assigning employees to carry out electrical work (like electric arc welding work) or handle electrical plant at places affected by rainstorms, and should refer to the "Code of Practice in Times of Adverse Weather and 'Extreme Conditions'" and the "Guide on Safety at Work in times of Inclement Weather" issued by the LD.

Even if electrical work is carried out or electrical plant is handled at places not affected by the rainstorm, suitable safety measures must still be adopted to prevent electric shock as the air would be more humid. Such measures include:

- (i) Ensure that all live parts of an electrical installation are isolated from the power supply source and rendered dead, and the isolation from the power supply source must be maintained as long as electrical work is being carried out;
- (ii) Before carrying out any electrical work or handling any electrical plant, cut off and lock out the power supply source, then test the circuit concerned to confirm it is dead and display suitable warning notices, and issue a work permit thereafter;
- (iii) Ensure that protective devices (such as suitable and adequate fuses and circuit breakers) for the electrical installations or electrical plant have been installed and maintained in good working order, and portable electric tools must be double-insulated or properly earthed;
- (iv) Provide suitable personal protective equipment such as insulating gloves and insulating mats for employees; and
- (v) If live electrical work is unavoidable, a comprehensive risk assessment should be conducted by a competent person and the appropriate safety precautions should be taken to remove or properly control the electrical hazards involved before such work can proceed.

In addition, employees should co-operate with the employer or contractor to follow the safety instructions and use the safety equipment provided.

The LD has published guidebooks and leaflets on electrical work safety. These safety publications are available free from divisional offices of the department or can be downloaded from its website (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_8.htm).

Should there be any questions about occupational safety and health matters, please contact the Occupational Safety Officer of the LD at 2559 2297.

Public urged to report flooding

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

Members of the public are advised to report any street flooding that comes to their notice to the Drainage Services Department by calling the 24-hour drainage hotline on 2300 1110.