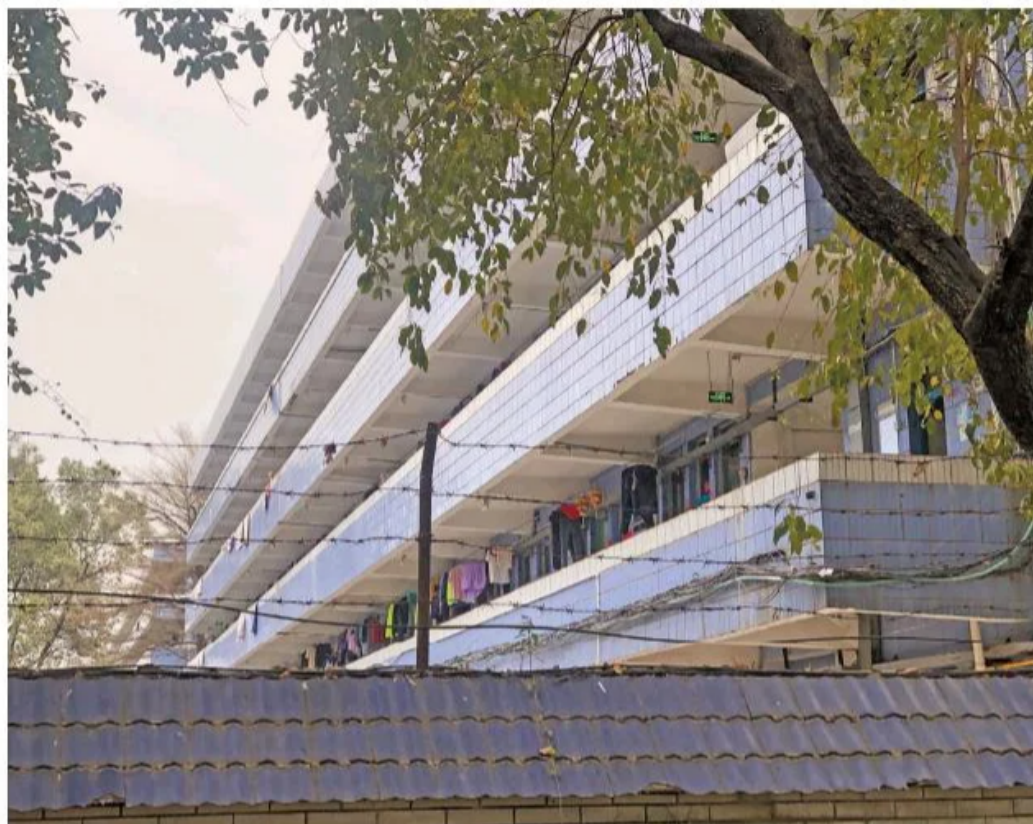


INVESTIGATION

CHINA REMOVES UYGHURS TO DESTROY CULTURE

Authorities have sent hundreds of thousands of Xinjiang's Muslim minorities to factories far away to sever their ties to home and traditional way of life, Chinese government report shows



Labourers from Xinjiang are routinely segregated at the Dongguan Luzhou Shoes Co. Ltd. 'We separate ourselves from them. They have their own dormitories,' said a company employee. 'At work, it's also Xinjiang people working together.' NATHAN VANDERKLIPPE/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

NATHAN VANDERKLIPPE
ASIA CORRESPONDENT
DONGGUAN, CHINA

Chinese authorities have loaded large numbers of Uyghur workers onto trains bound for factories thousands of kilometres away as part of a plan to assimilate Muslim minorities into mainstream Chinese culture and thin their populations in Xinjiang, the northwestern region that has been their home for centuries, an internally circulated research document shows.

Relocating Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minority groups to industrial workplaces "not only reduces Uyghur population density in Xinjiang, but also is an important method to influ-

ence, fuse and assimilate Uyghur minorities," researchers with the China Institute of Wealth and Economics at Nankai University wrote in a detailed report submitted to senior levels of the Chinese government and subsequently obtained by The Globe and Mail. It provides a new understanding of the transfer of Uyghur labour from Xinjiang's Hotan prefecture in recent years.

Government and state media reports, meanwhile, show that thousands of Uyghur workers sent to other parts of China have been enrolled in training programs there that mix Mandarin lessons with instruction by police and Communist Party cadres on the "rule of law" and ethnic and religious policies. The intent is to guide them "to become models of hard work, national unity and law abiding," according to a National Ethnic Affairs Commission

document. Together the documents show that, beneath China's claims that it is seeking to combat poverty in Xinjiang, the government's policies toward Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are designed to sever them from their homes and traditional way of life, moulding them into state-approved members of the "Chinese nation."

Government-organized transfers have now placed more than 600,000 Uyghurs and members of other minority groups from Xinjiang at workplaces in other parts of China, said a Chinese researcher who studies labour transfer from the region.

Hundreds of thousands more have been sent to other parts of Xinjiang. Those workers are on contracts with terms of up to three years, but can return home annually.

PANDEMIC Second wave was deadlier for residents of long-term care homes ■■■

AFGHANISTAN Three women working for local news outlet gunned down ■■■

REPORT ON BUSINESS After worst year in decades, Canadian economy off to a roaring start ■■



LIFE & ARTS

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Check out these new staycation destinations

These seven hotels are opening this spring and summer, from B.C.'s Klahoose Wilderness Resort – only accessible by boat or seaplane – to The Muir on the Halifax waterfront

WAHEEDA HARRIS

Miss the thrill of checking in, room-service breakfast or sinking into a perfectly made bed? This spring and summer, these new accommodations are hoping to lure Canadians to staycation downtown or head into the wild for off-the-grid luxury.

HUMANITI HOTEL, MONTREAL

A new H-shaped, mixed-use high-rise at Montreal's Place Jean-Paul Riopelle is home to this Autograph Collection hotel opening in May. The eighth letter of the alphabet is a recurring influence throughout the hotel, from a sculpture named *Hanima* by Québécois artist Marc Séguin to the 193 rooms in four categories – Hop, Halo, Hibiscus, Harmonie – and the 1,200-square-foot suite Hero. Hotel guests have 24-hour access to a 2,000-square-foot gym with eco-friendly NOHRD equipment made from wood and leather. Executive chef Jean-Sébastien Giguère will oversee the restaurant, lounge and terrace, and Hugo Duchesne, Quebec's sommelier of 2020, will manage a 3,000-bottle wine cellar. (humanityhotels.com)

KLAHOOSE WILDERNESS RESORT, KLAHOOSE FIRST NATION, B.C.

The former Homfray Lodge has been reborn and reimaged by



The off-the-grid Klahoose Wilderness Resort is located on Desolation Sound, a protected marine park at the northern end of the Salish Sea. The resort will begin welcoming visitors in May.

new owners from Klahoose Nation, welcoming visitors beginning in May. Only accessible by boat or seaplane, this off-the-grid resort features a main lodge and cabins and is located on Desolation Sound, a protected marine park at the northern end of the Salish Sea. Greeted with traditional Klahoose songs and drumming, visitors can learn about cedar-basket weaving and wood carving, and during a hike, find out how the Klahoose peoples used different plants as medicine. Wellness options include forest bathing, yoga or stand-up paddling, while the major draw is the resort's coveted access to Toba Inlet and Klite River to see the region's wildlife superstar, the grizzly bear. (klahooseresort.com)

THE MUIR, HALIFAX

From Wallace Quarries limestone to local landscape paintings in all 109 rooms, Nova Scotia style is being distilled into every part of this Autograph Collection hotel,

opening this summer in downtown Halifax. Muir translated from Scottish Gaelic is sea, and that's the guiding light of the design: Lighthouse Fresnel lenses will be used at the entry as a welcome beacon; the wellness centre will include a halotherapy room featuring the therapeutic benefits of salt; and a raw bar will showcase the local catch. A waterfront location means guests can arrive by boat, borrow a kayak or stand-up paddle and indulge in rum sundowners on the deck overlooking the Atlantic. (muirhotel.com)

THE PEARLE HOTEL AND SPA, BURLINGTON, ONT.

Soon to open on the shores of Lake Ontario, this 151-room boutique hotel takes inspiration from Burlington's former cottage area, formerly located in what's now known as Spencer Smith Park. Named for the owners' grandmother (a former cottager here in the 1930s), the hotel sourced vintage cottage photos from the Bur-

lington Historical Society for artwork in the suites and for postage-paid postcards given to guests. The lake has inspired a custom wall mural in the hotel's ballroom; all hotel art is sourced from Ontario artists. The Spa at the Pearle will feature a hammam and pool. (thepearlehotelspa.com)

SONDER AT THE BEVERLEY, TORONTO

A virtual concierge is your host at this property, a hybrid of a hotel and an Airbnb-type rental, guiding guests from reservation to check-out, with additional benefits via the Sonder app to make requests morning, noon and night, whether it's more towels or dining suggestions. The Beverley just opened in Toronto, the fifth Sonder property in the city (Montreal has four, Vancouver has one); they are mainly in condominium buildings. Located on Queen Street West, The Beverley has 18 rooms, each a cosmopolitan pied-à-terre loaded with modern

amenities. Bonus: access to a communal rooftop patio and a street-level coffeehouse. (sonder.com)

THE VERSANTE HOTEL, VANCOUVER

Housed within the new International Trade Centre, this 100-room hotel, opening in late spring near Vancouver International Airport, will feature bold colours, Asian decor and Bruno Restaurant and Bar, helmed by chef Bruno Feldeisen. Versante's private car will be available for complimentary transfers from YVR, and the hotel's tech accessories, including an app, provide contactless check-in, room access and controls for lights, temperature and entertainment. Additional in-room tech treats include a voice assistant, Dyson Supersonic hair dryer and Lululemon's Mirror invisible gym, a video screen giving access to on-demand workout classes. (www.versantehotel.com)

1 HOTELS, TORONTO

The former Thompson Hotel will be reborn this summer as the first Canadian outpost of 1 Hotels, a brand known for its sustainable practices. At this location, 2,000 plants will be featured throughout the 112-room property, locally reclaimed barn wood is part of the design of the public space, and a custom art installation from Toronto's Moss & Lam studio will be featured. The hotel's main restaurant, 1Kitchen Toronto, will source ingredients for its plant-focused menu from within a 50-kilometre radius and its own kitchen garden. California's Madera Group will take over the former Colette space to open Casa Madera offering an organic Call-Mex menu. (shotels.com/toronto)

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