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CBC

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Service message...For years now, foreign observers who have visited Havana, Cuba have commented on the city's rundown look - the lack of paint, the holes in the street, and so on. Now all this is changing...here is the story:

Canadian PM Trudeau Will Visit Cuba in January 1976

RB-128

When Prime Minister Trudeau makes his announced visit to Cuba next month, he will find a renovated city of Havana. For months now, Cubans, men and women, both paid and volunteer, have been painting the city, and planting trees and flowers, and repaving streets. Canadian tourists who visited Cuba last year and have now returned all comment on the Havana's new look. Empty lots have been cleared of rubble and rocks and made into gardens, and little forests. Walls and fences have been painted in a bright psychedelic array of bright colors. Every Sunday, Cuban citizens on every block sweep their streets, cut the grass and plant bushes and flowers. This weekend some Canadians have pitched in to help. Canadian professors, who work through the Canadian University Service Overseas here in Havana, are painting, planting and polishing alongside Cubans at the University of Havana engineering school.

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Over the past years, foreign observers often commented on Havana's ~~run-down~~ Havana has now made a good start at what they hope that Cubans call "urban reanimation" and Mr. Trudeau who will be the first Canadian prime minister to visit Cuba since the beginning of the Cuban revolution will take due note of Havana's new look.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC radio News.

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Havana's Paint-Up.
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