

# Prince Harry starts new life with Meghan in Canada

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● Making money without seemingly cashing in on royal connections has proved tricky for others

## Vancouver

Prince Harry was spending the first full day of his new life in Canada yesterday after jetting in from Britain to join his wife Meghan following their shock exit from their royal roles.

Harry, 35, landed at Vancouver International Airport on a British Airways flight from London Heathrow shortly after 7:00 pm on Monday (0300 GMT Tuesday).

He then took a connecting flight to Victoria on Vancouver Island, where he and Meghan have temporarily set up a home from home, having spent six weeks on the Pacific west coast over Christmas with their baby son Archie.

British newspapers published pictures of Harry, escorted by security, descending from the plane wearing a beanie hat and jeans with a bag slung over his shoulder.

Meghan, 38, was earlier spotted with Archie taking their dogs for a walk in the neighborhood.

According to local reports, the couple are looking to buy a beachside house in Vancouver, or possibly in Toronto, where US former television actress



Prince Harry attended his last duties in London on Monday

Meghan spent several years while acting in the legal drama series "Suits".

## 'No other option'

Harry and Meghan are bowing out entirely from representing the monarchy, in a crisis that has shaken the centuries-old institution.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex openly said they have struggled in the spotlight since their wedding in May 2018, and were seeking to step back as frontline royals.

Harry said Sunday that they did not want to quit their royal duties but reluctantly accepted there was "no other option" if they wanted to cut loose from public funding and seek their own income in pursuit of a more independent life.

On Monday, Harry, who is sixth in line to the throne, attended the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London.

He seemed in good spirits as he met the presidents of Malawi and Mozambique, and the Moroccan prime minister.

He also had an informal

20-minute private meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who hosted the event -- which might be one of the prince's final engagements as a working royal.

## Price of freedom

Under their new arrangement, the Sussexes are free to earn their own commercial income -- but can no longer represent Queen Elizabeth or be referred to as their royal highnesses, and must repay taxpayers' money spent on their UK home.

They will no longer receive public money -- though 95 percent of their annual funding comes from his father Prince Charles' hereditary estate for the heir to the throne.

To what extent that will continue, and who will cover their security bill -- currently met by the British police -- remains to be seen.

The couple intend to raise their own income streams. They have launched their new Sussex Royal website and trademarked the name.

However, Queen Elizabeth's



Meghan Markle visited a charity called Justice for Girls in Vancouver last week



Tall trees shield the view of Meghan and Harry's temporary estate in Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada

senior advisor on heraldry suggested they should not be allowed to use the royal moniker, having relinquished their public duties.

"I don't think it's satisfactory. One cannot be two things at once. You either are (royal) or you're not," Thomas Woodcock, the Garter King of Arms, told The Times newspaper.

Woodcock said the final decision would rest with the sover-

eign but he was giving his personal opinion.

In a role that dates back to the 15th century, he is involved in making sure that royal symbols are not used illegitimately for commercial purposes.

"It is such unusual times that it is a matter of waiting and seeing how things develop," he said.

Meanwhile Britain's Justice Secretary Robert Buckland said there must be a "line of delineation" over who foots their security costs.



Like Britain, Canada is a Commonwealth realm, meaning Harry's grandmother Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state

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## Milking it

Harry and Meghan have pledged to uphold 93-year-old Queen Elizabeth's values in any commercial arrangements they strike.

Making money without seemingly cashing in on royal connections has proved tricky for others who have sought a life outside the Windsor family business.

The Daily Mail newspaper said Tuesday that Peter Phillips was using his connections to sell milk on Chinese television, holding up a glass in front of a stately home.

The sports and entertainment agency director is the Queen's eldest grandchild and son of her only daughter, Princess Anne.

Harry's first cousin, 42, is 15th in line to the throne but has never held a royal title or carried out public duties for the royal family.

"It may be lucrative, but it's undignified," the Daily Mail said.

"Harry and Meghan should take note."

# China says virus spreading between humans as WHO set to meet

Reuters, AFP | Beijing

The death toll from a mysterious flu-like virus in China climbed to six on Tuesday as new cases surged beyond 300 and authorities fretted about the added risk from millions of Chinese traveling for the Lunar New Year holiday.

Round the world, airports tightened screening of travelers from China as officials confirmed the coronavirus strain is contagious between humans.

The World Health Organization (WHO) called a meeting for Wednesday to consider declaring a global health emergency.

The outbreak, which began in the central city of Wuhan, also sent shivers through financial markets as investors recalled the fallout from China's Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2002/2003 that it initially covered up.

The SARS coronavirus killed nearly 800 people then.

"We'll stay at home during the holiday. I'm scared as I remember SARS very well," said Zhang Xinyuan, who had been bound from Beijing for the Thai resort of Phuket before she and her husband decided to cancel their air tickets.

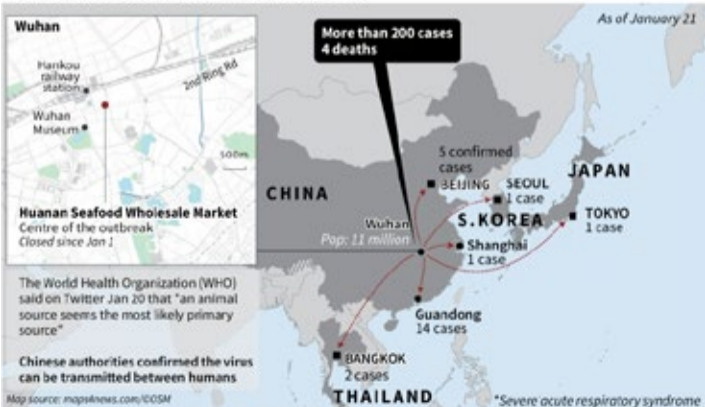
Authorities have confirmed more than 300 cases in China, mostly in Wuhan, a provincial capital and transportation hub, where the virus may have originated at a sea food market.



A seafood market in Wuhan has been identified as the centre of the outbreak

## China SARS-like virus

Novel SARS-like coronavirus confirmed in four countries



The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Twitter Jan 20 that "an animal source seems the most likely primary source". Chinese authorities confirmed the virus can be transmitted between humans.

There have been six deaths in that city, Mayor Zhou Xianwang told Chinese state television on Tuesday.

The virus has been spreading around other parts of China,

however, including five cases in the national capital Beijing. Fifteen medical personnel are among those infected.

Abroad, Thailand has reported two cases and South Korea one, all involving Chinese travelers

from Wuhan. Japan and Taiwan also confirmed one case each, both nationals who had been to Wuhan.

"Information about newly reported infections suggest there may now be sustained human-to-human transmission," said WHO's regional director for the western Pacific, Takeshi Kasai.

Taiwan, the self-ruled island that China claims as its own, on Monday set up an epidemic response command center. More than 1,000 beds were prepared in isolation wards in case the virus spreads further.

## Outbreak linked to a market

Though the origin of the virus was yet to be identified, WHO said the primary source was probably animal. Chinese officials have linked the outbreak to

Wuhan's seafood market.

The virus can cause pneumonia, with symptoms including fever and difficulty in breathing. As those symptoms are similar to many other respiratory diseases,

extra screening is needed.

"The outbreak of a SARS-like coronavirus in Wuhan is developing into a major potential economic risk to the Asia-Pacific region now that there is medical evidence of human-to-human transmission," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia Pacific Chief Economist for IHS Markit.

So far, the WHO has not recommended trade or travel restrictions but such measures could be discussed at Wednesday's meeting.

China's National Health Commission will also give an update at a press briefing at 10 a.m. (0200 GMT) on Wednesday.

## Rush for masks

Airports in the United States, Australia and across Asia have begun screening passengers from Wuhan.

In the city itself, officials have been using infrared thermometers to screen passengers at airports, railway stations and other passenger terminals since Jan. 14.

The Lunar New Year is a major holiday for Chinese, many of whom travel to join family or have a foreign holiday.

Images of long lines of people queuing to buy face masks were circulating widely on Chinese social media.

Some online vendors were limiting sales of masks and hand sanitizers as demand surged. Shanghai city's market reg-

ulator warned it would punish speculators hoarding masks or other products used for preventing diseases, according to the Shanghai Observer, a web publication backed by a Communist Party newspaper.

But Zhong Nanshan, head of the National Health Commission's team investigating the outbreak, sought to ease alarm, saying in footage shown by state television there was no danger of a repeat of the SARS epidemic so long as precautions were taken.

Chinese travel booking platforms from Trip.com (TCOM.O) to Alibaba Group's (BABA.N) Fliggy said they would offer free cancellations on bookings made for Wuhan.



People wearing masks are pictured on the subway in Beijing, China