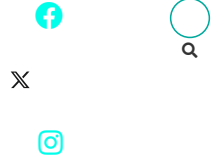




सोमबार, ३ कार्तिक, २०८३ |

Monday, 19 October, 2026



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The Copycat Economy Follows Nepalis Home and Abroad



Dr. Rajendra Panthee

शनिबार कार्तिक १, २०८३ | Saturday October 17, 2026

62
Shares

OPINION

DR. RAJENDRA
PANTHEE

**A community that accepted
both would be healthier than
one that treats every
invitation as an obligation.**

NT Graphics

क्यानेडियनमल्टिकल्चरलकाउन्सिलद्वारानेपालकाबाढीपीडितलाई४८५० डलरसहयोगअन्टारियोलेअमेरिकाबाट ६००मेगावाट बिजुलीकिन्नेसीपयुक्त जनशक्तितयार पार्नक्यानाडाले २५८.६मिलियन डलर खर्चगर्ने

Success spreads quickly through immigrant communities, and it rarely arrives quietly. Someone buys into a franchise, someone else cuts out the middleman and starts importing directly, and a third person quietly picks up a second property. When one person finds a way to earn, others notice. Few of them copy the business because they believe in it. They copy it because somebody already proved it pays.

Anyone from Nepal will recognize the habit, and not only at home. A poultry farm does well, and before long half the neighborhood is raising chickens. Banana farms follow, then educational consultancies, then transportation companies, even though the market never needed that many of any of them. The reasoning was easy to follow. The first person made money, so

the rest assumed they would too. Eventually. Maybe.

Copying a working business is not a problem in itself. The problem arrives when the honest version stops paying, because that is when people go looking for the version that does. And the version that does rarely announces what it is. It tends to look like a job offer, a sponsorship package, or a ticket to a good night out. Whatever harm follows usually surfaces much later, if it surfaces at all.

The pressure behind this is real, and it is not new. By 2021, more than 7 percent of Nepal's population had gone abroad, mostly to find work, and by 2024 remittances made up about 26 percent of the economy. When



अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विद्यार्थी
घटेपछि
क्यानाडाका
कलेजमा कर्मचारी
कटौती



क्यानाडासँग नेपाल
२४ रनले पराजित



सबैको रोजाइ



The Copycat
Economy
Follows Nepalis
Home and
Abroad



जनप्रतिनिधि हुनु
नागरिकप्रति
जवाफदेही हुनु होः
डा. यज्ञ पौडेल



अल्बर्टाको आमा
नेपाली कुजिनले
जुटायो १ लाख २५
हजार डलरको
सहयोग

leaving is the national plan, people reach Canada already carrying a blueprint. Some also bring habits from a system where who you know can count for more than what you can do.

In Canada, one early blueprint was the restaurant that existed mainly to hire. The owner files for Labour Market Impact Assessments, brings in workers, and collects money from them. Hiring through an LMIA is legal and often necessary. Charging workers for the job is not. Where that line gets crossed, the arrangement starts to look less like employment and more like debt. A worker who has paid \$30,000 for a job cannot simply walk away if the job turns out badly, and that inability to leave is what makes the arrangement dangerous. Reporting in Alberta described workers paying \$30,000 or more in illegal fees, and Ottawa has said employers cannot charge recruitment fees and can face penalties of up to \$1 million a year and a ban from the program. Most employers follow the rules, though only 10 percent of the 1,435 employers inspected in 2024–25 were found non-compliant. No public data show which communities are involved, and this is not a Nepali problem alone.

Ottawa has been tightening for a while now, refusing low-wage LMIAs in high-unemployment areas and capping low-wage hires. As the restaurant route narrowed, the instinct simply moved to the next gap.

Real estate followed a similar path, one licence spreading to cousins and then to friends from the hometown. Student consultancies grew the same way until Canada capped study permits, and students who had paid for a future were left holding the risk.

Some of the money moves more quietly, and it often looks like celebration. A promoter brings a singer from Nepal and sells tickets, tables, sponsorships, and places in the entourage. The first show pays well. The eleventh still gets organized. On the night, none of it looks wrong. The harm, where there is harm, happens offstage, in the arrangements nobody in the audience sees.

Hiring through an LMIA is legal and often necessary.



अल्बर्टा

जनमतसङ्ग्रहः

पहिलो दिनमै १

लाख ७४

हजारभन्दा बढी

मतदान



अल्बर्टाको प्रतिष्ठित

‘यङ्ग लिडर अवार्ड’

नेपाली भाषी युवा

कमल खतिवडालाई



विचार/ब्लग



पूर्वसूचनाको एक

घण्टी: विपद्

जोखिम

न्यूनीकरणमा

क्यानाडाको पाठ र

नेपालको यथार्थ



जलवायु अन्यायको

मारमा नेपालः

विश्वले जिम्मेवारी

कहिले स्वीकार

गर्ने?



मानव शरीर र

आत्माको यात्रा अनि

पुनर्जन्म – एक

शास्त्रीय र वैज्ञानिक

विश्लेषण



जलवायु अन्यायको

Here the pattern starts to bend back on the community. Concerts, film screenings, and social organizations have multiplied, and the same friends and well-wishers are now asked to sponsor event after event, often for \$200, \$500, or \$1,000. Not everyone can give, and not everyone can attend. What makes it worse is that the pool of sponsors has not grown with the number of organizers drawing on it. When board members raise funds themselves, the burden lifts. When they don't, a relationship starts to feel like an invoice.

Letterheads work a little differently, though the logic underneath is the same. A stamp, a title, a letter from a community body, all of it carries weight, because in an immigration file a letter like that can look like proof of belonging. Directors have reportedly resigned over the misuse of their organization's letterhead. What was being sold in those cases was not a service. It was a signature, dressed up as a donation.

Concerts, film screenings, and social organizations have multiplied, and the same friends and well-wishers are now asked to sponsor event after event, often for \$200, \$500, or \$1,000.

Of all the examples, award nights reward the closest look. On the surface they do exactly what they promise, celebrating Nepali achievement and giving people an evening to be proud of. The organizer who reportedly had to resign afterward tells us something the celebration was not designed to show: that there were arrangements underneath it the audience never saw.

Recently, Nepal Touch broke a news examining a proposed Professional Achievement Award Canada 2026, planned for Toronto. The paper asked who would sit on the jury, how contribution would be measured, why a Kathmandu company should judge Canadian achievement, and where the sponsorship money would go. Packages ranged from \$500 to \$5,000 against a stated budget of \$17,100. Hosting such an event is not wrong in itself. The question was legitimacy.

चेपुवामा नेपाल



हाम्रो समाज
डिस्टोपियन बन्दै
गएको हो?



साहित्य/रचना



पुस्तान्तर



क्यानेडियन
साहित्यकार एन
कार्सनलाई
साहित्यतर्फको
नोबेल पुरस्कार



म को हुँ?



प्राचीन आदर्श
शासन प्रणाली :
अतीतको ऐनामा
वर्तमान शासन



बगेको देश, जागेको
मन



जगत



क्यानेडियन

The proposal named Nepal's ambassador to Canada as chief guest, and NRNA's president appeared among the special guests. Both then stepped back in public. The ambassador said he had never accepted. NRNA Canada said it was not involved, and in its press release its president recalled only a meeting in Kathmandu where the Toronto event came up, with no date or role agreed.

Three readings are possible here, and only one of them requires anyone to have acted in bad faith. Organizers may have borrowed respected names to give the event weight, knowing a name on paper often matters more than a signature. Or the names were approached, stayed quiet long enough to be useful, and then decided that refusing outright carried more risk than silence. The third possibility is the one nobody says out loud. The ambassador and the NRNA president never accepted and never declined. They let the question sit. From the organizers' side, silence looks close enough to consent to keep the name in the document. If no one objects before the event, the association exists without anyone ever having to say yes. Then Nepal Touch published its questions, the calculus flipped, and staying quiet began to look like endorsement. Distancing became the safer move, and it was honest too, because nothing had ever been formally agreed.

In a community like ours, that ambiguity is the whole currency. Nobody has to lie. A name carries weight simply by appearing, and everyone holding one is deciding how long to let it sit there. A letterhead and a board title are not just social capital. In the wrong hands, they are instruments, because they let a private arrangement look like an official one. The people most exposed to that are usually the ones with the least room to ask questions, which is how the pattern survives.

Distancing became the safer move, and it was honest too, because nothing had ever been formally agreed.

मल्टिकल्चरल
काउन्सिलद्वारा
नेपालका
बाढीपीडितलाई
४८५० डलर
सहयोग



अन्तरियोले
अमेरिकाबाट ६००
मेगावाट बिजुली
किन्ने



सीपयुक्त जनशक्ति
तयार पार्न
क्यानाडाको २५८.६
मिलियन डलर खर्च
गर्ने



अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विद्यार्थी
घटेपछि
क्यानाडाका
कलेजमा कर्मचारी
कटौती



च्यारिटी कपको
उपाधि एलए
गुराँसलाई,
संकलित रकम
बाढीपीडितलाई



अन्तरंग

The community house plans show what happens when a good idea runs into the same problem. A temple and a community house belong to the same family of needs, and a community that builds either one is better off than one that builds neither. The proposal from Pashupatinath Temple was a serious version of that idea. But the honest version of a community house costs money nobody had, so the idea split into competing appeals. Nepal House. NRNA House. Three in total, with whispers of a fourth. Each one came with its own board, its own fundraising, and its own claim to speak for the community. Ask why there are three instead of one, and the answer is not a plan. It is guilt, applied directly to the people who can least afford to say no. That is what happens when a worthy project has no funding behind it. The guilt does the work that money was supposed to do.

There is an irony here worth sitting with. Many people leave Nepal to escape a system that rewards patronage over performance, and some rebuild that system in Canada, only with Canadian letterheads. The setting changes while the logic stays.

The costs fall on workers who borrowed for jobs that did not exist, on students sold futures nobody planned to support, and on honest organizers whose invitations are now doubted. None of these excuses the people running the schemes. It does explain why so many of them are people who tried the honest route first and found it didn't pay.

Tighter rules alone will not fix that, because loopholes are a symptom. The deeper cause is that legal routes are slow, regular paths are narrow, and honest options are few, while the number of desperate people is large.

Ask why there are three instead of one, and the answer is not a plan. It is guilt, applied directly to the people who can least afford to say no. That is what happens when a worthy project has no funding behind it. The guilt does the work that money was supposed to do.



'देश छाडेर हिंडेको दिन निकै रोएको थिएँ'



'विदेशका नेपालीलाई लगानी गर्ने वातावरण तयार गर्नुपर्छ'



'प्राकृतिक रुपमा नेपाल राम्रो, सामाजिक रुपमा बेलायत'



'आमा सम्झिएर भक्कानिन्छ मन'



'२६ वटा देश घुमिसकेँ, नेपाल नै राम्रो लाग्छ'

Blaming entrepreneurs misses the point. The fixes that would actually help are narrower than a lecture. Enforce the fee ban against the people who charge, instead of letting the penalties stay theoretical. Make awards and organizations publish who judges them and who pays, so money and legitimacy stop hiding behind a letterhead. Widen the honest pathways, because a community with few ways out will keep copying whatever worked for someone else, schemes included. That is the copycat economy. Its hardest feature is that from the inside, the blueprint always looks like a way out.

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हाम्रो टिम

एडिटर

बेनुप भट्टराई

एक्ज्युकेटिभ एडिटर

जयराम गौतम

हाम्रो बारेमा

'नेपाल टच' विश्वभर फैलिएका

नेपालीभाषीलाई मातृभूमिसँग जोड्न

भूमिका निर्वाह गर्ने मिडिया प्लेटफर्म

हो। यसले नेपाली मनहरूलाई जोड्दै

अपनत्वको हातेमालो गराउन

सदैब प्रयास गर्नेछ।

सम्पर्क

९८५२०२९८८८, नेपाल

६४७९९५७६६०, क्यानाडा

✉ लेख/रचना/समाचार पठाउने हाम्रो इमेल

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