

ESL News for the Week of May 30th, 2016

A. CTV: Elderly, disabled tenants stuck upstairs for days due to broken elevator

The tenants of a rooming house on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside say they've been without a working elevator for eight days in a row. Furthermore, many of them use walkers and wheelchairs. The West Hotel on Carrall Street is home to 110 people, and many are elderly, disabled or mentally ill. They say not having an elevator in their eight-storey building has left many people housebound. This is a big concern for the elderly, people who are disabled or people who have problems getting up and down the stairs. This isn't the first such incident at the West Hotel. Tenants said they went without a working elevator for 108 days last year. They're now worried that the same thing is happening again. Residents living at the rooming house have also complained about a lack of security, no hot water, and mold. In March 2015, a 24-year-old man and a 37-year-old man were killed in a double stabbing in the building. Four days earlier, another man was stabbed in the hotel but survived.

B. CTV: Students host rally for education funding

Parents, teachers, and students rallied in the rain outside the Vancouver Art Gallery on Saturday to urge the provincial government to increase its funding for education. The event, organized by the B.C. Student Alliance, brought student speakers from high schools around Metro Vancouver to address the crowd about their educational experiences. Dakota McGovern, who was the organizer, said that the province currently underfunds education. Furthermore, he maintained that it is designing a new curriculum, and it is not asking for student input. Students should also be the ones that help negotiate what this curriculum should be. The Vancouver School Board recently announced its plan to close many schools in the city to save money. The protesters also voiced concerns about overcrowded classrooms and a lack of support for children with special needs.

C. CTV: BC woman finds bear in her kitchen

A couple living in Lund, BC was in for a surprise when they came across a bear making itself at home in their kitchen. Lund is 120 km north of Vancouver on the Sunshine Coast. Gina Wood and her husband think it's time to start locking doors. According to Gina, the bear opened kitchen doors, sampled foods such as potatoes, almonds, and coconut sugar, ate a whole bag of tortilla chips, and drank all of the dog's water. It also took a bite out of a tomato, but it apparently felt it needed some salt, so it attempted to use the salt grinder with his teeth. For anyone who was skeptical of Wood's story, photo evidence emerged on May 26 when the bear burglar struck again. She told CTV that her husband came across the bear making itself a snack for the second time in one week.

D. Learning English with CBC- May 30: REPORT SAYS CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Dozens of iconic tourist destinations including Venice, Stonehenge and Old Town Lunenburg, N.S., are threatened by risks linked to climate change, from rising sea levels to extreme weather, says UNESCO. Climate change-related threats to 31 World Heritage sites in 29 countries are highlighted in a new report released by UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Program and the Union of Concerned Scientists. There are 1,031 World Heritage sites around the world, representing sites of "outstanding universal value" because of their importance in capturing human cultural traditions, creative genius, history, or exceptional natural phenomena. A study published in 2014 had already noted that 136 World Heritage sites are threatened by rising sea levels over the next 2,000 years. However, the new report also looks at the impact of other threats, including wildfires, increasing temperatures, and droughts.