

{ WILDFIRES }



Trees burned in the 2016 blaze circle a neighbourhood in Fort McMurray, Alta., on Wednesday. A new fire had consumed nearly 21,000 hectares near the town by Wednesday afternoon, with thousands told to evacuate. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still shaken by last escape, Fort McMurray residents anxious to avoid repeat

CARRIE TAIT FORT McMURRAY, ALTA.
ALANNA SMITH CALGARY
KELSEA ARNETT CALGARY
HANNAH LINK TORONTO

This time, Nancy Grant is ready. She lives in Waterways, Fort McMurray's original townsite and a community prone to fires and floods. She and her husband, Glenn, lost their home to the 2016 wildfire that torched roughly 2,400 houses in this northern Alberta city. They had about 20 minutes to get out.

Now, she keeps three emergency bags – one for her, one for Mr. Grant and another for their adult son who has special needs – in a cargo box on the top of their Cadillac Escalade, always. She has three months' worth of medicine on hand. And when fire started to threaten Fort McMurray this year, she packed more bags.

"My nerves are just shot," Mr. Grant said

Wednesday afternoon in the yard where they rebuilt their home in Fort McMurray. "The PTSD is still strong. Especially if you have kids or grandkids."

The Fort McMurray fire had consumed nearly 21,000 hectares by Wednesday afternoon, and was about 5.5 kilometres from the city's landfill to the south. Officials ordered about 6,000 people out of four communities Tuesday, although locals believe plenty of other residents outside the evacuation zones also left, trying to avoid a repeat of the treacherous escape through ash, embers and smoke of eight years ago. The rest of the city, along with surrounding communities, are on evacuation alert.

Forest fires are burning in several areas in Western Canada, which has been stricken by a lingering drought. In British Columbia, close to 5,000 people in Fort Nelson and surrounding areas, including the Fort Nelson First Nation, have been out of their homes since Friday.

■ WILDFIRE, A15

Slovak PM's shooting puts increasingly divided Europe on edge

CASSANDRA VINOGRAD
ANDREW HIGGINS
RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA
BANSKA BYSTRICA, SLOVAKIA

An assailant shot Prime Minister Robert Fico of Slovakia, who is known for defying his fellow leaders in the European Union, multiple times at close range Wednesday, in the most serious attack on a European leader in decades.

Mr. Fico was shot after emerging from the House of Culture in Handlova, a town in central Slovakia, as he greeted a small crowd in Banikov Square. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, then airlifted to another hospital for emergency surgery.

Hours later, the Deputy Prime Minister, Tomas Taraba, told the BBC that Mr. Fico's situation was no longer life-threatening, and that he expected the Prime Minister to survive.

The shooter, identified by Slovak news outlets as a 71-year-old poet, was immediately wrestled to the ground by security officers.

Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok said at a news conference that Mr. Fico was shot five times and that the initial evidence "clearly points to a political motivation."

Asked to name the attacker, he said, "Not today."

The attempted assassination stoked fears that Europe's increasingly polarized and venomous political debates had tipped into violence.

Mr. Fico began his three-decade political career as a leftist but over the years shifted to the right. He served as prime minister from 2006 to 2010 and from 2012 to 2018, before returning to power in elections last year. After being ousted amid street protests in 2018, he was re-elected on a platform of social conservatism, nationalism and promises of generous welfare programs.

■ SLOVAKIA, A7

Kingston man's heart restarted for U.S. transplant after bittersweet push from parents

KELLY GRANT
HEALTH REPORTER

For Lorraine and Derk Sherren, the unexpected death of their 40-year-old son was crushing enough on its own, but the tragedy felt compounded when the couple heard it wouldn't be possible to donate his heart to someone in need.

The barrier to a heart donation was the fact that Robbie Sherren, a Special Olympics bowler who suffered an aneurysm in late April, fell just short of meeting the strict criteria for brain death as he lay in an intensive-care unit in Kingston. His pupils occasionally constricted when a light

was shone in his eyes. He had no other signs of brain activity, and no hope of recovery.

A patient who isn't officially brain dead can still donate organs after life support is withdrawn and his heart has ceased beating for five minutes. But, in Canada, a heart stopped in that fashion had never been reanimated for transplant – until Robbie's grieving parents prevailed upon Kingston Health Sciences Centre to make it happen.

On May 7, after a whirlwind 24 hours of planning, the Kingston hospital granted emergency privileges to a team of American doctors toting a machine the Sherrens called the "heart-in-a-box," a device that restarted their son's heart outside his

body and kept it warm and pumping until the organ could be transplanted into the chest of a patient in the United States.

Robbie "would have been ecstatic" to know his heart was the inaugural Canadian donation, Derk Sherren said. Robbie donated blood 121 times in his short life. His mother donated a kidney to his father.

In the days since Robbie's donation, the hearts of two other Ontario patients have been reanimated for transplant in the U.S. using the same portable equipment, according to Vivek Rao, the surgical director of mechanical circulatory support at the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre, part of Toronto's University Health Network.

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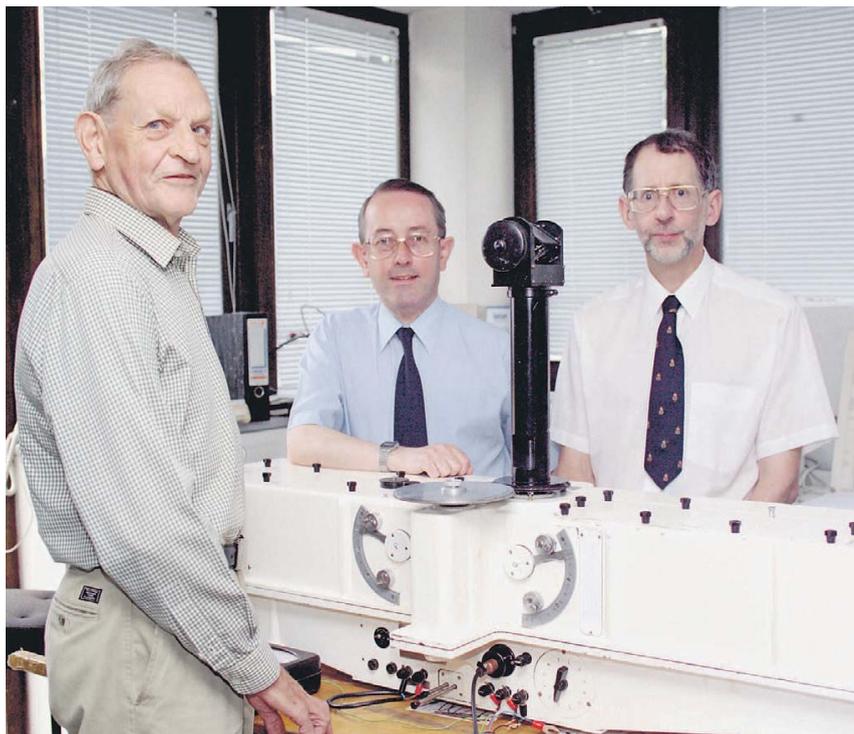
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MOMENT IN TIME

MAY 16, 1985



CHRIS GILBERT/BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY

SCIENTISTS ANNOUNCE DISCOVERY OF ANTARCTIC OZONE HOLE

In the early 1980s, few scientists were concerned about what chemical pollutants might be doing to Earth's ozone layer. Predictions based on atmospheric models suggested the effect was negligible at the latitude of the southern United States. Then came the wake-up call. With the help of a device called a Dobson ozone spectrophotometer, a trio of researchers with the British Antarctic Survey discovered that something very different was happening in the stratosphere closer to the South Pole. There, ozone levels had dropped by about a third relative to the historic average. Together, Joseph

Farman, Brian Gardiner and Jonathan Shanklin (pictured here in 2003) concluded that chlorofluorocarbons – a class of chemicals used as refrigerants and in aerosol spray cans – were to blame. Their findings were published in the journal *Nature* on this day in 1985. Soon after, satellite data showed the “ozone hole” was continental in scale and a serious problem because of the ozone layer's role in screening harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. The discovery became the catalyst for the Montreal Protocol, a global agreement finalized in 1987 to ban CFCs. IVAN SEMENIUK

COLUMNISTS

KONRAD
YAKBUSKI

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FIRST
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OPINION

Fairness does not need to come at the expense of economic growth, nor do they need to be mutually exclusive ■ B4

Art-loving geologist believes the Mona Lisa's mysterious backdrop is Italian city Lecco

ALEX FRASER LECCO, ITALY

More than 500 years after Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa*, an academic believes she has unravelled the mystery about the backdrop to one of the world's most famous works of art.

Art historians have long debated its landscape, speculating on the locations that could have inspired Leonardo, but the geologist and Italian Renaissance specialist Ann Pizzorusso thinks she has pinpointed it to Lecco in northern Italy.

“When I came to Lecco, I realized he had painted the *Mona Lisa* here,” Ms. Pizzorusso said, speaking of the small town on the shores of Lake Como, hitherto best known as the setting of Alessandro Manzoni's masterpiece novel *The Betrothed*.

According to the scholar, the arched bridge depicted in the painting would correspond to the 14th-century Ponte Azzone Visconti, even though previous theories had related it to similar structures in other Italian cities, such as Arezzo and Bobbio.

Ms. Pizzorusso is not the first person to have claimed to have solved the mystery, but she cites her knowledge of geology to back her claims.

“The bridge to me was not the important aspect of painting,” Ms. Pizzorusso said. “In the other hypotheses the geology was just incorrect.”

The geologist found that rock formations in Lecco were limestone, which matched what is depicted behind the noblewoman.

“When you look at the *Mona Lisa*, you see this part of the Adda River, and you see another lake behind it, which are perfectly shown underneath these sawtooth mountains,” she said from the spot where the scene could



Geologist and Italian Renaissance specialist Ann Pizzorusso, top, found that rock formations in Lecco were limestone, which matched what is depicted in the backdrop of the *Mona Lisa*, above. ALEX FRASER/REUTERS (TOP); CHRISTOPHE ENA/ASSOCIATED PRESS (ABOVE)

have been painted. Ms. Pizzorusso's research on Leonardo “shows perfectly the extent to which the artist and the scientist came together,” said Michael Daley, executive director of ArtWatch UK, a non-profit organization monitoring the conservation of artworks.

“No art historian is qualified to take Ann on in terms of her scientific understanding. The other studies are dead ducks now,” he said.

In B.C. ruling, federal political parties lose bid to keep hold on voter information

Decision could require groups to reveal publicly how much data they are gathering about voters

COLIN FREEZE

Federal political parties have lost their bid to keep tight control over the information they gather about individual voters after a B.C. court ruled they are subject to the investigative powers of provincial privacy commissioners.

The federal Liberals, NDP and Conservatives had argued that B.C.'s privacy commissioner does not have the authority to force them to turn over the data, but in a ruling earlier this week, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Gordon Weatherill disagreed.

The ruling could force political parties across Canada to reveal publicly how much data they are gathering about voters as they compete for electoral advantage.

"The ability of an individual to control their personal information is intimately connected to their individual autonomy, dignity and privacy. These fundamental values lie at the heart of democracy," Justice Weatherill wrote.

The collection of data about individual voters — their names, ages and potentially even their occupations and political leanings — is mostly unregulated by either federal or provincial law. This ongoing regulatory vacuum leaves ordinary Canadians with no established legal right to inquire about how much data is being kept on them by political parties, critics say.

In 2019, three anonymous B.C. citizens tried to change this by petitioning the parties for the release of their data. They also launched a follow-up legal com-



The collection of data about individual voters, which includes names, ages and potentially even their occupations and political leaning, is mostly unregulated by either federal or provincial law. GRAHAM HUGHES/CP

plaint with the province's Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, an entity that has recourse to some of the strongest provincial privacy laws in Canada.

But the three federal political parties banded together and hired lawyers to argue the privacy commissioner's investigation could not go ahead because federal entities are not subject to provincial privacy laws.

Justice Weatherill rejected that argument, ruling the B.C. privacy watchdog's powers do extend to federal political parties. This oversight function is vital because political parties are getting more sophisticated in terms of collecting data about who may vote for their candidates, he

found. "The rapid advancement of technological tools allowing for the harvesting of private information for the purpose of profiling and micro-targeting voters has created risks of misuse of personal information," Justice Weatherill wrote. His ruling says that federal laws leave this issue unaddressed.

"The Parliament of Canada has not yet taken any significant action. The Legislature of the British Columbia has."

The federal political parties have the right to appeal.

"We are currently reviewing the decision," said Parker Lund, a spokesman for the federal Liberal Party.

NDP spokeswoman Alana Ca-

hill said in an e-mail her party is also reviewing the ruling. But she added that privacy laws need "to be uniformly applied across the country" and that "allowing provincial bodies to determine how federal political parties operate in different jurisdictions will create a patchwork approach across the country that is unmanageable."

In 2019, a B.C. review of data by the province's privacy commissioner found that provincial political parties kept some surprisingly detailed records about voters. Database fields went beyond voters' names, addresses and phone numbers and included records about their jobs and workplaces, ethnicities, marital status and social-media handles. At times,

even "issues of interest to the individual" and their "ease of persuasion" was among the information noted.

Jim Balsillie, who founded the Centre for Digital Rights, said his group funded the legal challenge. He said federal parties may keep records at least as detailed as those found to be collected by B.C. political parties.

"This is an exceptionally important ruling because we finally have a beachhead here of transparency," said Mr. Balsillie, who is best known as the former co-CEO of Research in Motion (now named BlackBerry).

In an interview he said that artificial intelligence could accelerate political surveillance in Canada and that it behooves federal political parties to reveal more about their data-gathering practices.

"It's troubling we live in a country where political parties are so contemptuous of the basic privacy rights of Canadians," Mr. Balsillie said. "What are they trying to hide?"

University of Victoria political-science professor Colin Bennett said that the B.C. ruling may inspire better federal laws or lead other provinces to tackle political parties' use of data in their own privacy legislation.

"It's a very, very strong statement of privacy rights, a strong statement that the provincial law should apply here," he said.

In an e-mailed statement, lawyers Bill Hearn and Young Park, who acted for the complainants, said that the federal political parties have 30 days to file a notice of appeal. If no appeal is filed, B.C.'s privacy commissioner could proceed with its investigation of the 2019 complaint from the voters.

In a statement from the commissioner's office, Noel Boivin said the commissioner is consulting with its legal team to determine next steps.

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Putin looks to use China trip to shore up support from Beijing

The visit comes during a major Russian military advance in Ukraine, turmoil in Gaza and new U.S. tariffs against Chinese imports

JAMES GRIFFITHS
ASIA CORRESPONDENT
HONG KONG

ANALYSIS

A week after he was sworn in for a record-breaking fifth term as president, Vladimir Putin is travelling to China to visit another leader who seems poised to rule for life, Xi Jinping, as both men continue to face down Western pressure to end their “no limits” partnership struck ahead of the war in Ukraine.

Mr. Putin’s two-day visit – which begins on Thursday – comes amid a major Russian military advance in Ukraine, global turmoil over the conflict in Gaza and tough new U.S. tariffs against Chinese electric vehicles and other imports, to which Beijing has vowed to respond with “all necessary actions.”

“It is a continuation of a long-term trend, another step towards a greater consolidation of the China-Russia strategic alignment,” said Alexander Korolev, a senior lecturer in politics and international relations at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Last year, bilateral trade between China and Russia reached a record US\$240-billion. Russia is now China’s largest supplier of oil, surpassing Saudi Arabia, while China is a key provider of technology such as telecoms equipment and microprocessors, as well as controversial “dual-use” components – non-lethal technologies that can nevertheless be used for military purposes – that Western governments say have made their way onto the battlefield in Ukraine.

During a visit to Europe earlier this month, Mr. Xi got an earful from top officials about this issue, with the EU threatening to follow the U.S. in sanctioning Chinese companies providing dual-use components to Russia.

Those measures – and the threat of further sanctions – do seem to have had an effect, with Chinese exports to Russia down 13.5 per cent in April compared to the year before. But Alexandra Prokopenko, a fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center in Berlin, said Mr. Putin’s visit will provide an ideal “opportunity to brainstorm” ways to bypass restrictions on Chinese exports and Russia’s use of the Chinese financial system.

Mr. Putin is expected to be accompanied by an experienced team from the central bank and finance ministry who are responsible for the Kremlin’s drive to de-dollarise the Russian financial system since 2014,” Ms.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last October. SERGEI GUNEEV/REUTERS

Prokopenko wrote this week. “Their bold moves enabled the country to withstand the initial shock of sanctions and then rapidly switch its financial system from dependency on the dollar and euro to dependency on the renminbi.”

RMB deposits in Russia reached US\$68.7-billion in 2023, exceeding USD holdings, and the currency now accounts for more than a third of Russia’s trade with foreign partners, “from practically zero before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine,” Ms. Prokopenko said.

Joseph Webster, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and author of the China-Russia Report newsletter, said Mr. Putin will be seeking to bolster Chinese exports to Russia in the wake of the new sanctions.

There are ways for trade to bypass these measures, such as through “the creation of shell companies, or shipment via third countries, such as Kyrgyzstan,” he told The Globe and Mail.

Mr. Korolev said it was notable that as well as visiting Beijing, Mr. Putin will also head to Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang, a province in China’s northeast, on the border with Russia.

Both sides have long talked about greater economic co-operation in that region, and that it is included in Mr. Putin’s itinerary “might be an indication that finally this strategy of joint development of Russia’s far east and northeastern China is gaining some practical aspects,” Mr. Korolev said.

He added that with U.S. President Joe Biden retaining tariffs on China imposed during the Donald Trump administration, and adding new ones such as the electric-vehicle measures this week – as well as threats the EU could follow suit – Beijing too will be looking for greater economic co-operation with Russia as it attempts to counterbalance reliance on the West.

Mr. Trump has said he will impose even tougher tariffs if he is re-elected in November, but Mr. Korolev said China likely didn’t see too much of a difference between the two men.

“I think in Beijing there is an understanding that the rivalry between China and the United

States is a structural tendency,” he said.

While in Europe this month, Mr. Xi visited two of the continent’s outliers, Hungary and Serbia, both of which have maintained relations with Moscow despite the war in Ukraine. China has also increased trade with other countries antagonistic to the U.S., including North Korea, Iran and Venezuela.

Mr. Xi has presented China – the second-largest economy on the planet – as a leader of the developing world, protecting the interests of smaller countries against Western hegemony. He has advanced a new vision of international relations, via initiatives on “global security” and “global civilization” that seeks to rewrite the post-Second World War order dominated by the U.S. and establish a more stridently anti-interventionist role for the international community and bodies such as the United Nations.

Both China and Russia have supported the expansion of BRICS, which last year agreed to add Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates, along with other alternative multilateral forums such as the Chinese-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which focuses on defence.

During a visit to China last month to set the groundwork for Mr. Putin, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said Beijing and Moscow had also begun discussions on expanding security co-operation in Europe and Asia, to counter what he said were attempts by the United States to impose its will on the region.

In an interview with Chinese state news agency Xinhua ahead of his visit this week, Mr. Putin said the West had “usurped the right to tell other nations whom they may, or must not, make friends and co-operate with, and to deny them the right to choose their own development models.”

“Needless to say, neither Russia nor its partners are happy with this state of affairs,” Mr. Putin said.

China was a key ally in this effort, he added, describing the relationship between the two countries as having reached an “unprecedented level of strategic partnership.”

South African activist aims to save democracy in most unequal nation in world

GEOFFREY YORK AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF
JOHANNESBURG

Zackie Achmat, one of South Africa’s most renowned activists, once helped to save millions of lives by leading the fight for access to HIV medicine. Now he’s trying to save democracy itself.

Thirty years after the country’s first democratic election, a growing number of South Africans have become deeply alienated from traditional politics and parties. In the last national election in 2019, for the first time ever, more than half of potential voters did not even bother to cast ballots.

As a new election approaches on May 29, with the electorate increasingly fragmented and disillusioned, Mr. Achmat is trying something radically new: He is running as an independent candidate. If he wins, he will seek to overhaul the political system in a country where poverty and inequality still run deep.

Mr. Achmat spent his youth as an underground member of the African National Congress, often jailed for his fight against apartheid. In 1976, at the age of 14, he burned down his own school – and was arrested by the police, the first of seven arrests he endured.

Later, in 1998, he co-founded the Treatment Action Campaign, which led a historic court case that forced the government to provide life-saving HIV medicine. He abandoned the ANC in the early 2000s during the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, when the government was still reluctant to supply medicine to the millions who could not afford it.

Since 1994, when apartheid ended, the ANC has won every election – but its vote totals have steadily eroded as voters punish it for its widespread corruption and economic mismanagement.

As the ANC declines, no other political party has managed to capture the enthusiasm of the voters.

About 70 per cent of South Africans are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in their country, opinion polls show. Almost 80 per cent say they cannot trust their leaders, compared to just 20 per cent two decades ago. Many voters have simply dropped out of elections.

Meanwhile, the party system has splintered, reflecting a divided country. In the election this month, an astonishing 70 parties will be on the ballots – including 31 new parties.

Perhaps more significantly, 11 independent candidates are running.

Polls suggest that the ANC could fail to win a majority of votes this time, for the first time since it took power. This would curb its powers, forcing it to negotiate with other parties to seek coalition partners in order to maintain its parliamentary majority.

Mr. Achmat wants to go beyond the politics of coalitions. He argues that the entire party system is breeding discontent. Under the South African electoral system, each party has a list of candidates that it can appoint to Parliament, depending on its share of the vote. But voters have no control over these lists. Appointees to key posts – such as provincial premier – are not disclosed until after the election. MPs have no links to specific constituencies, and every MP’s job is dependent on the whims of the party’s bosses.

If he can win a parliamentary seat, Mr. Achmat aims to challenge all this. He wants to be accountable to the people, not a party. He wants the links between MP and voter to be as direct as possible.

“The deep disaffection with the ANC in its traditional communities has opened up the contestation space,” he told The Globe and Mail in an interview.

“The disaffection with traditional parties is phenomenal. We need to bring people back into politics, and that’s exactly why I’m standing. I’m bringing in people who’ve given up on voting, and people who won’t vote for a political party.”

More than half of South Africa’s population were born after the first democratic election, he noted. For younger voters, apartheid is in the distant past, and the ANC’s fight for liberation is old history. Their daily reality is the spread of state corruption and economic stagnation, with South Africa’s economy still ranked by most measures as the most unequal in the world.

Hobbled by energy shortages and the breakdown of state infrastructure, the South African economy has grown slower than the country’s population for more than a decade, causing a decline in per capita income and a rise in unemployment. “The only reality that younger people see is the downward trajectory of the state, and the inability of the other political parties to do anything about it,” Mr. Achmat said.

“The deep inequality in the country is driving the collapse of the state and the disaffection of the people, and it drives corruption. You have a class of people who wish to become wealthy very quickly, and the state has become the thing to milk. You have a state that has become kleptocratic across most of the country.”

In his battle to get into Parliament, Mr. Achmat might have the best chance of any independent candidate in this election. He is running in his home region, Western Cape province, where he is revered as an activist hero. More than 3,000 volunteers have mobilized to help his campaign.

But while the rules for independent candidates have loosened, the system is still tilted against them. On the election ballot, Mr. Achmat is obliged to seek votes across the entire Western Cape province, competing against 32 political parties, rather than running in a specific constituency. He estimates that he’ll need to gain as many as 85,000 votes to enter Parliament, while a candidate for a political party might only need half as much support.

Because of this imbalance, his campaign needs to raise much more money than a candidate for a political party. So far he has raised about 10 million rand (about \$740,000), and he estimates that he still needs another 2 million rand.

On the campaign trail, he witnesses the dangers of the growing political alienation among ordinary voters. Many parties are now seeking votes with populist schemes: deporting foreigners, abolishing the constitution, or restoring the death penalty.

“The lower the voter turnout, the greater the danger that the country will split and divide itself and turn in on itself, and the greater the risk of authoritarian solutions,” he said.



Zackie Achmat, centre, aims to overhaul South Africa’s political system. RODGER BOSCH/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



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Pharmacare bill to cost \$1.9-billion over five years: PBO

Legislation proposes single-payer coverage for contraceptives and diabetes medications

GABRIELA CALUGAY-CASUGA
OTTAWA

The federal pharmacare plan will increase government spending by \$1.9-billion over five years, according to new findings from the Parliamentary Budget Officer.

The PBO, a non-partisan agent of Parliament, examined costs associated with the implementation of Bill C-64. The legislation, tabled in February, proposes providing single-payer coverage for contraceptives and diabetes

medications.

The office's estimate is higher than costing in the recently tabled federal budget, which was \$1.5-billion over five years. The fiscal blueprint said that the federal government's intent is to work with provinces and territories to "provide universal, single-payer coverage for a number of contraception and diabetes medications."

In the report released on Wednesday, the PBO said its estimate assumes that "any medications that are currently covered by provincial and territorial governments, as well as private insurance providers, will remain covered on the same terms."

The tabling of pharmacare legislation earlier this year ended months of talks between the Lib-

erals and the NDP, who have been working together as part of a supply-and-confidence agreement.

The NDP supports Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's minority government in exchange for a Liberal commitment to act on NDP priority issues in an arrangement designed to be in place until the fall of 2025. Health Minister Mark Holland's office did not directly comment on the PBO report when asked on Wednesday.

"Our primary focus is on passing C-64 legislation so that we can begin the important work to negotiate and sign agreements with provinces and territories that will lay out the precise needs of each jurisdiction," Ministry of Health spokesman Jeff Woodland said in a statement.

Steven Staples, national direc-

tor of policy and advocacy at the Canadian Health Coalition, said the report does not account for money that may be saved as more provinces and territories finalize bilateral agreements with the federal government. Mr. Staples's organization advocates for the improvement of universal public health care in Canada and supports national pharmacare.

Under a single-payer pharmacare system, pharmaceutical purchases for provinces and territories will happen at once, meaning the government will have the bargaining power to negotiate lower prices, Mr. Staples said.

The PBO estimate is within "a similar ballpark" as the money set aside in the budget, he added.

"I don't think [the PBO estimate] is scary at all," Mr. Staples

said. "What's scary is the number of Canadians who aren't able to access medication because they can't afford it."

Statistics Canada reported that in 2021, about one-fifth of Canadians said they did not have insurance to cover any of the cost of prescription medications in a 12-month period. One in 10 Canadians reported not adhering to their prescription, such as by skipping doses or delaying filling prescriptions, because of cost.

Franco Terrazzano, the federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, said Wednesday that he is concerned about the estimated cost for pharmacare. He said he hoped the federal government would take measures to prove to taxpayers it could be fiscally responsible.

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Gilles Blondeau (1940-2023)

One year ago, in May 2023, Optimum's founder, Mr. Gilles Blondeau, passed away.



An actuary with creative thinking and a visionary driven by the desire to participate in local economic growth, Gilles Blondeau founded his actuarial firm in April 1969 with the ambition of creating a global financial group, characterized by its strength. Under his leadership, the firm gradually developed until he realized his dream of building the first and only life reinsurance company in Canada. To this day, Optimum is the only life reinsurer in Canada controlled by private Canadian interests.

In the following decades, Gilles Blondeau and his management team established a life insurance company in France, a life reinsurance operation in the United States, acquired general insurance companies in Canada, and then created information technology and asset management firms in Canada, the United States and in France. They valued expertise, rigour, integrity and a personalized approach.

Actively involved with leaders in Canada, the United States and in France, Mr. Blondeau was also a Board member of large-scale companies. He established lasting relationships marked by trust and had great respect for his employees, clients and partners.

55 years later, Optimum's management team led by Anabelle Blondeau, youngest daughter of the late Gilles Blondeau, remains steadfast in pursuing our shared vision for the future. Grounded in enduring values, we are dedicated to enhancing our clients' financial security through measured growth, ensuring our longevity and stability. We are proud to honor his memory.

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Global Affairs finds contract shortfalls

Department executives tell MPs that report largely points to administrative errors rather than wrongdoing

BILL CURRY
DEPUTY OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF
OTTAWA

A Global Affairs audit found that one in five reviewed contracts did not follow federal rules but department executives told MPs Wednesday that the report largely points to administrative errors rather than wrongdoing.

Three senior Global Affairs officials appeared before the House of Commons government operations committee to answer questions about a recent internal audit of procurement practices.

"The department has been very seized with the results of this audit," said assistant deputy minister and chief financial officer Shirley Carruthers.

That audit report described significant shortcomings, including 19 contracts that did not comply with the Financial Administration Act that governs how officials manage federal spending. The audit is based on a random sample of 100 contracts, as well as an additional sample of 74 vendors selected "based on risks and anomalies" that were identified.

The report lists examples of anomalies, including repeated contracts awarded to the same former public servants; contracts awarded to registered lobbyists; procurement patterns where vendors were awarded several non-competitive contracts; unusual amendments where the value of the amendment is much higher than the original contract value; vendors with unusual or incomplete names; and vendors with multiple vendor names and numbers.

The audit's risk-based sample found three cases of contract splitting, which the report defines as an effort to avoid financial approval thresholds.

The report does not provide

detail on the examples listed and only a small number of specific cases were discussed during Wednesday's hearing.

In one case, officials said a manager approved a contract for coaching services that she benefited from directly. In another case, one manager was found to have been involved with three cases of contract splitting. The issue was raised with the manager's supervisor and mandatory training was approved.

The department's internal audit team said that between April 1, 2018, and June 13, 2023, Global Affairs signed 8,350 consulting service contracts for a total value of \$567-million.

Ms. Carruthers described the identified issues as errors.

"There's nothing in here that actually signals to any kind of wrongdoing, misuse of funds. Nothing to actually indicate that we weren't able to provide value for money for Canadians," she said. "Obviously, it did point to a few, or some, errors that were unfortunate, but I feel very confident that the department now

has the tools and processes in place that we're able to mitigate these risks."

Chief audit executive Natalie Lalonde and director general Daniel Pilon appeared Wednesday alongside Ms. Carruthers.

Global Affairs is responsible for Canada's diplomatic presence, meaning it conducts a large volume of contracting outside of the country.

Conservative MPs on the committee repeatedly challenged Ms. Carruthers's summary of the report's findings.

"You determine there's no evidence of wrongdoing. You may conclude that there's been instances of irregularities, but I view this from a different lens," said Conservative MP Larry Brock. "I view this from the lens of a former Crown Attorney for 30 years. And there are clear examples in my view of criminality here and outright corruption."

Conservative MP Garnett Genuis moved a motion to have Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly appear for two hours to answer questions about the audit.

"The principal point here is that there's this very significant audit, that shows very significant problems of contracting within her department," he said. "Insofar as we have a system of ministerial accountability, I think we should hear from the minister about these matters."

Liberal MP Irek Kusmierczyk said he opposed calling the minister. He then talked until the committee ran out of time, leading the meeting to end without a vote on the motion.

"Nowhere in this study, and nowhere in this report, does it talk about malfeasance, does it talk about misappropriation, does it talk about corruption, does it talk about fraud. It is about strengthening documentation," Mr. Kusmierczyk said.

He said that having Ms. Joly appear would be a misallocation of her time during a period when the minister is dealing with significant world events in the Middle East and Ukraine.

"It harms the work that Canadians need the Foreign Minister to be focused on," he said.

Nobody asked you about a utopia, Mr. Poilievre

CAMPBELL CLARK

OPINION



There's an old joke that political strategists sometimes tell about two campers who see a bear moving toward them.

One of them stops to put on running shoes and the second camper tells him sneakers won't help him outrun the bear. "I don't need to outrun the bear," the first camper says, "I only need to outrun you."

For Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, that's apparently an example to live by. He turns back all the knotty questions about how he would govern if he don't serve to beat up on the incumbent prime minister. He needs only to outrun Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

So when he was asked a straightforward question at a press conference in Vancouver on Tuesday – whether he would, as prime minister, reverse the Liberal government's recent increase in the inclusion rate for capital gains taxes – he dodged.

On the same day, Mr. Trudeau was in Port Colborne, Ont., to announce the location for a new electric-vehicle battery separator plant, part of a series of planned Honda Motor Co. investments subsidized by \$5-billion from the federal and Ontario governments.

The two governments have announced tens of billions of dollars in subsidies for EV supply chain plants, and Mr. Poilievre was asked whether he would cancel Ottawa's investment tax credits. He didn't answer the question. He criticized Mr. Trudeau for other things.

Any political strategist could tell you why. Mr. Poilievre only has to outrun Mr. Trudeau. He wants to talk about the issues he feels he can use to beat his opponent, such as the consumer carbon tax, deficits, bail rules and crime. Reducing capital-gains taxes is a double-edged sword, politically. So are the incredibly costly EV industrial subsidies that promise jobs in swing ridings. So he doesn't answer.

"I always find it interesting when the media comes to me and says, Justin Trudeau has promised a utopia. Are you going to remove his utopia if you get elected?" he said. "Well, let's see this utopia first."

But nobody asked Mr. Poilievre about utopia. He was asked what he would do as prime minister. That's a subject that could be very consequential for Canadians, and not only for scorekeeping in the political context. Mr. Poilievre answers so many of those questions by talking about Mr. Trudeau.

This is where we are in Canadian politics. Mr. Poilievre's Conservatives are 20 percentage points ahead in the latest Nanos Research survey, the prohibitive favourite to win an election that is probably still 17 months away. Ordinary, non-partisan Canadians – that's most of the country – would probably like to hear Mr. Poilievre explain his views on a lot of things. But he figures he doesn't have to outrun the bear.

Mr. Poilievre expresses so many opinions strongly, even courting calculated controversy – for example by declaring he would use the notwithstanding clause to toughen sentencing options for murderers – that it's often surprising that he has no views on many big things.

Last year, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland tabled a budget that outlined \$80-billion in industrial subsidies for green technology, including for electrification for provincial power utilities and green-tech manufacturing. But Mr. Poilievre wouldn't say whether he was for or against all that.

The federal government and Ontario pledged a total of \$28.2-billion to Stellantis and Volkswagen to lure their battery plants. Mr. Poilievre's party has criticized the permits for temporary foreign workers to set up the machinery, but it hasn't said whether it would stop all these subsidies.

That's a pretty big issue, especially while Canada's largest trading partner, the U.S., has plotted a massively subsidized, decade-long industrial strategy. Canadians might want to hear what Mr. Poilievre thinks he might do about all that if and when Mr. Trudeau is no longer PM. But his answer was just a general diss for Mr. Trudeau.

"We always look at Justin Trudeau's many promises and we judge them not on what he says but what actually happens," he said. Then he went on to talk about other things.

Of course, politicians are going to take shots at their opponents. And Mr. Poilievre can't be expected to outline every detail of his platform for governing now.

But let's hope he doesn't spend the next 17 months answering questions about what he would do by pointing to Mr. Trudeau.

Any political strategist could tell you why. Mr. Poilievre only has to outrun Mr. Trudeau. He wants to talk about the issues he feels he can use to beat his opponent, such as the consumer carbon tax, deficits, bail rules and crime. Reducing capital gains taxes is a double-edged sword, politically.



Some Ottawa city councillors who reluctantly backed an increase to development charges on new housing say there are not a lot of options for raising funds to pay for infrastructure. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa council approves development-charge hike despite possible federal funding impact

NATHAN FUNG OTTAWA

The City of Ottawa has approved a bylaw that will increase development charges on new housing construction, which means the municipality could lose out on accessing money from a multi-billion federal infrastructure fund.

At a city council meeting Wednesday, some of the Ottawa councillors said they reluctantly voted in favour of the bylaw, which will add up to \$6,200 to the cost of a single-family home, because there were not a lot of other options at their disposal to pay for city infrastructure – echoing longstanding complaints from local governments that they need new ways to raise money.

"I understand why it's not palatable to raise development charges," Councillor Ariel Troster said. "I understand that the industry is pushing back. But until we have another alternative, this is the tool that we have."

Federal Housing Minister Sean Fraser recently warned cities that increasing development charges would jeopardize their ability to access the \$6-billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund. The fund was announced in last month's budget and includes a condition that local governments freeze development charges as of April 2 for three years.

Such charges are one-time fees levied by municipalities on new residential and non-residential developments used to fund infrastructure such as water systems, public transit, roads and libraries. Provincial legislation mandates cities revisit development charges every five years; the City of Ottawa's bylaw on the matter expires this month.

During Wednesday's meeting, Vivi Chi, the interim general manager for planning, real estate and economic development, told councillors that if the proposed bylaw wasn't approved, the city would not be able to collect development charges at all once the bylaw expired. She said the impact of freezing the charges for three years and not approving the proposed increase would be \$130-million.

"So that would be a big risk for

I understand why it's not palatable to raise development charges. I understand that the industry is pushing back. But until we have another alternative, this is the tool that we have.

ARIEL TROSTER
OTTAWA CITY COUNCILLOR

us to take right now," Councillor Glen Gower said about pausing that sort of revenue, adding that "we don't have full information from the federal government yet."

The new infrastructure fund is among a pair of federal housing programs that require cities and provinces to make changes to density, development charges and other policies in order to qualify for billions of dollars for new housing construction. The other is the Housing Accelerator Fund, which requires cities to end zoning for single-family homes and allow fourplexes everywhere.

Ms. Chi told Ottawa councillors that the development charge increases won't affect the city's ability to access the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Micaal Ahmed, communications manager for Mr. Fraser, declined to comment on the Ottawa council vote and instead pointed to an earlier statement that says the federal government is monitoring developments in the city and the impact it might have on existing agreements.

In a media availability after the council meeting, Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe said he recognized it is difficult to increase development charges while governments are focusing on housing affordability.

"The idea of raising development charges at this time is very challenging for us," he said.

Mr. Sutcliffe added, however, that, "by a significant amount, we are better off increasing development charges to pay for the infrastructure in new communities than we are in accessing the infrastructure funds."

"But we're going to continue talking with the federal government, and I speak with their representatives regularly, and I hope that we'll be able to work something out that will satisfy their concerns."

Ms. Chi said she welcomes further discussion with the federal government on the infrastructure fund once more details emerge.

"We don't know the parameters other than the blanket statement that DCs need to be frozen for three years," she said.

Biden-Trump debates are a gamble for both of the candidates

The matches provide opportunities for each of the presumptive nominees – if they can conduct themselves in a productive manner

DAVID SHRIBMAN

ANALYSIS

Finally, Joe Biden and Donald Trump agree on something.

That something – a set of debates between the two American major-party candidates – provides risks and opportunities for both. And the way the two camps conduct them may actually produce two evenings of value, rather than two episodes of *Survivor*.

The last time the two candidates tangled on the same stage was in 2020. Mr. Trump was the incumbent, Mr. Biden the challenger, and the event had more in common with a WWE wrestling match than a seminar at the Council of Foreign Relations. Now the candidates' roles are the other way around, but the enmity remains the same, perhaps even greater.

The plan – one session next month, the other in September – is as much a break from custom as the debates between vice-president Richard Nixon and senator John F. Kennedy were in 1960. The United States had witnessed important campaign debates before then, but not for the White House. (The sparring between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas in 1858 were for the Illinois seat in the Senate, not the presidency.)

While debates have since become common – there was an interregnum between 1960 and 1976 – the impending Biden-Trump matchups break precedent for their timing, with the first slated to happen on June 27, nearly five months before the actual election. Moreover, it will take place when neither man will technically have been nominated; the formal nominations will be conferred at the party conventions in the middle of the summer.

This arrangement, settled after quiet back-channel discussions, would circumvent the Commission on Presidential Debates, which had scheduled three sessions before large audiences at college campuses. It also would exclude independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whom both campaigns regard as a threat to their success. Mr. Kennedy reacted to the development by saying the two camps were guilty of “colluding” against him to “avoid discussion of their eight years of mutual failure.”

The 2024 debates will be a return to the form of the 1960 debates, which took place in a television studio, without a Greek chorus of supporters applauding or expressing auditory disdain. In recent years, presidential debates have had the atmosphere of playoff hockey, though without the flinging of an octopus or a catfish. The Nixon-Kennedy sessions had an academic feeling, with thoughtful exchanges on foreign policy and economics that had the air of a discussion in the faculty lounge.

Regardless of the format, however, this new round of debates is a gamble for both candidates.

Mr. Biden, facing critiques that he is too old – and, in the characterization of his critics, too mentally infirm to be president – could not plausibly have rejected Mr. Trump's challenge to debate; that would feed into his opponents' narrative. But he clearly is less nimble verbally than his rival and, since he entered the Senate in 1973, has been known for gaffes, run-on sentences and stream-of-consciousness narratives that often have no discernible logical destination.

For his part, Mr. Trump embarks on rhetorical flights of his own that could be a disadvantage if the moderator has the right to cut off his microphone at the end of the specified time period. In both his primary and general-election debate appearances in 2016, Mr. Trump often interrupted his opponents. Under the tentative format of these debates, his mic could be disabled while Mr. Biden speaks.

At the same time, there are enormous potential advantages for the two presumptive nominees.

Mr. Biden delivered a convincing (and, to his supporters, assuring) performance at his State of the Union address this winter, with ad libs that showed him at the top of his game. His team boasted that Americans saw the President's policy fluency and his mental acuity during one of the set-piece speeches of the country's political life. These debates would allow him to display his mastery to an even bigger audience at an event with even bigger stakes.

The stakes are just as great for Mr. Trump, not known for the accuracy of the remarks he makes or for his stage discipline. But if the former president displays competence along with his trademark confidence, and if his performance is modulated and free of grievance, he could convince undecided voters that he has the capacity to act in a manner often described as “presidential.” He also could persuade onetime supporters who have grown skeptical of him – whether for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol, his intemperate rally comportment or his behaviour with women – that he deserves a second chance and a second term.

American presidential debates have shaped the outcome of elections. In 1960, Mr. Kennedy's smooth performance in the first debate – combined with the stage perspiration of Mr. Nixon – convinced many voters that the 43-year-old war hero was suited for the Oval Office. In 1976, the former governor Jimmy Carter deftly parried the attacks of president Gerald Ford, who erred when he suggested that Poland was not dominated by the Soviet Union.

The age issue – critical for Mr. Biden, who is 81, but also for Mr. Trump, at 77 – has played a role in them before, too. In 1984, president Ronald Reagan, at 73 the oldest president to that time, delivered a shaky performance in the first session with former vice-president Walter Mondale.

But Mr. Reagan recovered at the next session, saying of his opponent, who was 56, “I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience.” On the Mondale plane after the debate, it was clear that the Minnesotan knew that he had been defeated, in the debate and in the general election itself.



Police arrested a man on Wednesday after Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico was shot and injured in Handlova, Slovakia. The shooter has been identified by Slovak news outlets as a 71-year-old poet. After being rushed to a hospital and airlifted to another for emergency surgery, Mr. Fico is expected to survive. RADOVAN STOKLASA/AP

Slovakia: Shooting of the Prime Minister is ‘an attack on democracy,’ country's President says

FROM A1

His opposition to military support for Ukraine, friendly relations with President Vladimir Putin of Russia and other positions have put him outside the European mainstream. Like his ally Viktor Orbán, the Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Fico has been a frequent critic of the European Union.

Like Mr. Orbán and Dutch far-right leader Geert Wilders, Mr. Fico has delighted in presenting himself as a pugnacious fighter for the common man, a forthright enemy of liberal elites and a bulwark against immigration from outside Europe, particularly by Muslims.

His critics have accused Mr. Fico of undermining the independence of the news media, opposed his efforts to restrict foreign funding of civic organizations and called him a threat to democracy. They accuse Mr. Fico of seeking to take Slovakia back to the repressive days of the Soviet bloc.

Mr. Fico's political career appeared to be over after his ouster in 2018, but he found new support last year by promoting anti-LGBTQ positions, attacking the European Union as a threat to national sovereignty and opposing the continued supply of weapons to Ukraine.

In his tenure as Prime Minister, Slovakia became the first country to stop sending weapons to Ukraine, though non-military aid continued.

His return to power last year mirrored a wider trend across much of Europe: the decline of support for centre-left and centre-right parties that calmly trad-

ed places after elections and agreed on most things.

The shooting was captured on videos, which show Mr. Fico, 59, approaching a small group of people behind a waist-high metal barrier, when an older man stepped forward and fired a handgun from just a few feet away.

On a video from Radio and Television of Slovakia, a public broadcaster, and verified by The New York Times, five apparent gunshots can be heard.

Like [Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán] and Dutch far-right leader Geert Wilders, Robert Fico has delighted in presenting himself as a pugnacious fighter for the common man, a forthright enemy of liberal elites and a bulwark against immigration from outside Europe, particularly by Muslims.

With the first bang, Mr. Fico doubled over at the waist and fell backward onto a bench as more were heard. Security officers then hustled him into a black Audi several feet away, half-carrying him to the car's rear door.

A post on the Prime Minister's official and verified Facebook page said that Mr. Fico was in “life-threatening condition.” “The next few hours will decide,” the post said. Government officials did not say what part of his body was hit.

There was no immediate comment from the police about the attack, the most serious attempt on the life of a European head of government since prime minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia was assassinated in 2003.

The shooting drew a chorus of condemnation from world leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, who called it a “horrific act of violence,” and Mr. Putin, who lauded Mr. Fico as a “courageous and strong-minded man.”

The President of Slovakia, Zuzana Caputova, whose position is largely ceremonial, said in a statement, “The shooting of the prime minister is first and foremost an attack on a human being – but it's also an attack on democracy.”

Some of Mr. Fico's allies in parliament suggested that his liberal opponents had created the atmosphere for the shooting.

Michal Simecka, the chair of the opposition party Progressive Slovakia, said he shared in the “horror” of the attack but warned against spreading “false information” about the assailant. In a post on the social-media platform X, he stressed that the attacker was not a member of his movement or connected to his party in any way.

Mr. Fico stepped down as prime minister in 2018, after weeks of mass demonstrations over the slayings of a journalist, who was uncovering government corruption, and his fiancée. Protesters said the government was not interested in solving the crime. Several people were later convicted of involvement in the deaths, but a business owner accused of orchestrating them was acquitted.

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A birchbark canoe, top left, made by William and Mary Commanda of Kitigan-Zibi hangs from the ceiling at the new Canadian Canoe Museum. PHOTOS BY FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Canadian Canoe Museum's home designed to 'pull you outside'

The newly opened venue next to Little Lake in Peterborough, Ont., is a worthy, welcoming place to paddle through the country's history with the watercraft

ALEX BOZIKOVIC

ARCHITECTURE



The newly built Canadian Canoe Museum looks as if it is in motion: The building pushes southward toward a nearby creek, two of its walls coming together into a point that resembles a bow cutting through water. Cedar and steel panels on its façade shimmer in the afternoon sunlight.

The museum itself has been on a journey, culminating May 13 with the opening of its new building in Peterborough, Ont. The facility stands on two hectares next to Little Lake, part of the Trent-Severn Waterway, and it includes a boathouse and a long cedar dock where visitors can get their toes wet.

"We're trying to pull you outside," said the museum's director, Carolyn Hyslop, on a recent tour. "The museum has been shaped to show you the collection and also get you right into the water."

That collection, which includes 600 extraordinary watercraft from Indigenous and settler makers, now has a worthy home. The 65,000-square-foot, \$45-million building was shaped by Peterborough's Unity Design Studio. It builds on the rich poetic potential of wood and hide, gunnels and chines, blades and shafts and shoulders.

This is clear inside the front door. Here, beams of glue-laminated fir and curved panels of laminated spruce speak the language of wood and watercraft. A wood-burning fire unfurls the scent of cedar. The ceiling is lined by oak fins; hanging from the ceiling is a birchbark canoe made by William and Mary Commanda of Kitigan-Zibi, upside-down to show its curved ribs. "There is a resonance between the framing of the canoe and of the building itself," says curator Jeremy Ward.

The museum provides a lobby and event space at one end, linked to what will be a newly renaturalized wetland. At the other end a black box provides second-floor exhibition space and safe ground-floor storage for the collection. Visitors can peek through a window to see 500 canoes resting

on custom racks, a glimpse of the depths of the history.

The design was led by Bill Lett and Michael Gallant of Unity, and Mr. Lett says the form and technology of the canoe have inevitably shaped the architecture. "But you don't want to be too literal," the architect cautioned. "The wood in this building is engineered; it's not traditional heavy timber. There are a lot of analogies that aim to celebrate the history of the canoe and how that history has changed."

The institution, founded in 1997, admirably complicates the history of the canoe. This is not only about voyageurs and cottagers and Pierre Elliott Trudeau in a buckskin jacket — though those touchstones of Canadian mythology are present here.

Rather, the CCM's account of the canoe begins with watercraft made and used by precontact Indigenous peoples, and it continues with recent and contemporary canoe-makers such as the Commanda family. "A big piece of the museum's work is not to leave Indigenous stories in the past, but to bring them forward," Ms. Hyslop says.

The museum, which stands on traditional territory of the Williams Treaties First Nations, uses its name in three languages. In the Michi Saagig dialect of Anishinaabemowin it is Jiimaan Kinomaagewin, or roughly "canoe place of learning for all." Exhibition panels, too, are trilingual.

The permanent exhibition, led by Mr. Ward, is admirably well-curated and designed. It takes visitors through the precontact history of water travel across Turtle Island, and the making, trade and fishing practices of a dozen nations. And simply as objects, these demand attention: One 12-metre Nuuh-Chah-Nulth dugout, carved from a single cedar, is an essay in working with nature. Nearby rests a ceremonial canoe from the Gogodala people of Papua New Guinea — different in purpose and decoration, but not dissimilar in its construction.

The exhibition is a fascinating ride. It moves through the history of canoe tripping and recreational canoeing and touches on some heights of competitive watercraft: one of Adam van Koeverden's racing kayaks is on display, and the career of Claudia Kerckhoff-Van Wijkheld gets a warm tribute.

Downstairs, a workshop will allow visitors and school groups to get their hands on canoe-making. Nearby is the boathouse and the dock, where canoes will be for rent and where staff can take visitors out on guided trips in a sheltered cove.

"Anyone who visits here, we hope, will see that connection with the water," Mr. Ward says. "It's one thing to be inside a dark room learning about the history and another thing to be in a canoe." Indeed, the museum's maps of Canada are all oriented with south at the top — a gesture to a different, older understanding of the land in which waterways are in the foreground.

This all makes sense on the current lakeside site. The museum's previous home was in a building where the Outboard Marine Corporation had made, ironically, outboard motors. Expansion plans began a decade ago, and the museum settled on a site next to the Peterborough Lift Lock National Historic Site. The museum launched the design competition in 2016. (Lisa Rochon, The Globe and Mail's former architecture critic, chaired the competition jury.) They selected a proposal from the Irish office Heneghan Peng and Toronto's Kearns Mancini. Construction was set to begin in early 2020. But that effort was sunk — at the very last moment — by unexpected soil contamination and then the pandemic.

The museum changed tack with remarkable speed. They hired local firm Lett Architects (now Unity), and settled on the new site and a smaller building. The building was delivered through an "integrated project delivery" model in which the architects partnered with Chandos Construction and other consultants. The result was remarkably cheap and fast, and the architecture — which is usually a casualty in such situations — survived. Still, it is a shame that the previous scheme had to be abandoned. Heneghan Peng designed a long, curving, single-storey building bermed into the earth along the Trent-Severn Waterway. It would have been among the most interesting new buildings in Canada.

It would have joined another modernist masterpiece in Peterborough: the campus of Trent University, on the Otonabee River just outside of town. Architect Ron Thom delivered a richly sculptural ensemble of

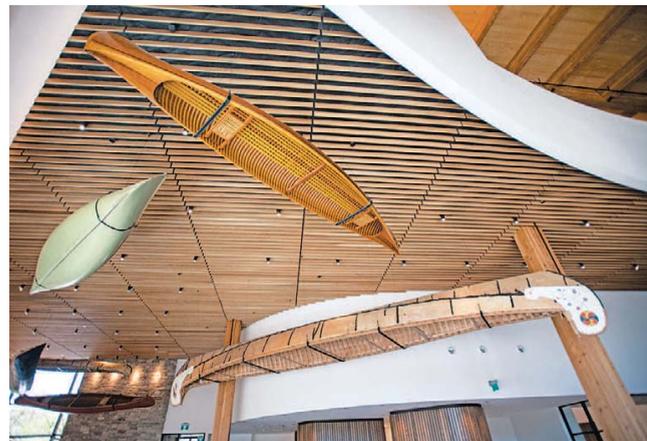
buildings that evoked Oxbridge colleges, Scandi concrete and the Canadian Shield. The designers included Peter Smith and his business partner Bill Lett — Mr. Lett's father and namesake.

Those elders clearly taught the younger generation of designers a thing or two. The new Canoe Museum doesn't enjoy the wild ambitions and endless budgets of 1960s Trent, but it packs in enough spatial creativity and elegant details to honour that tradition. Even the windows to the warehouse, which visually open up the archive to visitors, represent smart architectural thinking.

Many new public buildings in Canada are just mean; this one feels generous and hospitable. Mr. Gallant, the architect, credits the project's success to a heavily local team of tradespeople. "It was like a good old barn-raising," he said. One tree may be enough to make a canoe, but to get it in the water is a collective effort.



The new location includes a boathouse and a long cedar dock where visitors can get their toes wet.



Above: The museum's collection includes 600 watercraft from Indigenous and settler makers, housed in a new facility next to Little Lake.

Below: The new 65,000-square-foot, \$45-million building was shaped by Peterborough, Ont.'s Unity Design Studio.



Above: Carolyn Hyslop, left, director of the Canadian Canoe Museum, and curator Jeremy Ward walk through the museum's collection hall. 'The museum has been shaped to show you the collection and also get you right into the water,' Ms. Hyslop says.

Left: A replica trading post is set up in the exhibit hall. The Canadian Canoe Museum's account of the canoe begins with watercraft made and used by precontact Indigenous peoples, and it continues with recent and contemporary canoe-makers such as the Commanda family.

Below: Expansion plans for the museum began a decade ago, and they had to pivot from a previous site owing to unexpected soil contamination and then the pandemic.



The subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures - Junius

Liberal nibbles that add up to a big bite

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is in full cool-teacher mode in the latest push from the Liberals to sell their tax hike on investment income, but his lesson plan has more than a few holes.

The 3½-minute video released on social media on Monday starts off with Mr. Trudeau, sleeves rolled up and tie loosened, leaning in to tell us about the zany ideas of the ultra-wealthy. “Some people don’t think the richest few should pay more in taxes. Well, I don’t agree with that,” he says with a hint of a conspiratorial smile.

The Prime Minister neglects to mention that the “richest few” already pay more in taxes – a lot more. According to the most recent data from Statistics Canada, tax filers in the top 1-per-cent income group paid 22.5 per cent of federal and provincial income taxes in 2021.

Fair to say, anyone in that income bracket will still have a few dollars left over after the Canada Revenue Agency has gotten its due. But the Liberals conveniently glide past the fact that Canada’s tax system is already steeply progressive.

As well, the richest few may not be quite as few as the Liberals make out. Mr. Trudeau cites the figure in the April budget that said just 0.13 per cent of Canadians, about 40,000 people, will end up paying more taxes under the Liberals’ proposed hike to capital-gains taxation.

(The budget announced a proposed increase in the portion of capital gains subject to taxation to 67 per cent from 50 per cent, for profits above \$250,000 for individuals. There is a lifetime exemption of \$1.25-million available for some small businesses.)

There are a couple of problems with the Liberals’ math. The most obvious is that the annual cohort of 40,000 people is not constant. Over time, the cumulative proportion will be higher. More significantly, the increase in capital-gains taxes applies to corporations, with no \$250,000 exemption. Own shares in a company (either directly, through a mutual fund or a pension plan) that reaps capital gains? Congratulations – you, too, are part of the richest few.

Amping up the class-warrior rhetoric, Mr. Trudeau then speaks to a graph showing the net worth of the richest one-fifth of Canadians rising since 2015. “At a time when the rich are only getting richer, I think it’s fair to ask those people to pay a little more,” he says.

Which would seem reasonable enough, if but for one smidgeon of a problem with his numbers: The rich have not grown richer, relative to everyone else. The proportion of wealth held by that top quintile is exactly the same as it was in late 2015, when the Liberals took office. Sure, the collective net worth of that group rose by 68 per cent in the last eight-plus years. But the net worth of the bottom three quintiles improved by more than that – the second lowest quintile saw its net worth jump by 91 per cent, for instance.

One might think that the Liberals would find reason to celebrate this success, since they seem to view wealth inequality as fundamentally unfair. Or perhaps the Prime Minister didn’t fully peruse the data set in preparing his lesson. In any case, the implication that the “rich” are making out like bandits isn’t borne out by the numbers.

Just as misleading, however, is that seemingly innocuous phrase “a little bit more.” In what world is that an accurate depiction of a \$31-billion tax hike over five years, \$19.4-billion of which goes to Ottawa and the remainder to the provinces and territories?

And that \$31-billion “little bit more” is just the latest in a long series of Liberal not-so-small nibbles that add up to a lot. In 2016, then-finance minister Bill Morneau justified the nibble of a new top tax bracket by saying, “It’s only fair to ask those who can afford it to pay a little more.” There was another nibble of “a bit more” in 2021, when the Liberals promised tax increases on corporations and the wealthy. And another nibble of “a bit more” in 2022, when Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland introduced luxury taxes.

All along the way, there’s been scant discussion about the cumulative impact of tax (and non-fiscal) policies on competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurship. Instead, the Prime Minister offers up wedge-issue fantasies of a privileged class finally being forced to pay its fair share.

What the Liberals don’t understand, or at least won’t acknowledge, is what all of their supposed nibbles add up to: too much.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ACT FAST

Re “Fort McMurray residents ordered to evacuate as wildfire approaches community” (May 15): In 2021, Lytton, B.C., burned to the ground. Floods that fall severed Metro Vancouver from the rest of Canada. Highway 1 near Abbotsford temporarily rested at the bottom of a lake.

Nationally, the tail end of a hurricane flattened parts of the Maritimes. Droughts, floods, wildfires and other natural disasters are increasing in frequency, from coast to coast. Nearly every day, there are multiple news stories of weather-related disasters around the world.

Why is there no national organization in the style of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency? Why is everything so ad hoc, slow and reactive in the aftermath of natural disasters?

Why are governments not systematically learning from past disasters? Why is co-ordination between different levels of government so poor when yet another village, town or city is hit by extreme weather?

■ **John Shepherd** Richmond, B.C.

HEAT IS ON

Re “Carbon challenges” (Letters, May 13): Two letter-writers make a good point: Carbon capture and storage enables the fossil-fuel industry to carry on doing business as usual and continuing to make profit.

I believe there is only one way to reduce Canadian emissions: Burn less fossil fuel. Carbon pricing on its own is not going to do the job.

The root of the issue is a technological development, the invention of an efficient steam engine in 1776 – not economic measures. Continuing development and deployment of technologies is an essential part of the solution to Canada’s emissions. Policies to foster that, including economic measures, should also be essential.

Canada has to put the horse in front of the cart.

■ **John Hollins** Ottawa

Re “Energy-hungry AI models could strain water and power grids. Can the sector handle the demand?” (Report on Business, May 11): It looks like more data centres will be built to meet artificial-intelligence needs, and they’ll use a lot of power and generate a lot of heat. Wouldn’t it make sense for building codes to require they be built so that waste heat can be utilized?

That would include new buildings of all kinds, including greenhouses, public pools or industrial processes that require heat.

■ **Doug Payne** London, Ont.

HOW MANY ZEROES?

Re “Trans Mountain pipeline expansion: a step forward, but at what cost?” (Report on Business, May 15): It seems strange that we accept the \$34-billion price tag of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion with few questions, but we go ballistic on the \$60-million ArriveCan financial shenanigans. The TMX project is more than 500 times that value, but no mention of a forensic audit.

It is the same government managing both projects.

■ **Bill Trussler** Fanny Bay, B.C.

FAIR AND SQUARE

Re “Canadians pay the price of a baroque tax system” (Report on Business, May 13): I see a simple solution to our complicated tax system, and that is to introduce a minimum flat tax applicable to all individuals and corporations in Canada, without any exemptions.

It is a privilege to live and work in Canada. Everyone should contribute their fair share for the well-being of our good country.

■ **Charles Campisi** Oakville, Ont.

GO WEST

Re “Could nurse practitioners fill the primary care gap?” (May 11): For a number of years, British Columbia has operated a thriving public-health program that employs many nurse practitioners throughout the province. My wife and I have been their patients for several years.

I also taught for a number of years at Thompson Rivers University, which offers a full program to train NPs.

■ **John Hart** Kamloops

IN PROTEST

Re “Are the campus protests just noise? A look back at the anti-apartheid movement offers insights” (May 15): The contributor argues for a moral equivalency between the current government of Israel and that of South Africa in the 1980s. I find there is none.

Notwithstanding the horrible predicament that the people of Gaza find themselves in today, drawing parallels between the apartheid regime of South Africa and modern Israel shows me an ignorance of history and the current reality.

I suggest that those who prescribe to such comparisons go back to school and pay special attention to history class – provided there is one.

■ **Jerry Amernic** Toronto

I am old enough to have participated in even earlier movements

seeking university divestment from war-related industries in the United States.

Divesting from South Africa aimed to weaken a pariah colonial state that subjected the majority of its citizens to third-class status, or worse.

Divesting from the U.S. war machine aimed to stop a superpower from dropping napalm on the poor people of a developing nation, in order to prop up a corrupt regime.

I believe divesting from Israel is intended to disarm the defence forces of a multiracial, multiethnic (imperfect) democracy, so that it can be conquered by undemocratic movements and insurgencies. Not the same thing.

It’s easy to follow the virtuous parade and slap on labels. I find it’s much harder to learn granular history and do some difficult critical thinking.

■ **Elaine Bander** Montreal

Like many in Canada and elsewhere, I have been on an emotional roller coaster, oscillating between horror and frustration in the face of daily news from Israel and Gaza. Other than donating to relief agencies that may or may not be able to get through with assistance, what can one do?

Enter our own millennials and Generation Z, stepping up and making a difference. To these (sometimes maligned as “apathetic”) young people, I say thanks for doing the heavy lifting, and may they continue in safety and confidence.

■ **Donald Hall** Ottawa

PROOST!

Re “Canadian soldiers liberate the Netherlands” (Moment in Time, May 13): In April, 1985, and in my mid-30s, I went to Apeldoorn in the Netherlands on business.

As usual when travelling overseas, I had a Canadian flag pin in my lapel. I knew of Canada’s role in the liberation of the country, but somehow I had never understood just how significant it was.

I learned quickly when I walked into a bar that first evening. Even though it was obvious I had nothing to do with the liberation, 40 years later people just wanted to buy me a drink, and to thank Canada. I was the nearest thing.

■ **Nigel Brachi** Edmonton

Letters to the Editor should be exclusive to The Globe and Mail. Include name, address and daytime phone number. Keep letters under 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. E-mail: letters@globeandmail.com


OPINION

Canada lets Hamas off the hook

Domestic pressure is the likely culprit in a sudden change of our long-standing Middle East policy, evidenced by a UN vote last week

KONRAD YAKUBSKI

OPINION



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government signalled a major shift in Canada's Middle East policy last week by abstaining on a United Nations General Assembly resolution backing the recognition of Palestine as a full UN member.

Until last week, Canada had always sided with Israel and its allies in arguing that recognition of Palestinian statehood could come only after negotiations on a two-state solution and Palestinian endorsement of Israel's right to exist.

To be clear, Canada stopped short of voting "Yes" on the

resolution, which calls on the UN Security Council to "favourably reconsider" Palestine's application for full UN membership. The resolution was overwhelmingly adopted, with 143 member countries voting for it and only nine countries, led by the United States, voting against it. Canada was among the 25 member states that abstained.

Still, why the sudden shift? During a devastating war brought on by a heinous attack on Israeli civilians by a terrorist organization – Hamas – whose main reason for existing remains the elimination of Israel? If changing Canada's policy on Palestinian statehood now does not constitute a "reward" for Hamas's actions, as Israeli officials have charged, just what point is the Trudeau government trying to make?

"The Israeli government under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has unacceptably closed the door on any path toward a two-state solution, and we disagree with that fundamentally," Mr. Trudeau said after the UN vote, adding that Canada could use its future recognition of Palestine "as a way toward pushing that

two-state solution."

As if Mr. Netanyahu or any other Israeli leader would act on Canada's or the UN's urging. It is simply disingenuous to suggest that the UN vote could have any influence on a peace process that, regardless of who is in power in Israel, is unlikely to resume as long as Hamas has any say in the matter. So what gives?

Since Oct. 7, the Trudeau government has faced relentless pressure from its own progressive Liberal base and the New Democratic MPs, on whom it relies to govern, to abandon Canada's traditional Middle Eastern policy, as an increasingly impatient pro-Palestinian movement fuels public antipathy toward Israel and occupies university campuses, chanting anti-Israel epithets, with nary a mention of Hamas.

It is hard not to see domestic politics at play in the Trudeau government's sudden move to abstain on a UN resolution that, no matter how it tries to spin it, is seen as a major propaganda win for Hamas. By emphasizing Mr. Netanyahu's obstructionism, the Trudeau government is helping shift the culpability for the

carnage in Gaza from Hamas. In doing so, it is playing into the hands of Israel's cynical enemies at the UN.

"We never wanted this war, and we only went for this war because our children were being burned alive. Because our elderly were being killed. Because we have, even right now, still hostages in the terror tunnels. And they raped women, and they conquered villages," Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid said on a recent New York Times podcast. "And more than that, they have openly said – they meaning Hamas – that if they have a chance, they'll do it again."

Mr. Lapid is obviously no apologist for the Netanyahu government. He also supports a two-state solution. But he knows until Hamas is gone from Gaza, there can be no progress toward Palestinian statehood. "Because as long as Hamas is there and Hamas is active, and Hamas has control over the territory, there will be no future for the people of Gaza."

Canada's own Ambassador to the UN, Bob Rae, appears to disagree.

"History has shown that there are organizations that were

described or defined as terrorist that changed," Mr. Rae told the CBC's *Power & Politics* after the UN vote. "Hamas as it currently stands – as it currently exists, what it currently stands for, how it has conducted itself – does not belong in the government of Palestine. But people can change."

Surely, Canada's policy in the Middle East cannot be based on the faint hope that Hamas would one day renounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist. Mr. Rae cited the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which was once a designated terrorist organization, as an example. But if Hamas has not budged since Oct. 7, what would make anyone think it would in future?

The implicit message sent by the 143 countries that voted for the UN resolution calling for Palestine's full membership in the General Assembly is that Hamas does not have to change. Indeed, the resolution made no mention of Hamas or the Oct. 7 attacks, as if they have no bearing on the peace process, when they, as much as Mr. Netanyahu's bullheadedness, are the main reasons this horrible war grinds on.

For students, protesting for Gaza can also serve to maintain their privilege

IAN BURUMA NEW YORK

OPINION

The author, most recently, of *Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah*

It is easy to ridicule the college protesters in the United States calling for a free Palestine, "from the river to the sea." Students at some of the country's most expensive and prestigious universities have donned keffiyehs as they "liberate" campus buildings and, in the case of at least one young protester, demand food and water from the college authorities as "basic humanitarian aid."

To be sure, all political demonstrations are a kind of theatre. Certainly not everyone protesting against the killing of large numbers of innocent civilians in Gaza is worthy of derision. Using violence against them, whether by the police or, as happened at UCLA, by mobs, is unconscionable.

The problem is that the "anti-Zionist" cause gaining ground on college campuses is often incoherent. Its ideological underpinnings tend to see everything as interconnected: police brutality, global warming, U.S. imperialism, white supremacy, European colonialism, trans- and homophobia and now the Israel-Hamas war. In the words of a Cornell University student, interviewed by *The New York Times*, "climate justice" is "rooted in the same struggles of imperialism, capitalism – things like that. I think that's very true of this conflict, of the genocide in Palestine."

Zionism, a disparate 19th-century Jewish nationalist movement that contained religious,



A protester stands in front of the statue of John Harvard, draped in the Palestinian flag, at an encampment of students protesting against the war in Gaza, at Harvard University in April. BEN CURTIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

secular, left-wing and right-wing elements, has now become synonymous with colonialism, imperialism and racism. To be a good, humane and moral person, the thinking goes, one must be an "anti-Zionist." Whether this is also antisemitic, as some people claim, is not always clear. Opposition to Zionism, or criticism of Israeli policies, is not necessarily antisemitic. Denying the right of Israel to exist is certainly hostile, as is the assumption that all Jews are Zionists.

Connecting all forms of oppression has its own academic jargon: "intersectionality." Many students currently demonstrating have adopted this line of thinking because they have been taught to do so, mostly by profes-

sors at the same institutions against which the protesters are now revolting.

In a sea of competing identity politics, there is one marker on which all well-educated members of the liberal left agree: To be a right-thinking citizen of the post-colonial West, one must be actively anti-racist, anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist. That means applying such a lens to all global events, including complex conflicts from the U.S. to the Middle East.

This world view might explain why the pro-Palestine protests started at some of the most exclusive American universities. Intersectionality is a mark of the educated elite, whose members are used to thinking of them-

selves as the collective moral conscience. A certain degree of class guilt could be contributing to the swell of campus activism, especially in a society where the gap between rich and poor is growing.

Rebellions often stem from a fear of privileges slipping. Former U.S. president Donald Trump's demagoguery appeals to relatively uneducated white people who resent that immigrants might be doing better than they are. Something similar is occurring in elite American institutions and other parts of the Western world.

Until recently, being a white man from a well-educated family was usually a ticket into the upper echelons of society. But now there is more competition from

highly educated non-whites and women for the most sought-after jobs in academia, publishing, museums, journalism and other fields that require a higher education. This is an entirely positive development. Anyone who believes in inclusivity and diversity, not to mention intersectionality, should applaud it.

But the liberal-left ideology that insists on active "decolonization" and ritual confessions of racial privilege can lead to defensive reactions. An increasing number of young white men in Europe and the U.S. are drawn to far-right political parties and slick guru-like figures who promise to teach them how to reassert their masculinity and put women back in their place. That this can also play on prejudices against people of colour is obvious.

The elite's anxiety about maintaining its privilege can also go the other way, however. Students at the most expensive private universities may see it as being in their interest to demonstrate their intersectional bona fides as anti-racists, anti-imperialists and anti-colonialists by outdoing minorities in their zeal. It is one way of clinging to leading positions in the intellectual and cultural spheres.

Perhaps that is why students and faculty at Columbia University showed the way in protesting Israel's war in Gaza, and were swiftly followed by activists at other Ivy League schools. Whether this will really help Palestinians gain their own state, where they can lead better and more dignified lives under a freely chosen government, is unclear. But that may never have been the main point. As is often the case with protest movements in America, this one is really all about the U.S.

We're trapped in a system where naysayers are in command

LAWRENCE MARTIN

OPINION



That was an attention grabber: The Angus Reid Institute put out an analysis last week saying the leaders of Canada's major federal political parties have never been held in such dismal regard. It was based on an analysis of 50 years of public opinion data.

It's the first time that all three major federal party leaders, the survey said, have garnered net ratings of negative 12 or worse at the same time.

The minus-12 rating – meaning the disapproval percentage is that many points higher than the approval one – belongs to Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre. By today's standards, that's actually a good rating. NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh scores his worst ever ranking at minus-14. And, the study noted, "Prime Minister Trudeau's approval has dropped to its lowest point at just 28 per cent, with a

net approval of negative 38."

Usually at least one party boss is well liked. "Our fractured and divisive politics, however, appear to have created an era where all leaders can remain under water at the same time," the study declared.

What it doesn't note is that the embarrassment for our leaders is eased if they look abroad. Their low standing is hardly unique – it's common everywhere, especially for heads of state.

How, for example, are the other G7-country leaders doing? According to Morning Consult, Britain's Rishi Sunak's approval rating is at a brutal 26 per cent, and Emmanuel Macron of France weighs in at a pathetic 23 per cent. Olaf Scholz of Germany does even worse at 22. Fumio Kishida of Japan is worse still, at 17 per cent.

U.S. President Joe Biden's 39-per-cent approval rating sounds splendid by comparison. In fact, it's one of the worst for first-term presidents in history.

Ruchir Sharma, chair of Rockefeller International, tracks leaders' approval ratings in 20

major countries. "In the developed world," he writes in the *Financial Times*, "no leader has a rating above 50 per cent. Only one country (Italy) has seen its leader gain approval in the 2020s."

There are lots of reasons for the low standings, such as inflation, rising inequality and the slowing of growth in average per-capita incomes, but it's not like there's a great global recession or depression. Economic conditions have been worse in Canada and elsewhere in the past.

Mr. Trudeau's low standing stems from the housing crisis, inflation, immigration and his government's incompetence as seen, for instance, in the ArriveCan app scandal. As well, there's the fatigue factor, with his being in power almost nine years.

But for him and other leaders, we're forgetting the elephant in the room: the burden of being at the helm in the online age. It's often mentioned but not highlighted nearly enough. Owing to the internet and social media, political leaders are under bombardment from a gazillion more voices than

they ever faced in the predigital era.

For the pall of unparalleled negativity that hangs over our politics, look to the naysayers, cynics, vilifiers and haters who have been handed microphones by virtue of this communications revolution. It's been the catalyst for the disinformation epidemic, the rise of far right and left fringes, the debasement of the dialogue, the extreme polarization, the discrediting of the mainstream media, the erosion of trust in institutions.

With the comms system gone rogue, national leaders – provincial and civic leaders don't have it so bad – can no longer influence, shape or control the message as they did before. Against the torrent of abuse, they have become more and more defenceless.

Compare the environment Justin Trudeau faces to that of his father. In Pierre Trudeau's time, there was no internet, no relentless social-media attacks. The hard right barely existed, conservatives being of the more moderate Tory stripe. The more liberally

inclined CBC had a far greater audience share. The right-wing Sun chain had yet to expand and conservative Postmedia had not yet been born.

Similar things can be said about Mr. Biden in respect to the level of rancour he faces, compared to earlier times.

Governor-General Mary Simon spoke out this week against online vitriol that became so intense she had to turn off her social-media accounts. Against the insult culture the internet has spawned, she said, there has to be boundaries.

It's a forlorn hope. Attempts to create boundaries are in the works, but there's no turning back from what the digital age, which sounded so democratically promising at the outset, has unleashed.

We're trapped in a system where negative voices have disproportionate impact. Authoritarian leaders who exert online controls can find, by coercion (Vladimir Putin, anyone?), great favour. Our own politics will continue to be permeated by an air of gloom.

LIFE & ARTS

ARTS & REVIEWS | OPINION | PUZZLES | WEATHER

Mad Max has lived in George Miller's head for 45 years

Furiosa director says his filmmaking and understanding of people were influenced by his tenure as a doctor

JAKE COYLE CANNES, FRANCE

Only recently has George Miller realized just how influential his medical education was to the world of *Mad Max*.

Miller was briefly a doctor before finding filmmaking and his twin brother, whom he attended university with, remained one. As a resident at St. Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, Miller saw people in birth and in death, in moments of, he says, "extremis."

Extremis – a Latin word that literally translates as "at the point of death" – would be a fairly apt way to describe the postapocalyptic wasteland of *Mad Max*. It could apply to, well, all of the characters, or to the Earth, itself. The more you think about it, the more Miller's desert dystopia begins looking like a fantastical ER. The human blood bags of *Mad Max: Fury Road*. *Furiosa's* prosthetic arm. Immortan Joe's respirator mask.

"I don't think I'd still be making films if I didn't have that part of myself," Miller said of his medical background in a recent interview.

"You're looking at a human being from every point of view. As organs. As individuals," Miller says. "Sometimes looking through a microscope and seeing their cells. Or an autopsy. Psychologically. In every way, you're looking at the human being. That's what you do as a storyteller."

Miller's holistic eye could apply to the sprawling saga of *Mad Max*, too. It's a world that has lived in his head for nearly half a century. Unlike most other long-running film franchises, it's exclusively Miller's. The 79-year-old filmmaker has written and directed every film, from 1979's *Mad Max* to the new *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, which opens in theaters May 24.

Also unlike most franchises, Miller's vision has grown only more kinetic with time. *Fury Road*, considered among the greatest action films ever made, moved like Buster Keaton on steroids, with madcap stunts and continual forward movement, all agonizingly spliced together from the briefest of shots amid an infamously troubled produc-



Chris Hemsworth plays Dementus, the villain of *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, in one of the most colourful and transformative performances of his career.

tion. *Furiosa*, a prequel to the events of that film starring Anya Taylor-Joy as a young *Furiosa*, enlarges the saga, and, particularly in a few breathless sequences, maintains the same headlong momentum.

"I don't do anything with my hands anymore," Miller says. "There's always someone who can type faster than me. There's always someone who can cut faster than me. There's always someone who can operate a camera much better than me. So it's all in the head."

"I can quote some of the lines from the movie but I know virtually every cut of virtually every movie I've made – and in many cases, the cuts of some of my favorite movies," adds Miller. "That's my neurology."

But it took time to restart *Mad Max*. As sensational as the response was to *Fury Road*, which won six Oscars, its making was marred by production troubles and discord among its cast. Friction continued in the years after, too, as Miller and Warner Bros. sued each other in a pay dispute.

Those issues eventually got ironed out and attention turned to a pair of scripts Miller had ready. While *Fury Road* was stuck in delay, Miller had written treatments for both *Furiosa* and *The Wasteland*, a *Mad Max* film taking place a year before *Fury Road*. He hopes to make that soon. First came *Furiosa*, which Miller first intended to be an anime.

"I had no thoughts of making it into a feature film," he says. "But when *Fury Road* was de-



Director George Miller, seen Friday in Los Angeles, reassembled much of the same team from *Fury Road*, but with a largely new cast, bringing on Anya Taylor-Joy for a younger *Furiosa*, JAE C. HONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

layed yet again by rains, there was no point in making an anime before we made *Fury Road*. By the time we made *Fury Road*, all the history of that, we decided to make it a feature."

Miller reassembled much of the same team from *Fury Road*: editor Margaret Sixel (Miller's wife), co-writer Nico Lathouris, producer Doug Mitchell, production designer Colin Gibson, stunt co-ordinator Guy Norris. But his cast would be largely new. For a younger *Furiosa*, he turned to Taylor-Joy. As they discussed her casting, Miller asked Taylor-Joy to film herself doing the "Mad as Hell" monologue from *Network*.

How was her Peter Finch? "I got the part," Taylor-Joy says, smiling. Then came the hard part: shooting *Furiosa*.

"It's what I wanted. I knew I wanted something that was going to test me in every way, shape and form," says Taylor-Joy. "And I got that experience. Anybody that's attracted to making a *Mad Max* movie, if it's not arduous in some way, I personally would feel cheated. That's not what you go to the wasteland for."

That included only some three dozen lines in the whole movie for Taylor-Joy. On the other hand, a staggering action sequence principally on the War Rig took 78 days to shoot. Taylor-Joy says it was an exercise of piece-by-piece filmmaking.

"I could kind of count myself down," says Taylor-Joy. "I was like, 'Okay, I'm below the vehicle. And now I'm on the side of the vehicle. And I've finally made it

into the cow catcher. And, oh my God, I'm standing. This is better."

Chris Hemsworth, in one of the most colourful and transformative performances of his career, plays the villain Dementus with the flair of a deranged Roman conqueror. A key to unlocking the character, Hemsworth says, was a tip from Miller to try journaling in the voice of Dementus, a maniac with his own painful history who wears his Rosebud – a teddy bear – strapped to his back.

"It was the most satisfying experience that I've had," Hemsworth says of the role. "The script gave me so many more options and directions that I could take a character than I had previously been given. It was a big departure from everything else I'd done."

Lengthy as the making of *Furiosa* was, both stars went into the process determined to have a more positive environment than on *Fury Road*.

"We all went in to make this – not excusing any kind of behaviour – wanting to be extra kind to each other," says Taylor-Joy. "Especially for me, I'm a big George Miller fan. I wanted to make sure he felt respected and heard and cared on set."

Mad Max has by now morphed into a kind of archetype – a near-future Western with amped-up modern anxieties. As before in *Mad Max*, water is short and natural resources are brutally battled over in *Furiosa*.

"You could argue that depending on where you are in history, where you are in time and space, there is always a sense of potential chaos and a fallen world," Miller says. "It's always there in the zeitgeist."

But, Miller points out, these movies are largely shot outdoors, and the conditions he's made them in has markedly changed with time. Miller remembers visiting an area of the Great Barrier Reef in the early '70s. When he returned decades later to the same beach, "the difference was shocking to me."

"All of that stuff is there," Millers says. "And it has to be expressed in any story you tell about the world."

Miller's brother recently retired as a doctor. But for years, they'd speak on the phone about his patients, discussing observations and diagnoses.

"That was a way, I realize, of us both processing the chaos of the world," says Miller. "I like to think that that's what I'm still doing."

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MINDSTREAM 64, 2024
Mixed Media and Resin on Panel
24 x 24 inches

JAMES VERBICKY

James Verbicky uses a collage technique that incorporates vintage magazines, posters, currency, diamond dust, acrylic paint, and resin on panel, paper or canvas to create a visual play for the eye. Featuring elements of text and positive messaging, the "Mindstream" series present three-dimensional surfaces that transcend traditional painting and venture into the realm of sculpture.

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Michael Ignatieff wins Spain's Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences

MADRID

Historian and writer Michael Ignatieff has won Spain's Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences for his "critical reflections on the major conflicts of our time," prize organizers said Wednesday.

With more than 20 books that range from human rights, foreign policy, economics and nationalism, among other topics, 77-year-old Ignatieff has become, in the jury's words, "an essential reference to navigate our current times of war, political polarization and threats to freedom."

His titles include *The Needs of Strangers* (1984), *Isaiah Berlin: A Life* (1998) and *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry* (2001). He also has published numerous articles and opinion columns.

Ignatieff has taught and researched at many of the world's leading universities, including Harvard, Cambridge and Oxford, and was rector of the Central European University.

He was also heavily involved in Canadian politics, elected as the Liberal Party's leader in 2009 and leading the Opposition in Parliament.

The €50,000 (\$79,897) Princess of Asturias Award is one of eight prizes covering areas including the arts, communication, science and sports that are handed out annually by the foundation.

French historian Helene Carrere d'Encausse won last year's prize for the social sciences.

The awards ceremony presided over by Spain's Princess Leonor takes place each fall in the northern Spanish city of Oviedo.

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The €50,000 (\$79,897) Princess of Asturias Award is one of eight prizes covering areas including the arts, communication, science and sports that are handed out annually by the foundation.

I hate texting, so call me maybe?

FIRST PERSON

Listening to the nuances of my friends' voices keeps them close no matter how often I see them, writes **Yona Krum Elchenbaum**

Lately, in a strange new protocol, my friends text to ask if they can phone, as if an unexpected call is like appearing uninvited at my door – a faux pas best avoided by polite society. Finding a mutually acceptable time adds more complication, more texts. But why bother asking? If I can't answer, I won't. What could be simpler?

I've never embraced texting. I can't type quickly or accurately with my thumbs. I envy the speed and precision of avid texters – more proof that opposable thumbs elevate humans in the evolutionary hierarchy. I dread multiple texts for things such as meeting for coffee. By round five I call, finalizing our plan in seconds. If there was a texting hell, group texts with multiple, often unidentified participants would be mine. Sadly, there is no easy escape from those.

The real reason I resist texting with friends is that I need to hear their voice. It's what keeps them close no matter how often I see them. A voice can signal when something is amiss. And even if all is well, the conversation can gently meander from the original text, a pleasant diversion that is a gift of friendship.

I am lucky one of my oldest friendships was forged in a time before texting. Susan and I were 12 when we met, bunkmates in summer camp. Sharing a limited aptitude for sports and a love of Leonard Cohen, we bonded instantly. We whispered and giggled into the night. It felt like we had known each other forever.

We didn't live in the same Montreal neighbourhood or attend the same schools. We didn't see each other between summers. But on Saturday nights, while my father watched *Hockey Night in Canada* on our only television, we talked on the phone, picking up the threads of our friendship.

We were still friends when we attended McGill University in Montreal, still talking on the phone – a landline tethered to the wall – debriefing on boyfriends or whatever couldn't wait until after class the next day.

Phone calls kept our friendship alive when geography separated us as adults. Even when long-distance calls were a luxury we couldn't afford, we spoke almost



ILLUSTRATION BY JULIANA NEUFELD

weekly, talking late at night when phone rates were lower.

We phone less often now that we can text. But there's usually more to our texts than meets the eye. Honed over a lifetime of talking, an emotional autofill fleshes out our hastily typed words. I can hear Susan's voice in my head. And she can hear mine. Still, it's not the same. We phone when only talking will do.

My adult children text all the time. I know to text when I wish for an immediate response. But they phone, too, usually for no reason – the best reason of all. My son lives in Brooklyn. He likes to call when he's walking home. We often chat about work projects. Sometimes it's food or theatre or the intoxicating energy of New York. It's how I learned he had a girl-

friend. I never know what we'll talk about. But I know it will be the stuff of life texts weren't made for. When we talk, it's easy to forget he lives a plane ride away.

When making simple plans with friends, I often call even if texting is their default mode of communication. I figure the stakes are low. The worst that could happen is they won't pick up. But if they do, their voice can infuse the simplest plan with humour and warmth.

After the Oct. 7 attack in Israel, I couldn't bring myself to text family and friends there. I couldn't find words to squeeze into that tiny text bubble. I hoped that if I heard their voices, the words

might come. And if words failed, they would hear my heart in my voice. I didn't expect them to answer. Even those who were safe on that day were in shock. Yet they picked up almost instantly. Their voices were hollow and dark. In their silent pauses, I heard the words they struggled to say.

One of my friends lives in Jerusalem. We met in a Zoom class a few years ago, hers one of 13 faces neatly boxed on my screen. I met her in person for the first time last year. We talk more often now, her voice familiar, her mood easier to read. I've learned about her family, her therapeutic work with victims of trauma, the anguish of the situation that surrounds her. It's hard to know where the conversation will go. But our calls always start the same way – I tell her I'm glad to hear her voice.

Yona Krum Elchenbaum lives in Glencoe, Ill.

First Person is a daily personal piece submitted by readers. Have a story to tell? See our guidelines at tgam.ca/essayguide.

Glamour and grit are both on show in a London exhibition of photos from Elton John's collection

JILL LAWLESS LONDON

A new exhibition of photographs owned by Elton John is everything one might expect from a star who has a fascination with image, a love of excess and a very large budget. Understated, it isn't.

The show, opening this week at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, includes more than 300 pieces by 140 photographers selected from the vast collection of John and his husband David Furnish.

Covering the period from 1950 to the present day, they include iconic fashion shots by Irving Penn, Richard Avedon and Herb Ritts, portraits of stars including the Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe, Chet Baker and photojournalism capturing moments from the Black civil rights movement of the 1960s to 1980s AIDS activism and the Sept. 11 attacks.

Newell Harbin, director of the couple's collection, agreed that the sheer scale of the show is "a lot."

"It's a little bit overwhelming sometimes, but it's just wonderful," she said at a preview on Wednesday.

The exhibition is entitled *Fragile Beauty*, a name chosen by John that reflects his ethos, said curator Duncan Forbes, the museum's head of photography.

"I think key to Elton is the sense of vulnerability and fragility that underpins creative expression and human experience. That's the thing I think runs through the show."

He said John had instructed that the show "should be mischievous and it should be very serious."

"What we've tried to do is create a really absorbing, big show about photography, but also relate it to who they are [and] the passions of the collectors," Forbes said.

The exhibition opens with elegant fashion photos from the 1950s, then gets into edgier territory with work by chroniclers of



There are several works by Associated Press photographers in Elton John's collection, including Julio Cortez's 2020 photo of a protester with an upside-down American flag amid unrest in Minneapolis. JULIO CORTEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

“I think key to Elton is the sense of vulnerability and fragility that underpins creative expression and human experience. That's the thing I think runs through the show.

DUNCAN FORBES
VICTORIA AND ALBERT
MUSEUM'S HEAD OF
PHOTOGRAPHY

outcasts and rebels such as Robert Mapplethorpe and Nan Goldin, both artists John has collected extensively.

Many of the greats from seven decades of photography are represented, from Diane Arbus, Eve Arnold, Bruce Davidson and Robert Franck to Wolfgang Tillmans, Cindy Sherman and Ai Weiwei. There are several works by Associated Press photographers, including Richard Drew's haunting *Falling Man* image from 9/11 and Julio Cortez's 2020 photo of a protester with an upside-down American flag amid unrest in Minneapolis.

John, now 77, began collecting photographs after getting sober in the 1990s – he later said he replaced alcohol with "a much healthier addiction." He and 61-year-old Furnish have assembled one of the largest photo collections in private hands, amounting to more than 7,000 works.

They frequently loan photos for exhibitions, including some 200 for a Tate Modern show in 2016 that focused on black-and-

white photographs from the early decades of the medium.

Harbin said John and Furnish "collect from the heart."

"They collect what speaks to them," she said – and continue to acquire new works, though they have slowed down a little. The most recent piece in the exhibition was bought two months ago.

Many of the works are displayed in an often-changing lineup on the walls of their multiple homes. Harbin said the household had a running joke in Atlanta, where John had a home for many years, "that no one ever knew the true colour of the wallpaper."

"I had it frame-to-frame, and that's how he wanted it done – so that the two of them could be engulfed in that creativity and that genius of these other artists," she said.

Fragile Beauty runs at the V&A from Saturday until Jan. 5, 2025.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANADA'S GOT TALENT WINNER LOOKING TO EXPAND CAREER AFTER TAKING HOME PRIZE

Newly crowned *Canada's Got Talent* champion Rebecca Strong is confident the win will bring her more opportunities to expand her career.

The Indigenous singer from Prince Albert, Sask., took home the competition's first \$1-million prize at the end of the show's third season.

Viewers across Canada voted on a winner of what Citytv's parent company, Rogers, billed as the biggest cash prize in Canadian television history.

Strong says the prize will help push her career to the next level, allow for musical growth and opportunities such as touring and recording new music.

The 20-year-old has been performing since she was a child and appearing on *Canada's Got Talent* marked her biggest stage yet. Her performance of Adele's *Rolling in the Deep* beat out seven other finalists in the live two-hour finale Tuesday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

3	9	5	2	8	4	7	6	1
1	7	8	5	6	3	9	4	2
4	6	2	1	7	9	5	3	8
5	4	3	7	2	1	6	8	9
6	1	7	4	9	8	2	5	3
2	8	9	3	5	6	1	7	4
8	5	6	9	4	2	3	1	7
9	3	4	6	1	7	8	2	5
7	2	1	8	3	5	4	9	6

TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

3-	5	2	1	6	1-	3	2-
3+	2	5	3	1	4	6	
	6	3	5	4	2	1	
3+	3	6	4	2	1	5	
	1	4	2	5	6	3	
	4	1	6	3	5	2	

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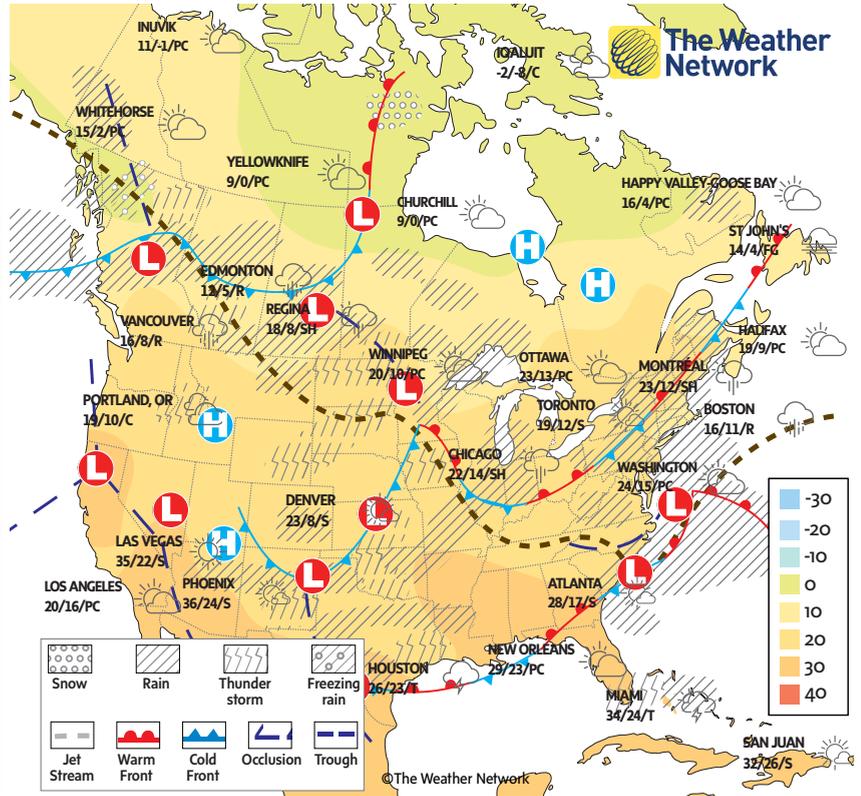
The Local Journalism Initiative (LJI) supports the creation of original civic journalism that covers the diverse needs of underserved communities across Canada.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists major cities like Amsterdam, Athens, Bangkok, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Las Vegas, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Miami, Moscow, New Delhi, New York, Nice, Orlando, Paris, Phoenix, Rome, San Francisco, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Washington.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists Canadian cities like Banff, Barrie, Brandon, Calgary, Charlottetown, Chicoutimi, Churchill, Corner Brook, Cornwall, Edmonton, Halifax, Hamilton, Huntsville, Iqaluit, Jasper, Kelowna, Kingston, London, Montréal, Niagara Falls, North Bay, Ottawa, Prince George, Peterborough, Québec, Regina, Saskatoon, Sault Ste Marie, Saint John, Sept-Îles, St. John's, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Thompson, Toronto, Val-d'Or, Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler, Whitehorse, Winnipeg, Yellowknife.



LEGEND
Daytime high, overnight low, and conditions
C CLOUDY RS RAIN/SNOW
FG FOG S SUN
FR FREEZING RAIN SN SNOW
HZ HAZE SF SNOW FLURRIES
NA NOT AVAILABLE SH SHOWERS
PC PARTLY CLOUDY T THUNDERSTORMS
R RAIN W WINDY

BRIDGE
BY STEVE BECKER
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

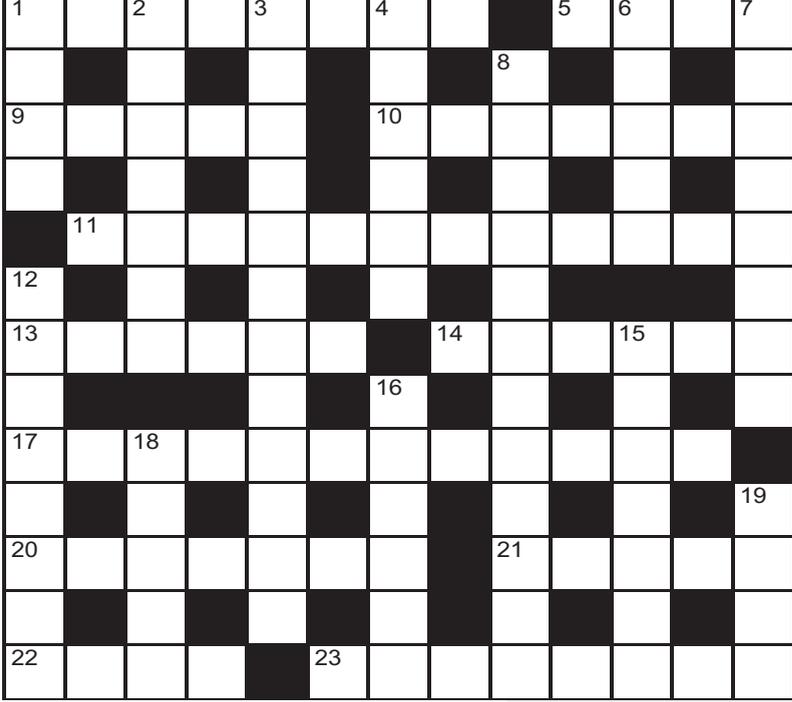
NORTH
♠ 3
♥ K 10 8 5 3
♦ K Q 7 5 2
♣ 8 4
WEST
♠ A 6 5
♥ A J 6 2
♦ 9
♣ A K 7 5 2
EAST
♠ 8
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ J 10 8 3
♣ Q J 10 6
SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 7 4 2
♥ —
♦ A 6 4
♣ 9 3

Here is a case that offers many possible outcomes. It all began with South's four-spade bid, doubled for penalties by West. West led the club king, on which East played the queen to show he had the jack.

made it anyway," North said to his partner. "Instead of leading that trump at trick three, you should have led the king of hearts from dummy and discarded your other club on it. Then East could never have gained the lead to give his partner the diamond ruff."

"Big deal," West interjected. "What bothers me most is that all we got was a measly 100 points when we were cold for five clubs."

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

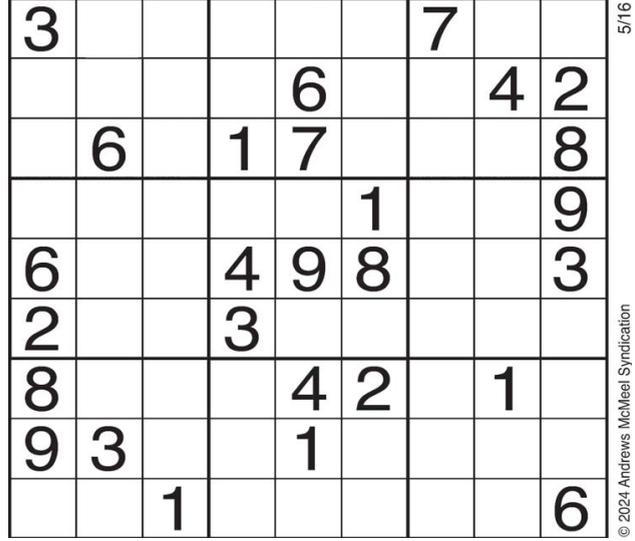
- ACROSS
1 Dull but done with style (8)
5 Fight for support (4)
9 Old capital of Japan rebuilt as Tokyo (5)
10 IOUs run wild could well be (7)
11 Matches may be made if three girls go abroad (12)
13 Don't miss a review (6)
14 I am in pursuit in a carriage (6)
17 Made a resounding comeback (12)
20 Chooses to make an allusion in a postscript (7)
21 Top gear selected by a duchess perhaps (5)
22 Smash strike (4)
23 She is assigned to guard military uniform (8)

QUICK CLUES

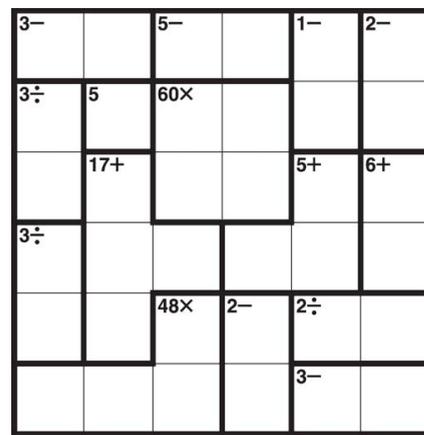
- ACROSS
1 Reaction reported from consumers (8)
5 Indonesian island (4)
9 Set of matching furniture (5)
10 A Hungarian stew (7)
11 Precedence within hierarchy (7,5)
13 Uneven in quality (6)
14 To numb (6)
17 An expression (4,2,6)
20 Weariness (7)
21 Stock laid by (5)
22 Plunder (4)
23 Wild uncontrollable emotion (8)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



INSTRUCTIONS Fill in the grid so that each row of nine squares, each column of nine and each section of nine (three squares by three) contains the numbers 1 through 9 in any order. There is only one solution to each puzzle.



INSTRUCTIONS
1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
Freebies: Fill in 3 single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.

Judge rejects request to remove McGill encampment

Protesters celebrate the ruling against an injunction, call on university to negotiate

ERIC ANDREW-GEE

A Quebec judge has rejected McGill University's request for an injunction against the pro-Palestinian encampment on its downtown Montreal campus, the second time the protest has withstood a legal challenge as it stretches into its third week.

Justice Marc St-Pierre wrote in his decision that McGill had failed to prove there was any "urgency" to clearing the cluster of tents, since there have been no incidents of violence or health and safety issues connected to the site.

The protesters say they will remain until the university cuts financial ties with Israel and academically boycotts the country, as dozens of universities across North America face similar protests amid the war in Gaza.

A previous injunction request by two McGill students who said the encampment made them feel unsafe was rejected by another judge on May 1. Although encampments at other Canadian universities have been cleared by police, notably in Alberta, Montreal police have so far resisted McGill's requests for help in ending the protest.

"The Service de police de la Ville de Montréal is aware of the rejection of the injunction and will carefully analyze the contents of the decision," said police spokesperson Anik de Repentigny.

Protesters celebrated the judge's decision on Wednesday and called on the university to negotiate.

"We have been validated twice now in a court of law that we are a peaceful act of civil disobedience that is permitted to be here," said Ruth Silva, an undergraduate student at McGill.

"We've seen encampments spring up around Canada, some of which have faced really harsh repression, so this is a really big moment for the movement."

In a statement, McGill said it was "disappointed" in Wednesday's ruling and that it was "in the process of analyzing the judgment."

The university's lawyers portrayed the encampment in their injunction request as a "fortified and entrenched space" complete with sidewalks and shops — not a protest but an illegal occupation of private property. Because the tents are surrounded by fences covered in tarps and signs, McGill said its security staff could not monitor the safety of the area.

But in his judgment, Justice St-Pierre pointed out that there had been no safety incidents at the encampment. Even a heated counterprotest by Israel supporters on May 2 unfolded peacefully thanks to police intervention, the judge observed.

The university's argument for the urgency of an injunction rested in part on the fact that its convocation for graduating students traditionally takes place on the field occupied by protesters. But, as the judge noted, McGill acknowledges that it has already secured an alternate site for the event.

Lawyers for the defendants argued that McGill's right to enjoy its property was in conflict with the protesters' right to free expression and that encampments such as the one at McGill have become a standard form of protest across North America.

Justice St-Pierre said the question of conflicting rights was "important as well as being complex," and that a deeper analysis of the issue was needed, but that a provisional injunction wasn't the context for it.

The decision was still a victory for free speech, said Julius Grey, a lawyer for Palestiniens et Juifs Unis, one of the defendants.

"It showed that the right to free expression was important, and it showed that you can't get around it by speculating that there might be a fire," said Mr. Grey, a well-known defender of civil liberties.

"We've seen encampments spring up around Canada, some of which have faced really harsh repression, so this is a really big moment for the movement."

RUTH SILVA
AN UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT AT MCGILL



A pumper truck sprays fire retardant on trees around the evacuated neighbourhood of Beacon Hill in Fort McMurray, Alta., on Wednesday, as a massive wildfire moves closer to the city. JEFF MCINTOSH/CP

Wildfire: Locals say many outside the evacuation zone left to try to avoid a repeat of eight years ago

■ FROM A1

That fire has chewed through 8,400 hectares and B.C. wildfire officials on Wednesday said strong winds could fan aggressive fire behaviour.

A separate fire north of Fort St. John prompted the Doig River First Nation and Peace River Regional District to issue evacuation orders.

The smoke turned the sky grey over Fort McMurray on Wednesday, with the odd helicopter flying overhead. The city, home to about 68,000 people, was quiet as families — shaped by the chaotic experience of 2016 — have either left or are packing up their belongings.

Schools cancelled classes until May 21 and scores of businesses were closed.

Mayor Sandy Bowman said there is lingering trauma among community members, but he assured residents that everything possible is being done to protect Fort McMurray. "Stay safe, stay strong and continue to be there for each other," he said.

Premier Danielle Smith acknowledged the fear and uncertainty blanketing Fort McMurray and offered her sympathy to residents.

"All of Alberta stands with you," she said. "This evacuation is a stark reminder that our province lives alongside the threat of wildfires and other natural disasters."

Nearly 120 firefighters and 21 helicopters have been assigned to the wildfire.

Josée St-Onge, a spokesperson for Alberta Wildfire, said the gusting wind that powered its massive growth over the previous 24 hours was expected to die down and blow from the north-east on Wednesday.

This, she said, could help drive flames away from residential areas.

A second wildfire is burning north of Fort McMurray and has covered about three hectares. Two firefighting crews, two helicopters and airtankers are battling that blaze.

About 650 people from Fort McMurray have registered at evacuation centres in Lac La Biche, Edmonton and Cold Lake, according to Jody Butz, the director of emergency management and fire chief for the Fort McMurray region.

"

You could see the big plume of smoke south of town, but just the way it kind of hung over the sky, it just was so reminiscent of 2016. ... It brings up a lot of emotions and you think that you're okay and then you see these things again.

DANI STARK
LONG-TIME FORT McMURRAY
RESIDENT

Ashley Russell lives in the Thickwood neighbourhood, which has not been placed under an evacuation order.

She lost her Waterways residence in the 2016 blaze, which still haunts her.

"We've got everything packed and ready to go," she said. "But I feel extremely uneasy, just sitting in this limbo of do I stay, do I go?"

She wants to flee now, but noted evacuation assistance is unavailable to those who leave Fort McMurray voluntarily.

Her partner is also keeping her calm and she believes the community is better prepared this time.

She, too, is more on the ball.

She packed two sweaters that belonged to her late father, as well as his Buddha lamp. Water bowls, leashes and other supplies for Luna and Lincoln, her two dogs, are set.

Long-time resident Dani Stark left Tuesday as a precautionary measure. She did not want to relive her 2016 experience, when it took her family, including a newborn baby, nine hours to flee north of the fires. She then had to evacuate south to Onoway, in central Alberta.

"You could see the big plume of smoke south of town, but just the way it kind of hung over the sky, it just was so reminiscent of 2016," she said. "It brings up a lot of emotions and you think that you're okay and then you see these things again."

Ms. Stark is back with her family in Onoway, waiting for the situation to "calm down" up north.

Ms. Grant, meanwhile, spent the day planting beets and carrots, trying to clear her mind.

"If I have to leave, in the fall I can still come back and make my pickles," she said on a tour of her garden.

Waterways, adjacent to the Clearwater River, is surrounded by the charred remains of the 2016 blaze. Officials are optimistic they can tame this year's fire, because it does not have access to an abundance of dry fuel. Young trees with green buds are shooting up in the burned-out forest throughout Fort McMurray.

Ms. Grant sniffled and wiped her eyes when talking about the floods and fires of years past.

"If you're not here, where are you going to go? Are you going to go where there's wind? You're going to go where there's tornadoes, hurricanes, mudslides, rock slides, tidal waves? Where do you want to be? Because something is going to happen there."

Transplant: Trip to learn how to use preservation device was cancelled at last minute

■ FROM A1

Dr. Rao, a senior member of the largest transplant team in Canada, said the milestone donations were bittersweet because Ontario could have been transplanting hearts retrieved after circulatory death sooner, if not for what he described as an unnecessary government delay.

"It's just frustrating for a transplant surgeon to see hearts in Ontario that could be used by Ontarians going to the States," he said. "And that's a purely bureaucratic decision."

Dr. Rao said that Toronto General Hospital, where the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre is located, has been trying to start a program for heart donations after circulatory death since before the pandemic.

The procedure has recently become routine in Britain, Australia and the United States, with studies showing that DCD hearts, as they're known, work just as well as hearts retrieved and put on ice after a declaration of brain death.

In Canada, the number of donors who have had their organs retrieved after circulatory death has risen from 64 in 2013 to 258 in 2022, the most recent year for which the Canadian Institute for Health Information has published data.

Such donors accounted for about one-third of the 827 de-



Lorraine and Derk Sherren hold a picture of their son Robbie, who unexpectedly died at 40. Robbie "would have been ecstatic" to know his heart was transplanted, his dad says. KINGSTON HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

"It's just frustrating for a transplant surgeon to see hearts in Ontario that could be used by Ontarians going to the States."

VIVEK RAO
SURGICAL DIRECTOR OF
MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY
SUPPORT AT THE PETER
MUNK CARDIAC CENTRE

ceased organ donors in Canada that year. But none were able to donate hearts.

After the worst of COVID-19 subsided, Toronto General was planning to purchase an Organ Care System, the device the U.S. team used to preserve and transport Robbie's heart.

Then the provincial agency Ontario Health stepped in and offered to foot the bill so the equipment could be used provincewide, Dr. Rao said.

The Trillium Gift of Life Network, which oversees organ donations, is part of Ontario

Health.

Dr. Rao shared e-mails with The Globe and Mail showing that, in January, Ontario Health officials at the last minute cancelled a trip for a group of Ontario doctors who were scheduled to travel to Florida to a training centre run by TransMedics, the company that makes the Organ Care System.

Ontario Health postponed the trip, he said, because the agency's procurement department determined it couldn't purchase an Organ Care System without first running a competitive bidding process, despite there being no other heart donor-organ preservation and transport system licensed for sale by Health Canada.

In a statement on Wednesday, Ontario Health said that enabling heart donations after death determined by circulatory criteria is "an exciting positive step forward" for the province.

The agency confirmed that it issued a request for proposals in April that closed on Wednesday. "This procurement ensures due process, fairness and transparency, and is in line with Broader Public Sector procurement requirements," the agency said in an unsigned e-mail.

Rather than waiting for Ontario Health to purchase the equipment, Dr. Rao said the clinical group driving the project thought it was a tragedy these

hearts were going to waste and decided to offer them to transplant programs in the U.S.

That was the background that Lorraine and Derk Sherren couldn't have known about as they sat by their son's side in the ICU in Kingston.

"I held on to his hand almost all of that time for a week-and-a-half," Ms. Sherren said.

Once, when she woke up after dozing off in the chair next to Robbie's bed, "the nurse was hanging on to his hand in mine to make sure that I never lost grip."

She continued to hold fast after Robbie, who never let his developmental delays keep him from being a computer whiz, star bowler and all-around adventurer, was unhooked from the machines. After his heart stopped, he was rushed to the operating room for organ retrieval. His heart and one of his kidneys have since been successfully transplanted.

Gordon Boyd, a critical-care physician who cared for Robbie at the end of his life, said it was deeply meaningful for everyone at Kingston Health Sciences to fulfill the Sherren family's wishes.

"It was a highly, highly emotional event," Dr. Boyd said. "There was not a dry eye in the crowd. We were very happy to be able to make this happen for the family."

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Housing and infrastructure for an expanding nation



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Join The Globe and Mail for the Building for Growth event, which will bring experts and leaders together to discuss the solutions, partnerships and policies for the next generation of housing and infrastructure in Canada.



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U.S. inflation trends lower amid cooling demand for retail goods

LUCIA MUTIKANI WASHINGTON

U.S. consumer prices increased less than expected in April, suggesting that inflation resumed its downward trend at the start of the second quarter in a boost to financial market expectations for a September interest-rate cut.

Hopes of the Federal Reserve starting its easing cycle this year were further bolstered by other data on Wednesday showing retail sales were unexpectedly flat last month. The reports suggested that domestic demand was cooling, which will be welcomed by officials at the U.S. central bank as they try to engineer a “soft landing” for the economy.

“The economic data are picture perfect in favour of interest-rate cuts,” said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS. “The country is not out of the woods from the threat of inflation, but we can start to see the end of the forest.”

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.3 per cent last month after advancing 0.4 per cent in March and February, the Labour Department’s Bureau of Labour Statistics said.

The higher cost of living has detracted from the economy’s resilience, and is a campaign theme for the Nov. 5 presidential election.

■ ECONOMY, B5

Proxy advisers recommend Shopify investors vote ‘no’ on pay

DAVID MILSTEAD

Two major proxy advisers are recommending shareholders vote “no” on **Shopify Inc.’s** executive compensation programs and withhold votes from some members of the board who oversee the company’s pay practices.

Institutional Shareholder Services and Glass Lewis & Co. say there’s a disconnect between Shopify’s pay and the company’s performance.

They cite a stock-option award the company gave chief operating officer Kaz Nejatian that made up nearly all of his US\$76-million in total compensation in 2023. The two advisers also decry the lack of any performance measures tied to share awards made to Mr. Nejatian, founder and chief executive officer Tobias Lütke, and other executives.

They also say Shopify failed to meaningfully address shareholder concerns after relatively poor results in 2023 in its non-binding advisory vote on the board’s approach to executive compensation, known as “say on pay.” Shopify received support of only 77.5 per cent of votes cast – and just 54.9 per cent when excluding Mr. Lütke’s votes.

The proxy advisers consider support levels below 80 per cent to be cause for concern.

■ SHOPIFY, B5

[ENERGY]



EXXON PREPARES FOR DEEP DRILL

The Stena Drillmax is anchored in the harbour at Bay Bulls, N.L., on Wednesday. ExxonMobil says it plans to drill a single exploratory oil well in 3,000 metres of water about 500 kilometres off the east coast of Newfoundland in an area called the Orphan Basin. PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta’s ATCO makes strategic bet on natural gas with \$2-billion Yellowhead pipeline

EMMA GRANAY
ENERGY REPORTER

ATCO Ltd. is betting big on the role natural gas will play in Canada’s energy future, with a new \$2-billion pipeline-infrastructure project that chief executive Nancy Southern says will help grow demand for the fossil fuel in Alberta as the energy transition spurs hydrogen production.

The Calgary-based company is also looking at entering the nuclear space, which Ms. Southern firmly believes will play a role in Canada’s future energy mix.

“We want to be a part of all of those sources,” she told shareholders at the company’s annual meeting in Calgary on Wednesday.

ATCO’s massive new Yellowhead Mainline project will consist of approximately 200 kilometres of natural gas pipeline from Peers, Alta. – about 170 kilometres west of Edmonton – to Fort Saskatchewan, just northeast of the provincial capital. The pipeline is expected to have the capability to deliver up to one billion cubic feet a day of natural gas, reinforcing Alberta’s natural-gas network for its growing population and industries.

It’s the largest infrastructure project in ATCO’s history, and the company says it will create thousands of direct jobs during construction and more employment by its customers, including Dow Chemical for its Path2Zero project – the expansion and retrofit of an existing ethylene plant outside Edmonton with carbon-capture technology

so it can triple production.

Ms. Southern said in an interview Wednesday that she hopes the project will also boost development in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland, a region in Fort Saskatchewan where more than 40 companies produce fuels, fertilizers, power and petrochemicals.

“What I’m really excited about is seeing the demand for natural gas really coming to fruition,” she said. “We’re going to need a lot of natural gas for hydrogen in the future, so we’re hoping that that pipe is going to be big enough.”

Hydrogen is light, storable and energy-dense. When burned, it produces no direct greenhouse gas emissions, making it an attractive form of decarbonization.

■ ATCO, B5

Junior gold company Red Pine vows to regain trust after alleging former CEO tampered with assay data

NIALL MCGEE
MINING REPORTER

Junior gold company **Red Pine Exploration Inc.** is vowing to work to regain the trust of investors after accusing its former chief executive officer of tampering with its gold-assay data over the course of a decade.

Toronto-based Red Pine first raised questions about its assay figures on May 1, saying it found inconsistencies in some of its drilling results at its Wawa gold project in Ontario. The company’s stock immediately lost 60 per cent of its value.

Last Friday, the company alleged that Quentin Yarie manipulated hundreds of gold assay results going back to 2014 that overestimated the size of its resource by up to 12 per cent. Mr. Yarie stepped down as

chief executive officer in February, and had been with Red Pine since 2015.

Mr. Yarie did not respond to a request for comment.

On Wednesday, the company provided more information about the alleged tampering, revealing that Mr. Yarie manipulated 382 assay results between 2019 and earlier this year by increasing the grade of gold at select drill holes.

Michael Michaud, the incoming chief executive officer of Red Pine, said in an interview that the total number of manipulations of assay data stretching back to 2014 carried out by Mr. Yarie now stands at 544.

Paul Martin, the chairman of Red Pine, said in a conference call on Wednesday that he and his team were “devastated” to learn of the tampering scheme, and acknowledged it has caused the company “signifi-

cant reputational harm.”

Red Pine only became aware of the alleged tampering by accident when a geologist noticed an anomaly in the company’s drilling results, which was first reported to Mr. Martin on April 29.

Red Pine said the lab that carried out the assays sent its results directly to Mr. Yarie. Some of those numbers were changed and then uploaded to the company’s database.

The alleged manipulation was carried out “in a sophisticated, selective and isolated manner,” Mr. Martin said in the call on Wednesday. Before the company reported the alleged tampering, it told investors it was sitting on a resource of approximately 700,000 ounces of “inferred and indicated” gold, a category that means the deposit had not yet been proven to be economic.

■ RED PINE, B5



FINANCIAL SERVICES
TD launches generative AI platforms for contact centres, engineering teams ■ B3

SAMMY KOGAN/
THE GLOBE AND MAIL

MANUFACTURING

Canada will not become a backdoor for diverted Chinese steel and aluminum: Ottawa ■ B2

TIM CESTNICK

How to make cottage life more affordable – and save on your taxes, too ■ B8

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Canada won't accept diverted Chinese metals: Ottawa

Freeland's spokesperson says country won't be 'back door' for Beijing's steel and aluminum

STEVEN CHASE
SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY
REPORTER

The federal government says it will not allow Canada to become a dumping ground for diverted Chinese steel or aluminum after the United States announced it plans tariff hikes on imports from China.

U.S. tariffs on certain Chinese steel and aluminum products will climb to 25 per cent this year from as much as 7.5 per cent. The proposed higher tariff rate, announced this week, would apply to more than US\$1-billion worth of steel and aluminum products.

"Canada is not and will not be a 'back door' for Chinese steel and aluminum," Navpreet Chhatwal, communications adviser for Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, said in a statement Wednesday.

"Canada has a robust, responsive trade-remedy system to prevent dumped and subsidized imports and is committed to protecting our workers and industry from unfair trade," Ms. Chhatwal said.

Ms. Freeland's office did not rule out any measures but said it is still analyzing the American action.

The White House justified the tariffs by saying China is off-loading unfairly produced steel and aluminum in the United States.

"China's policies and subsidies for their domestic steel and aluminum industries mean high-quality, low-emissions U.S. products are undercut by artificially low-priced Chinese alternatives

produced with higher emissions," the White House said in a Tuesday statement.

Canadian international trade lawyer Lawrence Herman said Canada should act quickly to enact tariffs to ward off Chinese steel and aluminum that might be redirected from the U.S. to markets with lower trade barriers.

He said this country shouldn't wait for Ottawa's trade-remedy system to handle a complaint from Canadian industry over unfair imports.

"The trade-remedy process is a slow, cumbersome process," he said. "It requires industry to file complaints, complaints are investigated. It takes a long time to get the Canadian International Trade Tribunal to issue an order to apply anti-dumping or countervailing duties. I don't think trade remedies are the answer."

The risk, Mr. Herman said, is that Chinese steel gets dumped in

Canada or the Canadian market becomes a clearing house for the transshipment of steel from China through this country and then into the United States.

He said Canada should enact targeted tariffs based on the same rationale employed by the Americans.

Mr. Herman noted that Section 53 of Canada's Customs Tariff Act allows Ottawa to take pro-active steps in response to any major increase of Chinese goods into our country that are subsidized imports and in breach of trade agreements.

The tariff announcement was released in the middle of a heated campaign between presidential contenders Joe Biden and Donald Trump, his Republican predecessor. Both have tried to show who's tougher on China.

The Chinese economy has been slowed by the collapse of the country's real estate market and

past coronavirus pandemic lockdowns, prompting President Xi Jinping to try to jump-start growth by ramping up production of electric vehicles and other products, making more than the Chinese market can absorb.

"China's factory-led recovery and weak consumption growth, which are translating into excess capacity and an aggressive search for foreign markets, in tandem with the looming U.S. election season, add up to a perfect recipe for escalating U.S. trade frictions with China," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University.

The Chinese government was quick to push back against the tariffs announced by Mr. Biden, including on electric-vehicle imports, saying they "will seriously affect the atmosphere of bilateral co-operation."

With reports from Reuters and AP.



[RESOURCES]

Crop circles

Centre-pivot irrigated wheat fields, part of the Karbala Agricultural City megaproject, located about 40 kilometres southwest of Iraq's central city of Karbala, are pictured on Wednesday during the project's first wheat harvest season

AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

OTTAWA TO ACQUIRE QUEBEC BRIDGE FROM CN, WILL SPEND \$1-BILLION OVER 25 YEARS ON REPAIRS

The federal government says it has reached a deal with Canadian National Railway Co. to acquire the historic Quebec Bridge, after decades of political wrangling over what to do with the century-old span.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters in Quebec City Wednesday that Ottawa will spend \$1-billion over the next 25 years to repair, repaint and maintain the bridge, extending

its life for "decades."

Under the deal, Ottawa paid a symbolic one dollar to acquire the bridge from CN, said Pablo Rodriguez, federal Transport Minister. And while the federal government will own the bridge, the deal says CN and the Quebec government will retain responsibility and ownership of the rails and roadway on the span, which is crossed by 33,000 vehicles a day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian home sales dip in April from March as spring listings perk up, CREA says

SAMMY HUDES

The Canadian Real Estate Association says the number of homes changing hands in April fell from the previous month despite an influx of new listings hitting the market.

On a month-over-month basis, CREA said home sales in April were down 1.7 per cent, while newly listed properties available for sale rose 2.8 per cent to kick off the spring market.

The average price of a home sold last month amounted to \$703,446, down 1.8 per cent from April, 2023, according to data released Wednesday by the association.

Home sales rose 10.1 per cent compared with a year ago, but CREA attributed the gain primarily to the early Easter long weekend. Good Friday and Easter landed on March 29 and March 31 this year compared with April 7 and 9 last year.

CREA senior economist Shaun Cathcart said this spring has seen contrasting conditions compared with the same season last year.

"April 2023 was characterized by a surge of buyers re-entering a market with new listings at 20-year lows, whereas this spring thus far has been the opposite, with a healthier number of properties to choose from but less enthusiasm on the demand side," he said in a press release.

Slower monthly sales amid more new listings meant there was a 6.5-per-cent jump in the overall number of properties on the market — the second-largest month-over-month gain on record.

The national housing market is also seeing the highest inventory levels since just before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 4.2

months of inventory at the end of April, compared with 3.9 months at the end of March.

The long-term average is about five months of inventory.

Jason Ralph, broker of record for Royal LePage Team Realty in Ottawa, said that while local inventory levels in his market aren't quite as high as the national figures, relatively balanced conditions are giving buyers more negotiating power.

"Balanced markets tend to be a place where buyers can have conditions like home inspections, financing conditions," he said in an interview. "We consider it a little bit more of a fair market where neither buyers or sellers have, let's call it, an advantage."

He added now is a good time to buy, even as some remain cautious about when the Bank of Canada will begin cutting its key interest rate.

"There are some buyers on the sidelines waiting for that positive news release with the interest rate drop, but I see more buyers [coming] out of the woodwork," Mr. Ralph said.

"We've had a pretty strong start to the year compared to last year ... I think people are becoming a little bit more comfortable with the rates that we're going to be dealing with."

Also on Wednesday, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. released its latest data on housing starts for April, showing the annual pace of starts edged down 1 per cent compared with March.

The overall drop came as the annual pace of starts in urban centres essentially flatlined in April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Appointment

Ségolène Gallienne-Frère

Power Corporation of Canada is pleased to announce the election of Ms. Ségolène Gallienne-Frère to its Board of Directors.

Ms. Gallienne-Frère is a company director. She serves as a director of various European companies including Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, Christian Dior SE, Société Civile du Château Cheval Blanc and FG Bros. Since 2008, she has also served as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Diane SA, a company that specializes in the art trade. Prior to this, Ms. Gallienne-Frère was Head of Public Relations at Proximus (previously Belgacom) and Head of Communications at Dior Fine Jewelry.

Power Corporation of Canada (TSX: POW; POW.PR.E) is an international management and holding company that focuses on financial services in North America, Europe and Asia. Its core holdings are leading insurance, retirement, wealth management and investment businesses, including a portfolio of alternative asset investment platforms.



POWER CORPORATION
OF CANADA

TIM KILADZE

Bank of America Corp. tapped Drew McDonald to be its new country head for Canada, promoting a long-time corporate banker to succeed its outgoing leader.

Mr. McDonald, currently co-head of corporate and investment banking in Canada, is taking over from Adam Howard, who announced his retirement in March, according to an internal memo obtained by The Globe and Mail.

Mr. McDonald has been with BofA for close to a decade, and corporate lending is one of the main levers American banks pull to win merger and acquisition advisory roles that pay large fees. Most mega-mergers, for instance, need bridge financing to execute the transaction, and large U.S. banks have massive balance sheets that can extend the credit.

In recent years BofA has advised on large takeovers that involve Canadian companies, including Rogers Communications Inc.'s purchase of Shaw Communications Inc., Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd.'s purchase of Kansas City

Southern and Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP's purchase of Triton International Ltd.

BofA's leadership change adds to the management shuffles at multiple foreign investment banks in Canada over the past year. In January, Morgan Stanley announced the retirement of long-time Canadian investment banking head Dougal Macdonald and named his successor, mining specialist Richard Tory. Last fall, Jefferies Financial Group hired a number of veteran bankers and analysts from Barclays PLC, including country head Bruce Rothney. In turn, Barclays hired Geoff Belsher as its new Canadian head.

At the same time, a number of Canadian investment banks have shuffled their leadership teams. Royal Bank of Canada announced this week that it had named Matthew Stopnik as its global head of investment banking, and Bank of Nova Scotia recently hired Travis Machen from Morgan Stanley to run its global banking and markets business.

In its memo to staff, BofA said the bank will share more details on its Canadian leadership team in the near future.

TD Bank launches generative AI platforms

Virtual assistant aims to reduce wait times by helping staff find answers to day-to-day banking inquiries faster

STEFANIE MAROTTA
BANKING REPORTER

Toronto-Dominion Bank is rolling out its first real-world generative artificial intelligence platforms as global lenders race to test the technology and its impact on the financial sector.

Canada's second-largest lender launched two pilot projects Wednesday to implement generative AI platforms for its contact centres and engineering teams. Banks and the industry's regulators have been working to understand the technology's application in the sector, and how to safeguard lenders from potential risks.

AI has already been adopted widely across the industry as lenders have invested in automating functions such as risk management, trading and

investment research. With the rise of generative AI, banks have been exploring how to implement the enhanced form of the technology, which learns from data-based patterns and trends to help it generate content, make decisions and solve problems.

"A lot of businesses and financial services are stepping into this area with the appropriate level of caution to understand how they can create good outcomes whilst also knowing how this thing works," TD head of AI and analytics Luke Gee said in an interview. "We have moved forward with the appropriate pace and caution, and we're also doing everything we can to bring our people with us so they get to enjoy this."

Major U.S. banks have already started dabbling with generative AI programs. Last year, JPMorgan Chase & Co. said it is working with regulators to explain the bank's generative AI pilot projects and ensure that it has implemented the proper controls. In early May, the banking giant unveiled IndexGPT, a program similar to ChatGPT that builds thematic indexes and identifies investment opportunities based on trends.

Canada's banking regulator has also been keeping a watchful eye on the spread of AI technology. Last year, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions pointed to the threat of digital innovation, including AI, on a list of the top risks facing the stability of the financial sector.

Many of Canada's largest banks are exploring and testing generative AI. For now, lenders are largely using the technology to boost employee productivity.

In the early stages, banks are largely testing generative AI in ways that could reduce costs. The technology could add up to US\$340-billion in value across the sector, according to a 2023 report by McKinsey & Co. Inc.

In one of TD's pilots, the bank is using the technology to streamline customer interactions with the bank's contact centres. The generative AI virtual assistant aims to reduce wait times by helping customer service representatives find answers to day-to-day banking inquiries faster.

When representatives are unable to answer a customer question or problem, they turn to the guidance of higher-level support teams. The generative AI virtual

assistant is designed to step in to create written responses for bank employees, along with links to the TD policies and procedures used to inform its answers.

TD's research and development centre, Layer 6, developed the generative AI virtual assistant and trained the platform with the help of employees who understand the bank's practices.

The technology is meant to help employees do their jobs more efficiently and effectively, rather than replace roles with generative AI, according to TD's executive vice-president of North American customer operations Dawn Cooper.

"People will never be replaced," Ms. Cooper said. "There's always going to be a need to have conversations in the financial industry when there's a big moment happening. When there's a complex issue, that's when you really want somebody to be with you, human to human, to have those conversations. Generative AI is really the complement to the people."

The bank is also testing GitHub Copilot, a generative AI programming assistant developed

by Microsoft Corp. The platform helps engineers analyze code, offer recommendations on how to write it and detect bugs.

After TD did an initial and smaller scale test with GitHub Copilot late last year, employees said in a survey that the platform could save them up to 20 hours of work over two weeks.

TD's chief engineer and architect Licenia Rojas said that purpose of the platform is to "accelerate cold development and create a robust experience for our developers and engineers that we could leverage more of their time towards creativity, features and capabilities that we would want to enable for our customers."

TD has been actively developing technology platforms and programs. In the past three years, the bank has filed 2,500 patents, of which one in five are related to AI.

"We're the number one patent filer among financial institutions in Canada and the top 20 in the U.S.," said Imran Khan, head of TD Invent, the bank's technology innovation unit. "We have an exhaustive patent portfolio and AI is a big part of that."

Calgary City Council approves more housing density in all neighbourhoods

OLIVER MOORE
URBAN AFFAIRS REPORTER

Calgary City Council voted to allow greater housing density in all neighbourhoods after 12 days of contentious hearings that featured more than 700 members of the public, the majority of them opposed.

The zoning rules, which take effect this summer, will make it legal to build row houses, semi-detached homes and fourplexes in the large parts of the city where only single-family homes are now allowed.

The changes approved by Calgary's city council are part of a wave of upzonings in municipalities across Canada, in many cases prompted by the promise of federal funding. Ottawa has used its Housing Accelerator Fund to impose conditions on cities that include ending single-family zoning and instead allowing multi-plexes on every lot by default.

While some local governments have expressed skepticism, most have changed their zoning rules anyway and signed agreements with Ottawa. A notable exception is Windsor, Ont., whose council rejected blanket upzoning earlier this year.

In Calgary, the city reached a \$228-million deal through the Housing Accelerator Fund in exchange for promising to increase housing downtown, streamline approvals and allow growth in established neighbourhoods.

In an interview Wednesday, the morning after the rezoning was approved, Mayor Jyoti Gondek stressed that it was only part of Calgary's housing strategy. She pointed to nearly 100 other measures that include making city land available for affordable housing.

"It's an important step forward," she said. "I think it will show that the city is focused on ensuring that we retain the people that are in our city and we welcome those who are coming here."

Brent Toderian, an international consultant who was formerly a planner in both Calgary and Vancouver, said upzoning is not a cure-all for the housing affordability crisis. But he added that it is an important step not to set aside vast swaths of cities for

single-family homes.

"It's a big deal and it will lead to more housing choice," he said. "It's a particularly big deal when a city like Calgary does it, because we have the ability to say 'well, if Calgary has done this, why can't you?'"

"As-of-right" zoning allowing greater density has been one of the biggest changes in Canadian housing policy in decades. But it has come with controversy.

Owners of single-family homes often argue that their asset will be devalued by more density. Others worry about losing parking access, trees being cut down and overcrowded schools. An anti-renter current runs through many of these debates.

In Calgary, the public hearings on an already contentious topic were turned into "a powder keg," said Councillor Evan Spencer. He cited a number of unrelated factors including the unpopularity of Ms. Gondek, who was separately facing a recall petition, and partisan politics.

"This was an opportunity for everyone that's frustrated with the City of Calgary about how their neighbourhoods have been changing to come and give 'em both barrels," Mr. Spencer said.

He voted in favour of the change, calling it a way to create a more adaptable and resilient city: "It's an unpopular decision that gets outcomes in the long run."

However, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith voiced concern about what she characterized federal strong-arming.

"It does concern me if municipalities feel that they have pressure from the federal government to change their policies in order to get a couple of hundred million dollars," she told an unrelated briefing.

Councillor Dan McLean, who voted against the new zoning, argued that polling showed the majority of residents were opposed to the change.

"If you bought a home in a single-family neighbourhood ... a developer could buy the neighbouring property and throw up a fourplex," he said.

Mr. McLean suggested this will be a hot topic in the October, 2025, municipal election and dismissed as "lipstick on a bylaw" an amendment approved Tuesday evening that would give neighbours input

into nearby development.

In the case of proposed row houses, semis and denser development, locals would be able to weigh in on such factors as building height, where an air-conditioning unit might be placed and what sort of landscaping there would be.

"By listening to people's concerns, we were able to alleviate many of them by strengthening the development permit process," Ms. Gondek said.

Such a process would not give neighbours a veto. But it appears at odds with the concept of as-of-right zoning, which is normally defined as allowing without further process buildings that meet specific criteria.



Houses and apartments are pictured in Sunnyside, at the base of McHugh Bluff, in Calgary on Wednesday. JUDE BROCKE/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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DIVIDENDS

Sagico

SAGICOR FINANCIAL COMPANY LTD.

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE FOR PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND

NOTICE is hereby given that the Directors of Sagico Financial Company Ltd. ("the Company") have by resolution declared a dividend of **US \$0.06** per share on the issued and outstanding common shares of the Company.

The dividend is payable on **June 19, 2024** to the registered holders of the common shares of record at the close of business on **May 29, 2024**.

Dated May 10, 2024

By Order of the Board of Directors
Althea C. Hazzard
Corporate Secretary

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NETFLIX HITS 40 MILLION USERS FOR AD-SUPPORTED PLAN

Netflix Inc. said on Wednesday its ad-supported tier has reached 40 million global monthly active users, from five million a year earlier, a sign that its push to attract new users with the cheaper plan is paying off.

The jump comes at a time when streaming companies are facing stiff competition and introducing bundles with their rivals to retain subscribers.

Netflix, which launched the ad-supported plan in November, 2022, said that 40 per cent of all sign-ups come from those plans in the countries where they are available.

In the fourth quarter, the majority of gross subscriber additions for the streaming industry came from ad-supported plans for the first time, data from research firm Antenna

showed earlier this week.

Netflix also said it will launch an in-house advertising technology platform by the end of 2025, in a bid to offer clients new ways to buy ads and better engage with users.

The company said it will team up with Trade Desk, Google Display & Video 360, and ad-tech firm Magnite who will join Microsoft to accelerate automated ad buying.

Netflix's ad-tier plan costs US\$6.99 a month, compared with monthly plans of US\$9.99 from Warner Bros Discovery's streaming service Max and US\$7.99 for Walt Disney's Disney Plus.

Earlier on Wednesday, Netflix said it would stream two National Football League games on Christmas Day this year. REUTERS

In the matter of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "CCAA"), and

In the matter of a Plan of Compromise or Arrangement of Clarkson Road Developments GP Inc., Clarkson Road Holdings Inc., and 2813427 Ontario Inc. (the "Applicants")

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 3, 2024, the Applicants sought and obtained an order (the "Initial Order") from the Ontario Superior Court of Justice Commercial List pursuant to the CCAA, under Court File No. CV-24-00719589-00CL. Pursuant to the Initial Order, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., LIT was appointed as monitor of the Applicants, Clarkson Road Developments Limited Partnership and Eleven11 Limited Partnership (the "Monitor"). This notice is provided in accordance with section 23(1)(a) of the CCAA and paragraph 42 of the Initial Order.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the Initial Order and other public information in respect of these CCAA proceedings are available on the Monitor's website at www.pwc.com/ca/1111clarkson, or may be obtained by contacting the Monitor directly at:

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., LIT,
Monitor of Clarkson Road Developments GP Inc., Clarkson Road Holdings Inc., 2813427 Ontario Inc., Clarkson Road Developments Limited Partnership and Eleven11 Limited Partnership
PwC Tower
18 York Street, Suite 2600
Toronto, ON M5J 0B2
Attention: Tammy Muradova
Email: ca_1111clarkson@pwc.com

DATED at Toronto, Ontario this 16th day of May, 2024.



OPINION & ANALYSIS

Is our per capita GDP really 7% below trend?

Analysts and political activists have seized on a recent Statscan report that suggests Canada is falling short

CLAUDE LAVOIE

OPINION

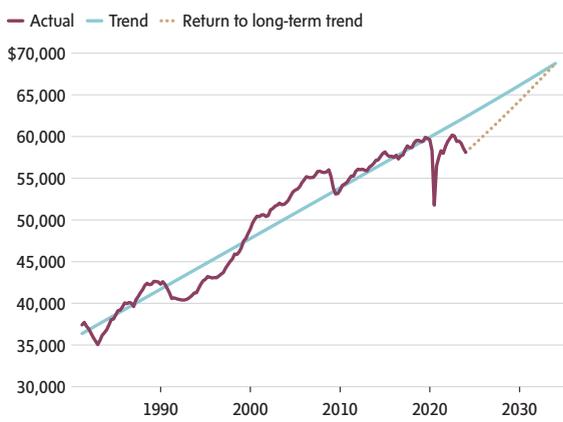
A contributing columnist for The Globe and Mail, he was director-general of economic studies and policy analysis at the Department of Finance from 2008 to 2023

Statistics Canada is excellent at producing reliable and useful data and has a long-standing reputation of being one of the best statistical agencies in the world. However, sometimes it puts out simplistic factoids that can be misleading.

Many analysts and political activists have used a recent Statscan report, which suggests GDP per capita is 7 per cent below its long-term trend, to attack the government's economic policies.

The report implicitly assumes that real GDP per capita should constantly grow, on average, at the same 1.1-per-cent annual rate

Real GDP per capita in Canada
In 2017 dollars



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

as it did between 1981 and 2023. The report says that, under this projection, current GDP per capita needs to grow at a sky-high 1.7 per cent a year to return to trend within a decade.

But there is something wrong with the premise of that argument. Why would future GDP grow at the same rate as between 1981 and 2023? Why not at the same rate as over the 1961 to 2023 period, for which Statscan has kept GDP records. Why should

we expect real GDP per capita to continually grow at a constant rate?

Demographic factors, such as population aging, would certainly affect this rate as older people tend to participate less in the labour force. Similarly, globalization and the mass adoption of information and communication technologies boosted per capita growth from the second half of the 1990s to the first half of the 2010s. As the economic effects of

these impacts ended and aging accelerated, per capita growth declined in many countries.

Christine Lagarde, former head of the International Monetary Fund and current head of the European Central Bank, has characterized the post-2008 period as the "new mediocre." Why should we expect Canada's per capita GDP to be an anomaly and continue to grow at the same rate as in the past when it slowed in most other advanced economies? If Statistics Canada had based their "trend" on the post-2008 period, they would have likely reported a significantly smaller gap.

Moreover, volatile quarterly data mean that using current per capita GDP to determine what is needed to "return to trend" is deceptive.

Real GDP and population have temporary fluctuations. Periods of unusually weak growth are often followed by periods of unusually high growth. Rising interest rates and large influxes of refugees from continuing wars will temporarily dampen growth in per capita GDP.

If Statistics Canada had published the same report last year and used the post-2008 period to determine the "trend growth," they may have concluded that real GDP per capita was above its

trend. Would people have then applauded the current government's economic policies? Or argue we should slow growth?

We all should avoid making bold claims unbacked by strong evidence and thoughtful analysis.

It is concerning that Statistics Canada, a federal government agency, published a rather simplistic analysis on a politically sensitive issue. Amid a political debate centred on per capita GDP growth, it was clear its report, which doesn't provide any new useful insights, would be used for political propaganda. Typically, public servants want to avoid being on the front page, so it seems like someone in the upper echelons of Statistics Canada didn't think things through.

Statistics Canada's report is right to point out that our productivity performance has been lagging that of other countries. But this is not a recent phenomenon; it has been going on for decades. So it's misguided to put the blame on the current government.

Anecdotes and simplistic analyses are unduly influencing political debates and policy decisions across the political spectrum. Whatever Statscan's intentions, it should not have added to this cloud of malaise.

Must economic 'fairness' come at growth's expense?

DUANE GREEN

OPINION

Former chief executive of a Canadian asset manager

The latest Liberal government budget is the continuation of eight successive years of massive deficit spending coupled with a clear tax-and-spend mindset. All of this under the guise of "fairness." What about economic growth?

I can't understand why we wouldn't want to think boldly and strive for fairness, while at the same time spurring growth in order for all Canadians to benefit. We need to break the ideology that fairness is synonymous with raising taxes to spend more – in other words, redistributing wealth.

The 2024 budget criticism has largely centred around the increase in taxes that will undoubtedly stifle investment and continue the precipitous decline in Canadian productivity, thus impeding the country's ability to create a viable strategy for growth.

This latest round of tax and spend should not come as a surprise. Since 2015, we have seen that the fiscal strategy hasn't been a strategy to grow the wealth of Canada overall. Instead, it has been focused on running inexplicable deficits by spending money Canada doesn't have and raising taxes for everyone in order to spend more. This underscores the challenges posed by an overreliance on redistribution at the expense of wealth creation.

I pay my taxes to help ensure Canada will invest to grow while at the same time to make sure we provide a social safety net for all Canadians. However, there is a real cost to achieving this, and it can't simply be to raise taxes under the premise of creating fairness and to make spending headlines.

Social welfare programs play a crucial role in promoting social equity, but their effectiveness ultimately hinges on sustainable economic growth. Without a vibrant economy generating sufficient wealth, redistributive measures simply become unsustainable.

The days of the Chrétien-Martin Liberal governments that saw Canada wrestle the deficit down and balance the budget is a distant ideology from the current Liberal government of today. We have to stop politicizing the economic future of Canada and look at how best the country can compete on the global stage, while ensuring a strong economy that all Canadians can benefit from.

For almost a decade, Canada has witnessed a shift in fiscal policy primarily aimed at redistributing wealth. As data from Statistics Canada and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development reveal, this focus on redistribution has coincided with concerning declines in gross domestic product growth and productivity.

Statistics Canada data from 2015 onward paint a sobering picture of the country's economic trajectory with weak GDP growth. At the same time, productivity growth, a key driver of long-term economic prosperity, has stagnated, with Canada consistently trailing its OECD counterparts.

There is a correlation between the emphasis on wealth redistribution and the slow pace of economic expansion. High taxes and regulatory hurdles have deterred businesses from expanding and have discouraged risk-taking, contributing to Canada's weak growth. The economy has been in decline, and the emphasis on redistribution has created disincentives for entrepreneurship, investment and innovation.

Fairness does not need to come at the expense of growth of the Canadian economy, nor do they need to be mutually exclusive.

It will take all levels of government to develop sound tax policy, create an environment to incentivize investment and decrease regulatory hurdles to grow the economy in order to retain and attract skilled workers, business and entrepreneurs that see Canada as a great place to invest, live and work.

It will mean making big, bold, meaningful decisions that will protect the social fabric of the nation, and at the same time create a framework for economic growth that enhances productivity and competitiveness. Balancing fairness and growth necessitate a recalibration of fiscal policy.

There is no reason why we can't have both. The current cycle of tax and spend is not what Canada needs. You cannot tax your way to prosperity. We need to embrace policies that foster both fairness and growth, where economic success benefits all Canadians.



The March, 2023, acquisition of Resolute Forest Products by privately held Paper Excellence places Canadian pulp and paper under the control of overseas interests. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

China is after Canada's pulp and paper industry

ROBERT DIMITRIEFF

OPINION

Chief executive officer of Patriot Forge Co., a metalworking company in Canada, he also serves on the International Economic Policy Council of the C.D. Howe Institute

In the shadow of escalating global conflicts and the pressing demand for military supplies, a critical component of national security is being overlooked: the strategic importance of pulp and paper. Traditionally seen as mundane commodities, these materials are in fact pivotal in the production of military-grade components such as nitrocellulose, a key ingredient in artillery ammunition.

Canada, home to vast tracts of forest, has long been a powerhouse in pulp and paper production. Yet, recent developments raise concerns about national security.

The March, 2023, acquisition of Resolute Forest Products by privately held Paper Excellence – among other purchases of Canadian producers by parties related to foreign corporations, notably from China – places these essential resources under the control of overseas interests.

Paper Excellence, despite being based in British Columbia, is controlled by a member of a Chinese-Indonesian business dynasty and has already amassed a sizable share of Canada's forest products industry. While Paper Excellence denies this, a whistle-blower has called the company's rapid North American expansion since 2007 a "fibre grab" for China in an investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and 39 media outlets, including the CBC and Glacier Media.

NDP MP Charlie Angus raised concerns about this issue during a meeting of the House of

Commons standing committee on natural resources back in March, 2023. I could not agree more with his assertion.

The fact is this shift not only threatens to redirect essential supplies during crises but also exposes Canada to geopolitical vulnerabilities.

Nitrocellulose, or guncotton, is produced primarily from wood pulp and is critical for producing smokeless gunpowder used in military ammunition. Currently, China dominates the global nitrocellulose market, controlling the production and export of this vital material. Europe's dependency on Chinese nitrocellulose has already led to supply shortages, hampering efforts to support Ukraine amidst its continuing conflict with Russia.

There is a reason foreign entities are trying to control a significant portion of Canada's pulp production: Our country is a crucial player in the supply chains for these military components.

The Canadian government's failure to recognize the strategic military applications of the pulp and paper sector during national security reviews reflects a broader lack of awareness of the importance of maintaining control over critical supply chains.

Even more ironic is the fact that industrial processes required for the production of nitric acid, sulphuric acid and toluene are tightly correlated with hydrogen production, a sector the government of Canada has targeted for development.

Again, one can see that a wider and more detailed understanding of the supply chain networks for critical infrastructure and national security, and their intrinsic role in supporting the defence industrial base, is being greatly overlooked by our policy makers.

To safeguard national security and economic sovereignty, I believe Canada must re-evaluate its strategic industries through the

lens of contemporary global challenges. This re-evaluation should include:

- Policy reforms: Implement policies that incentivize the production of high-value derivatives such as nitrocellulose, toluene and other core defence inputs within Canada.

- Strategic partnerships: Foster partnerships within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and with other allies to secure and stabilize supply chains for critical military components; if NATO ammunition producers are sourcing guncotton from China and are worried about the potential risks of this, there is a natural opportunity to de-risk and source from Canada directly.

- Investment in domestic capabilities: Encourage investment in sectors that support defence needs, such as nitrocellulose and the other key materials required for a sovereign defence production capability. In nearly all cases these are dual-use technologies that aid in securing our modern way of life and not only defending it.

As the global landscape becomes increasingly precarious, Canada must not only protect but also strategically leverage its natural resources and industrial capabilities. Ensuring national security in an era of uncertainty requires recognition that industry is not just about economic benefits to individuals or governments.

Even industrial sectors that during peacetime are not directly considered part of the defence industry, such as pulp and paper, must be protected and maintained in the interests of national security.

In redefining how we view these resources and the existing capabilities within Canadian industry, Canada can strengthen its position both as a global leader in sustainable resource management and a reliable defender of the free world.

Economy: Financial experts expect price pressures to ebb this quarter

■ FROM B1

President Joe Biden said prices were still too high but argued that his agenda, which includes building two million homes and taking on Big Pharma to lower prescription drug prices “will give families breathing room.” Donald Trump’s campaign blamed inflation on the Biden administration’s policies and touted the former president’s America First agenda of low taxes, lower prices and higher wages.

The cost of shelter, which includes rents, increased 0.4 per cent for the third straight month. Gasoline prices shot up 2.8 per cent. These two categories contributed to more than 70 per cent of the increase in the CPI. Food prices were unchanged. Prices at the supermarket fell 0.2 per cent, with eggs dropping 7.3 per cent. Meat, fish, fruits and vegetables as well as non-alcoholic beverages were also cheaper.

But cereals and bakery products cost more, while prices for dairy products rose marginally.

In the 12 months through April, the CPI increased 3.4 per cent after climbing 3.5 per cent in March. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI gaining 0.4 per cent on the month and 3.4 per cent year-on-year. The annual increase in consumer prices has slowed from a peak of 9.1 per cent in June, 2022.

Inflation accelerated in the first quarter amid strong domestic demand after moderating for much of last year. Last month’s slowdown was a relief after data on Tuesday showed a jump in producer prices in April. Inflation is being driven by providers of services such as motor vehicle insurance, housing and health care catching up to higher costs.

Economists expect price pressures to ebb this quarter, and inflation to gradually move toward the Fed’s 2-per-cent target as the labour market is cooling. Fed



U.S. gasoline prices shot up 2.8 per cent as overall inflation eased – one of two categories to contribute to more than 70 per cent of the bump in the Consumer Price Index. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Chair Jerome Powell said on Tuesday: “I expect that inflation will move back down ... on a monthly basis to levels that were more like the lower readings that we were having last year.”

Financial markets saw a roughly 73-per-cent probability of a rate cut in September, up from 69 per cent before the data. A few economists anticipate the Fed will start lowering borrowing costs in July.

The central bank early this month left its benchmark overnight interest rate unchanged in the current 5.25-per-cent to 5.50-per-cent range, where it has been since July. The Fed has raised its policy rate by 525 basis points since March, 2022.

Stocks on Wall Street were trading higher. The dollar fell against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices rose.

Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the CPI

rose 0.3 per cent in April after advancing 0.4 per cent for three straight months. That lowered the three-month annualized increase in the so-called core CPI to a 4.1-per-cent rate from a 4.5-per-cent rate.

Rents increased 0.4 per cent. Owners’ equivalent rent (OER), a measure of the amount homeowners would pay to rent or would earn from renting their property, also gained 0.4 per cent after a similar rise in March and February. Market rents have been trending lower and that is expected to show in the CPI data this year.

Motor vehicle insurance increased 1.8 per cent after surging 2.6 per cent in March. There were also increases in the prices of personal care, recreation and education. The cost of health care rose 0.4 per cent, reflecting an increase in hospital services.

Airline fares cost less. Over all,

services gained 0.4 per cent after advancing 0.5 per cent in March. Excluding rents, they climbed 0.2 per cent after surging 0.8 per cent in March.

“Consumers’ decision to purchase more used cars, and continuing to drive old cars following the pandemic, is resulting in more repairs, which is pushing up premiums, rather than strong demand today for more immediate consumption,” said Richard de Chazal, macro analyst at William Blair.

Used car and truck prices dropped for a second consecutive month. New motor vehicle prices notched their third straight monthly decline. Prices for household furnishings and operations also fell. Core goods deflation continued, though the pace slowed. In the 12 months through April, the core CPI increased 3.6 per cent. That was the smallest year-on-year gain since

April, 2021, and followed a 3.8-per-cent increase in March.

Based on the CPI and PPI data, economists estimated that the Core Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index rose 0.2 per cent in April after gaining 0.3 per cent in March. That would lower the annual increase in core inflation to 2.7 per cent from 2.8 per cent in March.

A separate report from the Commerce Department’s Census Bureau showed retail sales unchanged in April after increasing 0.6 per cent in March. Economists had forecast retail sales, which are mostly goods and are not adjusted for inflation, gaining 0.4 per cent. Sales rose 3 per cent year-on-year in April.

While demand is slowing, April’s flat reading was partly payback after Amazon.com Inc.’s spring promotion boosted sales in March. Sales at online retailers dropped 1.2 per cent after surging 2.5 per cent in March. Sales at food services and drinking places, the only services component in the report, gained 0.2 per cent. Economists view dining out as a key indicator of household finances.

Retail sales excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services fell 0.3 per cent last month after a downwardly revised 1-per-cent increase in March. These so-called retail sales were previously reported to have advanced 1.1 per cent in March. Core retail sales correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product.

March’s core retail sales set a higher growth base for second-quarter consumer spending, despite the softness in April.

“We see this as the potential start of a softer consumer spending environment rather than the beginning of a sharp retrenchment,” said Oren Klachkin, an economist at Nationwide.

REUTERS

Shopify: Disclosure doesn’t offer ‘meaningful rationale’ for executive’s pay, adviser says

■ FROM B1

The average Canadian public company gets about 90-per-cent support.

In addition to the “no” vote on say-on-pay, the two recommend withholding votes for Gail Goodman, who serves as the chair of the board’s compensation committee. Glass Lewis also recommends withholding votes for the remaining compensation committee members, Robert Ashe (who also serves as Shopify’s lead independent director) and Fidji Simo. (Shareholders are asked to vote “for” a director or to “withhold” their votes. At a majority of Canadian companies, there is no “against.”)

The two advisers also recommend “no” votes on changes to two long-term, stock-based incentive plans that require shareholder approval. They describe the costs of the plans and the number of shares Shopify may need to issue as “excessive.”

Shopify did not reply to a request for comment. In its proxy circular to shareholders, it says it aligns the interests of its executives with shareholders by making a majority of compensation in the form of long-term, equity-based incentives. “The overall value of compensation paid to our executives is largely determined by our stock price performance,” Shopify said, adding that there has been “a strong correlation between the stock price ... and the target and realized compensation levels our executives received.”

Shopify says its 2023 say-on-pay results “were not aligned with historical results,” as the company averaged 94-per-cent support in the five years prior. As a result, Shopify says it “solicited additional engagements with shareholders to understand their feedback.”

ISS notes, however, there only seemed to be one minor change to the compensation program in the last year and Shopify did not dis-

close any specifics regarding shareholder feedback and what actions were taken in response to the feedback. ISS notes Mr. Nejatian’s award was made after the annual meeting, in December, 2023. (Shopify also gave Mr. Lütke stock awards in February of this year that it valued at US\$150-million.)

In its management information circular, Shopify says the compensation committee of its board of directors made the stock awards “to ensure Mr. Nejatian is focused on fostering sustained performance and increasing shareholder value over an extended horizon.”

Glass Lewis described Shopify’s disclosure as “fairly boilerplate” and said it “does not provide meaningful rationale for his compensation arrangements.”

For many years, Shopify stock options were a money machine as the company’s shares rocketed ever higher. In the 6½ years from the May, 2015, initial public offering to its September, 2021, high, Shopify stock rose 6,268 per cent. Mr. Lütke, the company’s founder, was at one point one of the richest people in Canada. (Even today, the stock he holds in the company is worth US\$4.8-billion.) The company has retreated from those lofty heights. With Shopify’s 18-per-cent one-day plunge last week, after releasing weak financial guidance numbers, the shares are down 64 per cent from their all-time Toronto Stock Exchange high.

More than two-thirds of the options Mr. Nejatian has received from Shopify in his career, including the grant made in December, are out-of-the-money. Mr. Lütke’s February grant is also out-of-the-money. That means the exercise prices on the options are higher than the current market price and there is no money to be made by exercising them.

Their options expire over several years ending in 2033, however, giving them time for Shopify’s stock to recover.

Red Pine: Incoming CEO had second thoughts about joining after learning of tampering

■ FROM B1

Red Pine has reported the alleged assay results tampering to the Ontario Securities Commission.

The alleged tampering at Red Pine resembles an earlier case of assay data manipulation involving another junior Canadian mining company that saw a provincial securities regulator take action.

In 2009, John Paterson, former chief executive of Southwestern Resources Corp., admitted to fraud and illegal insider trading after manipulating the company’s gold assay data. Mr. Paterson took valid assay results from the company’s gold project in China and changed them in the company’s database to make the results look materially better. He sold shares in the company that were inflated in value by his manipulated assay results.

The B.C. Securities Commission banned Mr. Paterson for life from acting as a company officer or director.

Mr. Michaud, who officially takes over as chief executive officer in July, said that when he

learned of the tampering, he wondered about whether he should still join the company. When Mr. Michaud’s appointment was announced in April, the alleged tampering had not been brought to light.

Mr. Martin told The Globe and Mail last week that Mr. Yarie’s departure from the company had nothing to do with the alleged tampering, and that he was terminated because of his long-term underperformance in the role.

Mr. Michaud said that before the tampering scandal broke, Red Pine “had a fairly decent reputation,” and that as senior vice-president of exploration at his current employer, Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd., he was even looking at it as a possible acquisition target.

The most notorious case of manipulation of actual assays in the Canadian junior mining sector revolved around Calgary-based Bre-X Minerals Ltd. In the late 1990s, the gold exploration company salted its assays at its Indonesian gold project to make it appear as if its purported gold find was a bonanza. Bre-X was later revealed as a hoax and investors lost about \$6-billion as a result.



A falling share price shows ATCO has to do a better job of explaining why diversity is strength, CEO Nancy Southern says.

LEAH HENNEL/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

ATCO: Share price has fallen over 8% since this time last year

■ FROM B1

One way to produce hydrogen is by using high-temperature steam to produce hydrogen from a methane source such as natural gas.

Canada’s federal government and various provinces – including Alberta – are pursuing hydrogen as a potential economic opportunity.

ATCO has several hydrogen projects around the world, including in Australia and Japan. These include production, blending and refuelling facilities. In October, 2022, it began delivering a blend of natural gas containing 5 per cent hydrogen into a subsection of the Fort Saskatchewan natural gas distribution system.

ATCO also has a sweeping portfolio of wind and solar assets, and Ms. Southern says Canada will need to take advantage of all of its energy options as it pursues its net-zero greenhouse gas emission goal.

“Unfortunately, we’re at the nascent part of the journey in the transition, but the longer you keep at it the better you are getting the cost down,” she said.

That’s where small modular nuclear reactors come in. Ms. Southern said she sees incredible opportunities in a Trans-Canada power grid backbone that the federal government has talked about – despite regular bickering between the provinces and Ottawa.

“I think the next decade will be pretty exciting to see some of these projects come about and actually deliver long-term, low-

cost energy,” she said.

ATCO Ltd., is a sprawling, international operation with its hands in power generation, natural gas distribution and an array of camp services for remote and temporary work sites. That diversity is ATCO’s strength, Ms. Southern said. But she acknowledged it has hit the company’s share price this year, which has fallen more than 8 per cent to \$40.64 since this time last year.

“

I think the next decade will be pretty exciting to see some of these projects come about and actually deliver long-term, low-cost energy.

NANCY SOUTHERN
ATCO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

She attributes that to ATCO’s offerings being unpopular with analysts, who tend to prefer pure-play businesses. At the end of the day, the company has to do a better job of explaining why diversity is strength, Ms. Southern said.

“Obviously I believe in it, because I lead it, but I think the market has a hard time understanding it. So that’s on us,” she said.

“We’re a big company that nobody knows about.”

ATCO LTD. (ACO-X-T)
CLOSE: \$40.64, UP 9¢

Next-generation farming



'A really cool map' – providing tools for farmers, plant breeders and policymakers

Steve Shirliffe, professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan, is working to create maps with information that can enhance decision-making and lead to better agricultural yields. SUPPLIED

Imagine a map of every field under agricultural production across Western Canada, showing detailed information about what crops are currently grown and whether they represent an optimal use for local conditions.

With an area spanning 2.7 million square kilometres – and more than 135 million acres used for farming – this may sound far-fetched, yet Steve Shirliffe, professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), is confident not only that this ambition can become reality but also that it will be a valuable tool for agricultural producers and other decision-makers.

"My goal is to map the spatial variability in every field in Western Canada on a 10-metre-pixel scale within the next five years," he says. "We know how to get there; we have the technology. It's just about getting the right steps in place to make it happen."

As project co-lead for USask's crop phenomics platform, Dr. Shirliffe studies field phenomics, a process where data from satellites, drones and sensors from agricultural equipment is combined and analyzed through image-processing and machine-learning algorithms to provide insights on field productivity.

"In crop production, the big challenge is to grow more with less," he says. "It is essential to keep increasing yields in order to feed humanity and exercise our contract with society – which is to provide food, fibre and fuel – in a way that doesn't adversely affect the environment."

At the same time, agricultural production is undergoing changes, with climate change affecting weather patterns and growing conditions in the Prairies, for example. Dr. Shirliffe proposes that "digital agriculture can drive a multi-pronged approach to deal with these challenges."

What gives researchers at USask a considerable advantage are several areas of research excellence that can, taken together, enhance outcomes in agriculture, he says. "We're at the intersection of remote sensing, data analytics, agronomy and crop science. Bringing these areas of expertise together can help advance plant breeding as well as precision agriculture."



We constantly challenge ourselves to ensure this [research and innovation] ecosystem is as successful as it can be, and to provide answers to some of the big questions of our time.

Peter Stoicheff
President, University of Saskatchewan



It is my hope that we can foster a digital economy here in Saskatchewan. We already have good precision agriculture companies and some smaller enterprises that develop solutions for the sector. We have the right ecosystem to catalyze this and become global leaders.

Steve Shirliffe
Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ENHANCING CROP SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT

USask has an impressive track record in enabling success in agricultural production, including through "plant breeders, who are selecting and releasing crop genotypes and crop varieties, primarily for Western Canada," says Dr. Shirliffe.

Previously, plant breeders would go out into fields "with their notepad to look at plant characteristics and record conditions and growth patterns," he says. "Now, digital imagery allows us to quantify those variables and assess them more accurately."

Dr. Shirliffe and his collaborative team combine satellite and drone data with ground data – for example, from farm equipment that comes with sensor technology – to generate yield maps.

"All our projects have this aspect of using ground reference data in conjunction with remote sensing data to then train machine-learning models to predict performance for a wider area," he says. "These techniques allow us to utilize rather sparse data sets and then apply these insights to huge areas."

There are a number of advantages to using digital imagery: "one, we can collect data from thousands of plots; and two, we can record how these plants are changing over time," Dr. Shirliffe explains. "Together with experts in engineering, computer science and plant breeding, we developed a methodology for doing that. We also work with geneticists to identify genes associated with particular traits to allow genomic selection and improve plant-breeding techniques."

In addition to better crop selection, the data can help improve crop management. "One of the reasons why crop yields have increased is because we have better crop varieties – another is because we have better ways of managing them," he says, estimating that influences on crop yields are roughly 50 per cent genetics and 50 per cent agronomy.

From looking at agricultural production with an agronomy lens, Dr. Shirliffe started using digital imagery to map large areas of the Prairies to quantify crop yield variability existing within fields. "All fields have natural variability, for example, due to variances in soil and water distribution, which are usually the main factors," he says. "When we're able to map that – and develop better ways of managing it – we can optimize productivity."

Identifying high-productivity areas as well as marginal areas can help farmers come up with appropriate management plans, he suggests. "Where marginal areas are not economically profitable, for example, a better approach for that land could be taking it out of production and assigning a different ecosystem function, such as using perennial grasses. This would help sequester carbon, prevent weed growth and provide habitat for wildlife."

Other questions where Dr. Shirliffe turns to digital imagery for answers relate to the detection of soil salinity and koshia, a weed that causes considerable concern for Prairie agriculture.

Machine-learning models trained on individual field data can be applied to imagery of "thousands or even millions of acres," he says.

THE CHALLENGE? PRODUCING MORE FOOD, REDUCING EMISSIONS

Canada's agriculture and food systems produce

93 megatonnes

– or just over **10%** – of our national greenhouse gas emissions annually.

If Canadian farmers maintain current practices and market share, these emissions could rise to

137 megatonnes

as the world's population increases **26%** by 2050.

Nature-based solutions that sequester carbon will also be critical. Soil carbon has the potential to be one of our most powerful tools, raising the amount of carbon stored in soil to as much as

35MT.

A national effort, tailored to regional contexts and focused on the key pillars of technology, finance, skills and public policy, will be essential to increasing food production while also cutting emissions.

Source: RBC The Next Green Revolution: thoughtleadership.rbc.com/the-next-green-revolution-how-canada-can-produce-more-food-and-fewer-emissions/

"These techniques can be applied very widely due to the availability of data from European and American satellites or that can be accessed on cloud computing platforms like Google Earth Engine."

RESEARCH SEEDING INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Digital imagery analysis and AI capabilities represent fertile ground for innovation, says Dr. Shirliffe. "It is my hope that we can foster a digital economy here in Saskatchewan. We already have good precision agriculture companies and some smaller enterprises that develop solutions for the sector. We have the right ecosystem to catalyze this and become global leaders."

USask President Peter Stoicheff believes the university's presence has played a big role in making Saskatoon one of the fastest growing technology hubs in the country. "And among the fastest growing companies in Canada, a disproportionately large number are located in Saskatoon, with many of them started by graduates of the University of Saskatchewan," he says. "We're very much embedded in the innovation ecosystem of this city and region."

With this potential comes a responsibility to "think about the big challenges the world faces, including food and water security," he says. "Saskatchewan has almost half of Canada's prime arable land as well as huge quantities of clean, fresh water – not to mention potash, an important fertilizer. This represents a real opportunity for our university to understand how these resources can make a difference in a world where outcomes are increasingly defined by resource constraints."

As the world's population is projected to increase by almost two billion people by 2050, efforts to boost food security are critically important. And the impact of USask research on agriculture has already been substantial, says Dr. Stoicheff. "The work that goes on in terms of agriculture, including plant breeding and disease protection, is very significant. We have world-leading expertise and cutting-edge infrastructure, such as the Canadian Light Source, the only synchrotron facility in the country, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, the Global Institute for Food Security and the Global Institute for Water Security."

One success story relates to the production of lentils, of which Saskatchewan is now one of the biggest exporters. "The province provides about 50 per cent of India's total consumption of lentils," notes Dr. Stoicheff, adding that lentils – and pulses in general – have widely been recognized as an important source of plant-based protein to help feed a growing global population.

"We constantly challenge ourselves to ensure this [research and innovation] ecosystem is as successful as it can be," he says, "and to provide answers to some of the big questions of our time."

LEADERSHIP IN FOOD PRODUCTION

Dr. Shirliffe envisions crop phenotyping and digital agriculture tools to become as impactful as other game-changing agricultural innovations spearheaded by USask, such as the no-till system.

"Outcomes from the no-till approach include better soil structure, better moisture conservation, increased productivity, and higher energy and labour efficiencies," he says, adding that together with continuous cropping, reduced tillage can help promote soil organic matter and carbon dioxide sequestration.

From tackling Saskatchewan's soil erosion problems to wide adoption in other grain-producing areas around the globe, no-till brought recognition to USask researchers and led to benefits for Saskatchewan's equipment manufacturers who export no-till seeding equipment worldwide. In agriculture, embracing new technology takes time, and Dr. Shirliffe has seen this process play out with no-till.

"There was a lot of research and outreach to farmers first, until we had wide adoption," he says. "With precision agriculture, we already have a very active private industry offering related services to farmers to differentiate themselves from other agronomic solution providers."

USask has developed a Precision Agriculture Certificate, where students get exposed to technologies used to measure and manage variability in crop production, he says. "Students are very keen on this program, and I had a wonderful teaching experience this year."

Beyond teaching and research, Dr. Shirliffe envisions to "add a lot of value to the [agriculture] industry when we're able to quantify the variability in productivity for individual fields – and the key factors causing this variability."

"Rather than just having a really cool map, our main goal is to use these tools for making a positive impact for plant breeders, crop producers and food production in general," he adds.



Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan are creating methodologies for integrating data from different sources, including satellites, drones and agricultural equipment. SUPPLIED

PROTECTORS

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



USask has been helping feed the world for more than a century, and as the issue of food security has intensified, so has our commitment to address it. Through crop development, plant, animal and soil research, sustainable practices, and technologies, we will set the table for a growing and hungry global population – from a uniquely Saskatchewan perspective.



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SASKATCHEWAN

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AI SOMEYA/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

How much of my retirement savings can I afford to give my kids?

A recent report showed more than half of retirees may be financially supporting their adult children

ROB CARRICK

OPINION



There is literally no end to the financial cost of parenting.

It starts with gear for newborns and daycare bills and goes on. And on.

In a recent report from Fidelity Investments, 59 per cent of retirees surveyed said they were helping adult children financially. One-quarter helped with day-to-day finances, and one in five helped with big purchases like a car or weddings. Sixteen per cent helped with money to buy a home.

Welcome to retirement in the 2020s, where one of the biggest planning questions is whether you can carve out some of your retirement savings for your kids.

Lance Howard, a certified financial planner in London, Ont., said conversations with parents prior to 2019 used to be about helping out their adult kids with a gift of \$10,000 or \$15,000. Today, his clients are looking at much larger amounts, particularly to help with a home down payment.

"Parents are now saying, we've done okay and we want to give our child \$50,000 or \$100,000 - what does that look like?" Mr. Howard said.

Sometimes, the numbers don't look ideal. Mr. Howard recounted a conversation with a single parent who wanted to give a child money for a home down payment. This client was living off retirement income. Removing a chunk of capital from her savings would mean less income each year.

"The decision she needs to make as a mother is, am I prepared to sacrifice some of my income so that my child can get into a house?" Mr. Howard said.

Statistics Canada has estimated that the cost of parenting a child from birth to age 17 is more than \$350,000, with an additional 29 per cent tacked on for parents who support their kids through postsecondary studies to age 22.

High living costs are influencing more young people to not have kids - we looked at this

phenomenon in a Season Seven episode of the Globe and Mail's Stress Test personal finance podcast for Gen Z and millennials. In Season Nine, launching June 5, we dig into exactly what the costs of starting a family are these days, and how they conflict with financial priorities such as home ownership.

What makes early parenting costs somewhat bearable is that you dole out the money every month, and you get used to it. The parenting costs of later in life often come in block amounts - as much as tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. No longer are many parents fine with letting their kids inherit what's left of their estate after death.

Mr. Howard said his affluent clients tap their tax-free savings accounts or non-registered investments to help their adult kids. Withdrawing money from a registered retirement income fund is less preferable because of the comparatively high tax hit. With a non-registered account, there's a preferential tax treatment of dividends and capital gains.

Like all planners, Mr. Howard has software that allows him to project the maximum lump-sum, after-tax withdrawal from retirement savings that could be made in a future year. The software then shows the optimum account from which to withdraw the money, and the impact on the client's finances.

I asked planners and advisers on LinkedIn how often their retired clients ask how much money they can afford to give their adult kids for a home down payment or other purposes. Sample responses: "More common than ever before," "This is a very common discussion," "It certainly comes up in our meetings" and "Common enough that the discussion has expanded to grandchildren."

It's long been standard operating procedure for parents to financially help kids as they transition into adulthood, but the continuation of this trend into retirement may not be fully understood by boomers and Gen Xers who are still in the work force.

In the Fidelity report, 42 per cent of those planning their retirement who have non-student adult children expected to provide financial help to these kids in retirement. Should it now be standard practice for planners and advisers to look at how clients in retirement can financially help adult kids?

Mr. Howard said a retirement plan doesn't necessarily have to carve out money for adult kids. "But I think a planner needs to discuss the possibility."

We're selling this loser in May but not going away

BENJ GALLANDER
BEN STADELMANN

CONTRA GUYS

Co-editors of Contra the Heard Investment Letter

Yes, it is May and the old adage, "Sell in May and go away," is blooming like leaves. The primary question is: How effective is this method?

First, let us put it very plainly on the table, we do not believe in wholesale buying and selling. Our methodology has always been to be exceedingly selective on both ends of the deal. So, the idea of ripping apart a portfolio and tossing it into the wind on an annual basis makes zero sense from this angle.

Why are some people keen on it? While it is true that the U.S. stock market has underperformed from May to October since 1950, on average, it has remained positive for whole years to the tune of 1.8 per cent. And it's done even better over the past 10 years, notching average annual gains of about 4.4 per cent. Hmm, that is clearly indicative that, over all, being patient and not doing a heck of a lot is a good policy.

While buying at this time of year is not something that we generally do, preferring - as our followers know - to wait until tax-loss selling at the end of the annum to acquire positions, now is when we are in tax-loss selling mode. Many investors wait until the end of the year to do this, but that is when so many people are rushing their losers out the door, supply increases, thereby lowering the price that can be obtained. Not a good strategy to be sure.

One that Benj just sold is Gold Resource Corp. (GORO-A). Purchased in 2021 at US\$2.66 with an initial sell target of US\$7.24, this one that we wrote about in early 2023 has been somewhat of a disaster. It went out the door at 50 US cents.

When our interest was being perked to buy, Benj met with chief executive officer Allen Palmiere and chief operating officer Alberto Reyes. Neither did a sales job, as many executives in the commodity patch do, touting their projects as the next humongous thing. Their presentation appeared realistic.

The financials did look good for this entity. There are not many companies in the commodity patch that have zero debt and a healthy bankroll.

But the company has been hemorrhaging cash. In 2021, there was north of US\$37-million in the kitty. Today it is less than US\$5-million. Due to the bleed, the company eliminated its dividend. While it was a wise move that has saved some money, much is needed for the advancement of the company's Back Forty Mine in Michigan. It is estimated that US\$325-million will be necessary for capital expenditures. That

does not include the US\$100-million that previous owners have already sunk into this property.

The enterprise's primary gold play is the Don David Gold Mine in Oaxaca, Mexico, which achieved commercial production in 2010. The mine life expectancy is less than five years, but it seems reasonable that will be extended, as has happened regularly in the past.

One aspect of GORO that discouraged us from averaging down was that while the stock price was being whacked, insiders were not buying. That, in itself, speaks volumes perhaps about their expectations. Meanwhile, they have fattened up on shares that they acquire for free. One might ask: Why pay when access can be given for nothing?

When writing about this enterprise in the past, one conjecture was that a suitor might come calling. Normally they do that at a premium to the trading price. That is certainly not out of the question for this company.

While buying at this time of year is not something that we generally do, preferring - as our followers know - to wait until tax-loss selling at the end of the annum to acquire positions, now is when we are in tax-loss selling mode.

When investing in what is primarily a gold enterprise, naturally the outlook for the gold price is a major consideration. At this point, we are somewhat agnostic about the company's future valuation, as it does not seem particularly low or high. Worth noting, however, is that the gold price just hit a record and December, 2025, gold futures are currently going for better than US\$2,540 an ounce, a stretch upward from the current price.

Often people who were considering a safe haven away from currencies would look toward gold. Now, cryptocurrency is also in the mix. We believe that the shiny metal has more competition, which should mute the upside.

Psychologically, it is rarely easy to take a loss, but doing it is a key component of the investment game. It allows for less tax to be paid, thus money goes back into the pocket to fight another day.

Gold Resource has potential, but it is far from a slam dunk. Bankruptcy is not out of the question. Taking the loss gives a guaranteed return on the investment, as less money will have to be paid to the Canada Revenue Agency, which will reduce our very solid gains. The stock will remain on our watch list and a re-entry toward the end of the year is not out of the question. Meanwhile, we are selling a loser in May and going away.

How to make cottage life more affordable and save tax dollars too

TIM CESTNICK

OPINION



FCPA, FCA, CPA(IL), CFP, TEP, author, and co-founder and CEO of Our Family Office Inc. He can be reached at tim@ourfamilyoffice.ca.

I've always taught my sons that they should give up their seat for a lady, even at the outhouse at the cottage. We had an outhouse there long ago, but I never once saw a lady enter it. It might have been the décor. We had soap on a rope as an air freshener, a can of raid on the floor and a toilet seat hanging on the wall framing a picture of Johnny Cash. I miss that place.

Like many Canadians who own a cottage or cabin, we've made improvements to the property over time (including removing the outhouse.)

Making improvements today and covering the annual costs of ownership has become a financial burden for many families.

Today, I want to share some ideas to help you cover your costs and save tax if you eventually sell.

WHILE YOU'RE AN OWNER

- Rent out the cottage.** If you rent your cottage for even a couple of weeks each year, you might be surprised at how much money you can make to help cover costs. Keep in mind: You'll have to report your rents, but you'll also be entitled to a deduction for a portion of your costs of upkeep (don't claim depreciation - capital cost allowance - if you hope to preserve the ability to fully use the principal residence exemption on the property later). Second, if you rent out the cottage more than just occasionally - that is, if the property becomes primarily income-producing - then you'll be deemed to have disposed of your cottage at fair market value upon the change in use. This can trigger a tax bill on any capital gain. You may be able to reduce or eliminate the tax by using your principal residence exemption (PRE). The rules are complex, so speak to a tax pro.

- Sell off excess land.** A friend owns a cottage with much more property than he needs to enjoy the place. Given the big increase in value, he's decided to subdi-

vide and sell part of the property. This will provide cash for some renovations and to buy a new dock. It may be possible to sell a portion of the land and use the PRE to avoid tax on the sale.

There's no definition in our tax law for what it means to ordinarily inhabit a place, but if you live in the cottage for a "short time" each year the Canada Revenue Agency will generally accept it as a principal residence.

A principal residence is defined as the actual building on the property plus the surrounding land that's considered necessary for the use and enjoyment of the cottage as a residence. Generally, land in excess of half a hectare (about 1.24 acres) is not considered eligible for the PRE, but where it can be shown that the land was necessary for the use and enjoyment of the cottage (perhaps the property was subject to zoning laws that previous-

ly prevented it from being subdivided, for example), then the land may qualify to be sheltered from tax using the PRE.

WHEN YOU SELL

If you eventually sell the property, consider reducing the taxes in the following ways:

- Use your principal residence exemption.** The PRE is, of course, the exemption that allows you to sell a residence on a fully or partially tax-free basis. To qualify as a principal residence, you (or your spouse, common-law partner or child) need to "ordinarily inhabit" the cottage. There's no definition in our tax law for what it means to ordinarily inhabit a place, but if you live in the cottage for a "short time" each year the Canada Revenue Agency will generally accept it as a principal residence. Renting out the cottage so that this activity is ancillary to the primary use of the cottage as a residence won't jeopardize your PRE. This generally means that you should avoid renting the cottage for more than half the time that it's available for use.

- Track your adjusted cost base.** A capital gain on the sale of your cottage is calculated as its fair market value less your adjusted cost base (ACB). If you aren't going to fully shelter from tax a capital gain using your PRE, you'll want to maximize your ACB to reduce the capital gain subject to tax. You can do this by keeping records of your original acquisition costs including the purchase price (or the value at the time you received the property as a gift or inheritance), land transfer taxes, utility connection costs, real estate commissions and inspection costs, legal fees, cost of a survey or title insurance and other purchase agreement disbursements. Also, keep records for any improvements or renovations. These might include things like a new septic system, well, water system, building a driveway, correcting drainage problems, building a deck or dock, changes to the structure of the cottage itself or other costs that are not related to simply maintaining existing items.

See my article from last week on how the PRE interacts with the new proposed capital-gains tax changes.

Forget market angst, just 'KISS' and make up

The surest, cheapest and least taxing strategy over the long term may be a two-fund combination

MIKE DOLAN LONDON

Worried about a hawkish Fed, overvalued stocks, teetering debt piles, volatile currencies, cliffhanger elections or rancorous geopolitics? Relax and don't over-think it.

For those with long-term savings horizons, the temptation to overtrade and overpay fees for sophisticated investment management, esoteric financial products and expensive hedging may just not be worth it.

Despite a never-ending debate about the merits of active or passive investing and the perennial search for index-beating "alpha," the surest, cheapest and least-taxing strategy over the long term may be a simple combination of two diversified passive funds.

One should track top global stocks and the other equivalent corporate bonds, both hedged to domestic currency. Then just go fishing.

Soreckons JPMorgan's long-term investment strategists Jan Loeys and Alexander Wise, who dub their favored approach KISS, or "Keep it Simple, Stupid," after the long-standing design principle on avoiding complexity where possible.

"Our main contention is not that KISS investing is absolutely optimal and doing anything else is irrational or a bad investment," Mr. Loeys and Mr. Wise told clients this week.

"Our point is instead that we believe you can achieve most, if not all of your financial objectives by following our KISS approach," they said. "Adding more products or complexity in our

mind produces steadily falling extra benefits."

The JPMorgan team acknowledges that short-term trading and market timing by hedge funds or other active players are critical to market efficiency and liquidity and can make big killings. But by so quickly arbitraging away market pricing anomalies before most investors can even spot them, there's not much juice left for much of the market.

But their main rationale for longer-term savers to keep it simple riffs largely off the fact that any outperformance just doesn't seem to compensate much for the fund manager selection risks, higher fees, transaction taxes and the sheer time spent monitoring more complex or esoteric portfolios. What's more, they reckon the fewer the assets one has in a portfolio, the easier it is to judge risk on them. Other arguments include how longer-term "value" investors can struggle for years to beat the market, how "undervalued" stocks get whipped away quickly and how many index-leading stocks can remain overvalued for long periods.

Just ask Warren Buffett. Despite a stellar 60-year sojourn for his Berkshire Hathaway vehicle's strategy of picking unfashionable and undervalued stocks, he can't find many left these days. Speaking at Berkshire's annual meeting last weekend, Mr. Buffett said he expected the conglomerate's cash pile, now a record US\$189-billion, to keep growing. That's more than half the size of the firm's US\$335-billion equity portfolio.

On the bonds part of the two-fund "KISS" portfolio, the JPMorgan strategists stress it should be diversified global corporate debt that excludes sovereign bonds, which they feel are prone to "financial repression" risks from governments forcing institutions to invest and structurally overvaluing them.

REUTERS

Wall Street boasts fresh records

Wall Street's three major indexes notched record closes on Wednesday with the benchmark S&P 500 and the Nasdaq both advancing more than 1 per cent, after a smaller-than-expected rise in consumer inflation bolstered investors' hopes for interest rate cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve. All three indexes hit intraday record highs with technology stocks leading the charge. Canada's benchmark stock index snapped a three-day run of declines, but its advance was much more modest. U.S. Treasury yields fell to more than five-week lows.

Tepid U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for April fuelled optimism that inflation was easing after three months of higher-than-expected numbers. This led traders to raise bets that the Fed will cut its policy rate in September and December. Other data released on Wednesday showed U.S. retail sales were unexpectedly flat in April as higher gasoline prices pulled expenditure away from other goods, indicating that consumer spending was losing momentum.

"It's a relief we didn't have a fourth hot CPI report," said Carol Schlef, chief investment officer at the BMO family office in Minneapolis. "Clearly markets liked that the inflation numbers looked softer. Retail sales came in softer. It's pretty clear evidence that the economy came off the boil and is operating at a more sustainable pace."

Equities had built on Tuesday's gains, when Fed chair Jerome Powell's assessment of U.S. growth, inflation and the interest rate outlook reassured investors after hotter-than-expected producer prices for April.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 349.89 points, or 0.88 per cent, to 39,908.00 while the S&P 500 gained 61.47 points, or 1.17 per cent, at 5,308.15. The Nasdaq Composite advanced 231.21 points, or 1.40 per cent, to 16,742.39, its second record close in as many days. The S&P 500 and the Dow last registered record closing prices on March 28. The Toronto Stock Exchange's S&P/TSX Composite Index ended up 41.42 points, or 0.2 per cent, at 22,284.76.

The utilities and real estate sectors, which include many high-dividend paying stocks and benefit from lower bond yields, rose 1.3 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively.

Technology in Toronto was also a standout, adding 1.2 per cent.

The energy sector was less influential, gaining 0.2 per cent. Oil settled 0.8 per cent higher at US\$78.63 a barrel but investors were also mindful of a large wildfire threatening the major Canadian oil sands hub of Fort McMurray.

Among the S&P 500's 11 major industry sector indexes, most gained ground with rate-sensitive technology stocks and real estate outpaced the rest with respective gains of 2.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent.

Retail investor darling GameStop Corp. ended down 18.9 per cent, snapping this week's rally driven by "Roaring Kitty" Keith Gill, a central figure behind the 2021 meme stock frenzy, who posted bullish comments on social-media platform X. Other meme stocks followed suit with AMC Entertainment Inc. dropping 20 per cent and Koss Corp. down 19.2 per cent.

REUTERS, GLOBE STAFF

Canada's cheapest ETFs for broad exposure to markets

IAN TAM

NUMBER CRUNCHER

Director of investment research for Morningstar Canada

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Canadian-listed ETFs with rock-bottom fees for broad market exposure.

THE SCREEN

Over the past 10 years, Canadian investors have benefited from a fall in fees across investment fund products. This is echoed in Morningstar's Annual Canadian Balanced Landscape report, which paints a picture of how

much fees have fallen across both balanced mutual funds and ETFs. Today, motivated Canadian investors have access to a wide swath of balanced ETFs with an average management expense ratio of just 0.52 per cent, a far cry from a decade ago when single-ticket, diversified multi-asset portfolios were largely accessed through the mutual-fund structure at a far greater cost.

Today, we go one step further to find rock-bottom fees among Canadian exchange-listed ETFs. To give readers an idea of the landscape, across 1,400 Canadian-listed ETFs, 594 of them have management expense ratios south of 50 basis points (or 0.5 per cent a year). Of these ETFs, 340 of them invest only in stocks, 187 of them invest only in

bonds, 35 of them invest in a mix of both (also known as allocation or balanced ETFs), and the remainder are money market ETFs.

To highlight a few reasonable considerations within this low-fee space, I further screened the list on two criteria: (1) ETFs that have received a four- or five-star Morningstar Rating for Funds, indicating that the fund has historically outperformed respective category peers after fees, on a risk-adjusted basis and (2) ETFs that have received a Morningstar Medalist Rating of gold or silver, highlighting funds that Morningstar believes will produce excess after-fee returns in the future, based on our analysis of people (quality of the management team), parent (stewardship of

the fund company) and process (robustness of investment decision making).

This final list was still quite large with 110 funds, which is not a surprise given that Morningstar's ratings put a great degree of emphasis on fees. From here I hand-picked a subset of fund categories (looking specifically for those that might commonly fit into investors' asset allocations) to display a top-three list within five categories, ranked by MERs.

WHAT WE FOUND

The ETFs that qualified in the screen are listed in the table accompanying this article, alongside categories, MERs, trailing performance, inception dates and ratings. It is worthwhile not-

ing that all the stock and bond ETFs that appear on this list are passively managed, while the three balanced ETFs are actively managed (in that the fund manager makes decisions around the mix between stocks and bonds, but invests in other low-cost index products). Investors are urged to first look at the category to which each fund belongs, given that Morningstar's ratings are meant to measure performance against category peers. Note that some funds may have been renamed since their inception.

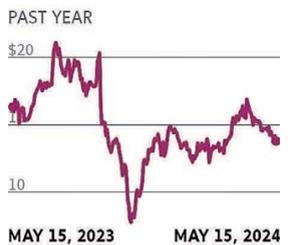
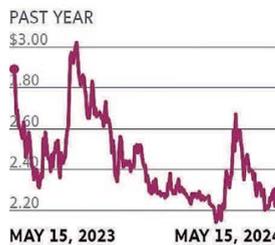
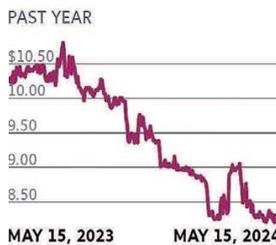
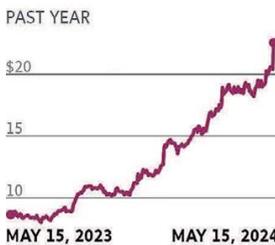
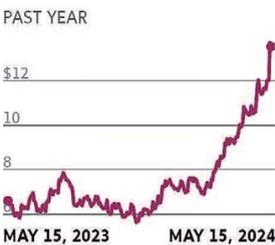
This article does not constitute financial advice, it is always recommended to conduct one's own independent research before buying or selling any of the funds or ETFs mentioned in this article.

Inexpensive Canadian ETFs

NAME	MORNINGSTAR CATEGORY	TICKER	MER (%)	MORNINGSTAR RATING FOR FUNDS	MORNINGSTAR MEDALIST RATING	TOTAL RET YTD (%)	TOTAL RET 1 YR (%)	TOTAL RET ANNLDZ 3 YR (%)	TOTAL RET ANNLDZ 5 YR (%)	TOTAL RET ANNLDZ 10 YR (%)	INCEPTION DATE
Balanced ETFs											
Vanguard Growth ETF Portfolio	Global Equity Balanced	VGRO	0.24	4 Stars	Silver	7.93	16.20	6.58	8.49		1/25/2018
iShares ESG Growth ETF Portfolio	Global Equity Balanced	GGRO	0.25	4 Stars	Silver	8.60	20.14	7.68			9/2/2020
Fidelity All-in-One Growth ETF	Global Equity Balanced	FGRO	0.42	5 Stars	Silver	11.64	22.56	10.66			1/21/2021
Stock ETFs											
Mackenzie Canadian Large Cap Equity ETF	Canadian Equity	QCE	0.04	4 Stars	Gold	6.78	12.97	8.45	9.51		1/24/2018
TD Canadian Equity Index ETF	Canadian Equity	TTP	0.05	4 Stars	Gold	7.46	12.77	8.11	9.95		3/22/2016
Vanguard FTSE Canada ETF	Canadian Equity	VCE	0.06	4 Stars	Gold	6.87	13.03	8.78	10.31	7.99	11/30/2011
iShares Core MSCI ACFT Wld exCan ETF USD	Global Equity	XAWU	0.22	4 Stars	Gold	12.46	23.70	9.79			10/22/2019
Vanguard FTSE Global All Cap ex Can ETF	Global Equity	VXC	0.22	4 Stars	Gold	11.85	23.58	9.24	11.05		6/30/2014
Vanguard All-Equity ETF Portfolio	Global Equity	VEQT	0.24	4 Stars	Silver	10.41	20.27	8.83	10.62		1/29/2019
CIBC U.S. Equity Index ETF	US Equity	CUEI	0.06	4 Stars	Silver	13.54	30.30	13.15			3/31/2021
Mackenzie US Large Cap Equity ETF USD	US Equity	QUUU	0.07	4 Stars	Silver	14.38	30.83	13.38			9/30/2020
iShares Core S&P US Total Mkt ETF	US Equity	XUU	0.07	4 Stars	Gold	13.57	29.86	12.58	14.22		2/10/2015
Bond ETFs											
Mackenzie Canadian Aggregate Bond ETF	Canadian Fixed Income	QBB	0.08	4 Stars	Silver	-2.07	0.31	-1.69	0.05		1/29/2018
Vanguard Canadian Aggregate Bond ETF	Canadian Fixed Income	VAB	0.09	4 Stars	Silver	-2.17	0.19	-1.82	-0.09	1.64	11/30/2011
iShares Core Canadian Universe Bond ETF	Canadian Fixed Income	XBB	0.10	4 Stars	Silver	-2.14	0.26	-1.81	-0.04	1.62	11/20/2000

Source: Morningstar Direct | Data as of May 14, 2024

EYE ON EQUITIES DAVID LEEDER



Citing its "strong operational outlook, near-term growth catalysts at Copper World and a discounted valuation in light of recently improving copper price environment," National Bank Financial analyst Shane Nagle raised his recommendation for **Hudbay Minerals Inc.** to "outperform" from "sector perform" previously. **Target:** After better-than-expected first-quarter financial and operation results, he raised his target for Hudbay shares to \$15.50 from \$12. Consensus is \$14.04.

ATB Capital Markets analyst Chris Murray predicts investors will look favourably on **Bird Construction Inc.**'s better-than-expected first-quarter results and "strong" outlook. "Management expects its sizeable backlog, improving project mix, and expanded self-perform capabilities to underpin high single-digit to low double-digit revenue growth and margin expansion in 2024," he said. **Target:** His target rose to \$25 from \$23 with an "outperform" recommendation. Consensus is \$21.81.

After "solid" first-quarter results that featured "broad-based market share gains in Canada and surprisingly strong profitability in the away-from-home segment," Desjardins Securities analyst Frederic Tremblay continues to think **KP Tissue Inc.** could appeal to income-focused investors. However, he maintained his "hold" recommendation, citing higher pulp costs and "away-from-home's sensitivity to economic conditions." **Target:** Mr. Tremblay's target slid \$10 from \$11. Consensus is \$9.50.

Following **Titanium Transportation Group Inc.**'s weaker-than-anticipated first-quarter results, Desjardins Securities analyst Benoit Poirier acknowledges its own guidance and the Street's expectations "were likely too optimistic on the inflection point of the trucking downcycle." That led him to lower his forecast, believing "the recovery has been pushed to the right." **Target:** Reiterating his "buy" rating, Mr. Poirier cut his target to \$4.50 from \$6. Consensus is \$4.81.

While the third-quarter results from **Dye & Durham Ltd.** fell below his expectations, Raymond James analyst Stephen Boland emphasized the Toronto-based legal software vendor is "in the midst of the seasonally strongest quarter, expense management is taking hold, and the balance sheet has improved." **Target:** Reiterating an "outperform" rating, the analyst raised his target to \$22, matching the consensus on the Street, from \$16.

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS



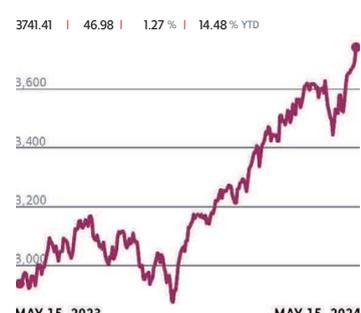
S&P 500
PAST 12 MONTHS



DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE
PAST 12 MONTHS



S&P GLOBAL 100 INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS



TSX INDEXES AND SUB INDEXES

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TSX COMPOSITE IND	22284.76	41.42	0.19	22116	6.33
TSX 60 INDEX	1332.87	1.36	0.10	119766	5.38
TSX COMPLETION I	1354.13	7.20	0.53	101350	10.44
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	772.57	2.74	0.36	88619	10.05
TSX VENTURE COMPO	601.87	1.99	0.33	35936	8.86
TSX CONSUMER DISC	280.64	0.45	0.16	6742	2.70
TSX CONSUMER STAP	934.83	-0.55	-0.06	2998	8.00
TSX ENERGY CAPPED	293.07	0.45	0.15	48895	21.07
TSX FINANCIALS CA	402.30	1.14	0.28	38792	4.81
TSX HEALTH CARE C	25.04	-0.35	-1.38	2731	5.56
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	450.84	-1.90	-0.42	1140	6.71
TSX INFORMATION T	205.55	2.45	1.21	19020	-3.38
TSX MATERIALS CAP	376.98	0.01	0.00	41518	18.93
TSX REAL ESTATE C	299.23	1.36	0.46	6946	-3.31
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	328.81	2.49	0.76	54994	15.67
TSX GLOBAL MINING	124.36	0.60	0.48	159971	9.82
TSX INCOME TRUST	202.25	1.47	0.73	8796	-2.56
TSX PREFERRED SHA	598.35	1.00	0.17	3698	10.72
TSX COMMUNICATION	160.12	-0.07	-0.04	6845	-7.21
TSX UTILITIES CAP	286.33	3.57	1.26	18823	1.37

TSX VOLUME
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	50.33	-0.17	-0.34	14363	5.51
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	53.59	0.09	0.17	11772	26.24
MFC MANULIFE FIN	35.55	0.05	0.14	9381	21.41
CVE GENOVUS ENER	27.45	-0.10	-0.36	6708	24.32
BB BLACKBERRY LTD	4.38	-0.35	-7.40	5676	-6.81
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	77.35	-0.05	-0.06	4989	-9.66
CXB CALIBRE MININ	2.21	0.02	0.91	4957	62.50
GWO GREAT-WEST LI	42.39	-0.21	-0.49	4875	-3.35
SLF SUN LIFE FINA	69.17	-0.14	-0.20	4704	0.65
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	4.66	0.00	0.00	4415	3.69
WCP WHITECAP RESO	10.36	0.13	1.27	4307	16.80
MG MAGNA INTERNAT	65.44	0.55	0.85	4084	-16.41
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	4.75	0.21	4.63	3804	-28.25
BITF BITFARMS LTD	2.54	0.34	15.45	3788	-34.03
ABX BARRICK GOLD	23.72	0.32	1.37	3763	-0.92
XIU ISHARES S&P T	33.84	0.03	0.09	3406	5.68
RY ROYAL BANK OF	143.52	1.18	0.83	3387	7.10
FTS FORTIS INC	55.92	0.27	0.49	3323	2.59
FM FIRST QUANTUM	18.60	-0.93	-4.76	3322	71.43
LUN LUNDIN MINING	16.72	-0.27	-1.59	3098	54.24

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AGI AGNICO EAGLE	94.02	0.31	0.33	957	29.41
AEM ALAMOS GOLD I	21.95	0.42	1.95	507	23.18
BTD BIRD CONSTRUC	22.51	2.14	10.51	222	56.32
BD-B BOMBARDIER	76.47	3.72	5.11	16	43.12
BD-B BOMBARDIER	76.28	3.82	5.27	1003	43.36
BN BROOKFIELD CORP	61.01	0.09	0.15	1502	14.79
BN-PF-E BROOKFIEL	18.10	0.13	0.72	40	15.58
BN-PF-H BROOKFIEL	24.00	0.05	0.21	4	16.56
BN-PF-I BROOKFIEL	22.93	0.24	1.06	1	17.71
BN-PF-J BROOKFIEL	22.77	0.17	0.75	11	13.62
BNRE BROOKFIELD R	60.96	-0.06	-0.10	20	15.02
CLS CELESTICA INC	61.50	0.62	1.02	3	15.60
EIT-PR-B CANOE EI	24.87	0.05	0.20		1.63
CLS CELESTICA INC	70.80	5.25	8.01	1016	82.43
DOL DOLLARAMA INC	121.40	1.03	0.86	579	27.13
ENF ELEMENT FLEET	23.86	1.64	7.38	907	10.67
EFN-PR-C ELEMENT	25.20	0.09	0.36	932	1.82
EQB-PR-C EQUITABL	25.00	0.05	0.20	1	6.56
FTS-PR-M FORTIS I	20.43	0.18	0.89	28	16.48
AIGO GLOBAL X ART	20.24	0.00	0.00	2	

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
KEY KEYERA CORP	36.20	0.08	0.22	875	13.02
LUN LUNDIN MINING	16.72	-0.27	-1.59	3098	54.24
MFC MANULIFE FIN	35.55	0.05	0.14	9381	21.41
TSX CONSUMER DISC	18.50	0.20	1.09	17.83	
MFC-PR-P MANULIFE	23.80	-0.05	-0.21	6	7.21
PAAS PAN AMERICAN	28.30	0.50	1.80	855	30.84
PVS-PR-K PARTNERS	23.26	0.25	1.09	5	3.61
PVS-PR-F PARTNERS	25.04	0.04	0.16	1	1.38
PPL PEMBINA PIPEL	50.68	0.08	0.16	1475	11.09
ROY ROYAL BANK OF	143.52	1.18	0.83	3391	7.10
MNS ROYAL CDN MIN	22.90	0.85	3.85	2	36.72
SII SPROTT INC	60.34	1.75	2.99	69	34.45
SLF-PR-G SUN LIFE	17.25	0.04	0.23	2	25.73
SLF-PR-J SUN LIFE	17.97	0.62	3.57	17	0.77
SLF-PR-H SUN LIFE	20.42	0.29	1.44	16.55	
TECK-B TECK RESOU	70.95	-0.77	-1.07	887	26.67
SL-PR-H TRANSALTA	22.45	0.05	0.22	2	5.20
TFM TRIPLE FLAG	22.84	0.20	0.88	81	29.48
VCM VECIMA NETWR	22.25	2.55	12.94	10	36.09

TSX GAINERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
OPT OPTIVA INC	7.84	3.17	67.88	8	137.58
WFS WORLD FINANCI	2.29	0.42	22.46	3	141.05
BITF BITFARMS LTD	2.54	0.34	15.45	3788	-34.03
TEG TERAGO INC	1.93	0.23	13.53	33	26.97
VCM VECIMA NETWR	22.25	2.55	12.94	10	36.09
HUT HUT 8 CORP	11.98	1.33	12.49	2026	-32.24
SLR SOLLITARIO ZIN	1.22	0.12	10.91	57	64.86
BTD BIRD CONSTRUC	22.51	2.14	10.51	222	56.32
PTM PLATINUM GROU	2.18	0.20	10.10	106	45.33
OLA ORLA MINING L	5.69	0.48	9.21	1575	31.71
REAL REAL MATTERS	6.00	0.48	8.70	95	-4.76
TVA-B TVA GROUP I	1.55	0.12	8.39	14.81	
NEO NEO PERFORMA	6.64	0.50	8.14	100	-12.98
CLS CELESTICA INC	70.80	5.25	8.01	1016	82.43
HZU BETAPRO SILVE	29.25	2.13	7.85	78	46.69
INE INNERGEX RENE	9.09	0.66	7.83	1391	-1.09
SPPP-U SPROTT PHY	10.64	0.77	7.80	3.40	
ETC EVOLVE CRYPTO	13.99	0.99	7.62	5	52.73
BTCC-U CI GALAXY	12.37	0.86	7.47	87	57.98
BTCC-U PURPOSE BI	11.98	0.83	7.44	103	56.19

TSX LOSERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
BCT BRIARCELL THER	2.30	-0.56	-19.58	35	-70.51
ARIS ARIS GOLD CO	5.44	-0.66	-10.82	1683	24.49
TPXA MOLSON COOR	80.00	-7.88	-9.97		-4.73
BITI BETAPRO INVE	4.80	-0.40	-7.69	251	-40.00
HZD BETAPRO SILVE	8.92	-0.74	-7.66	297	-36.92
HFFCU HELIOS FAI	2.50	-0.20	-7.41	1	-1.96
BB BLACKBERRY LTD	4.38	-0.35	-7.40	5676	-6.81
INO-UN INOVAVAL R	1.02	-0.08	-7.27	24	-40.00
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	238.41	-18.33	-7.14	200	-14.39
CDR CONCOR ENERGI	1.81	-0.13	-6.70	30	32.12
SHLE SOURCE ENER	11.05	-0.76	-6.44	122	85.40
LAAC LITHIUM AMER	6.44	-0.40	-5.85	272	-22.87
MPC-C MADISON PAC	5.10	-0.30	-5.56	2	-10.53
PRL PROPEL HOLDIN	23.76	-1.37	-5.45	180	83.19
DXT DEXTERRA GROU	5.42	-0.29	-5.08	176	-5.90
FRX FENNEC PHARMA	9.52	-0.50	-4.99	26	-37.20
TC TUCOWS INC	26.34	-1.35	-4.88	5	-26.49
FM FIRST QUANTUM	18.60	-0.93	-4.76	3322	71.43
TBL TAIGA BUILDIN	3.28	-0.16	-4.65	1	15.09
GMIN G MINING VEN	2.06	-0.10	-4.63	450	46.10

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
INCM ACCELERATE D	2.00	0.00	0.00	134	
INCM-U ACCELERATE	1.47	0.00	0.07	2	
AIM-PR-C AIMIA INC	17.65	0.15	0.86	1	-7.11
BR BY BIG ROCK BREW	1.18	-0.02	-1.67	7	-22.37
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	238.41	-18.33	-7.14	200	-14.39
BCT BRIARCELL THER	2.30	-0.56	-19.58	35	-70.51
TTTX GLOBAL X INN	2.02	0.00	0.00		

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
USSX GLOBAL X S&P	2.76	0.01	0.40	1	
USSX-U GLOBAL X S	2.02	0.00	0.00	3	
CNDX GLOBAL X S&P	2.50	0.00	-0.12	7	
TPX-X MOLSON COOR	77.98	-0.89	-1.13		-2.63
SOIL-R SATURN OIL					
WILD WILDBRAIN LT	1.02	0.01	0.99	40	-6.42

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX STOCKS
LARGEST STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG		CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG		CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AAV ADVANTAGE OIL	10.98	0.07	0.64	248	28.72	CIGI COLLIERIES INT	158.99	4.42	2.86	78	-5.14	KEL KELT EXPLORAT	5.72	0.05	0.88	209	0.00
AOI AFRICA OIL CO	2.40	-0.04	-1.64	662	-3.61	CSU CONSTELLATION	3654.67	10.64	0.29	25	11.24	KEY KEYERA CORP	36.20	0.08	0.22	875	13.02
AEM AGNICO EAGLE	94.02	0.31	0.33	957	29.41	CPG CRESCENT POIN	11.72	-0.04	-0.34	2623	27.53	KMP-UN KILLAM APA	17.79	0.35	2.01	412	-0.95
ACI AIR CANADA	18.81	-0.21	-1.10	1654	0.64	CRU-UN CROMBIE RE	12.98	-0.10	-0.88	114	-5.94	KKS KINAXIS INC	152.00	0.91	0.60	76	2.21
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	21.95	0.42	1.95	507	23.18	DFY DEFINITY FINA	49.95	0.27	0.62	127	17.08	KINROSS GOLD CO	10.69	0.05	0.47	2150	33.29
ASTL ALGOMA STEEL	5.01	-0.13	-1.22	35	-20.98	DML DENISON MINES	2.81	0.02	0.72	1096	21.12	LIF LABRADORIAN IRON	30.11	0.05	0.17	80	-5.61
AQN ALQUIN POW	9.06	0.20	2.26	2913	8.37	DSG DESCARTES SYS	132.67	2.01	1.54	145	19.17	LB LAURENTIAN BAN	27.33	0.06	0.22	56	-1.94
ATD ALIMENTATION	7.67	0.48	6.03	1076	-1.69	DOL DOLLARAMA INC	121.40	1.03	0.86	579	27.13	LSPD LIGHTSPEED C	17.37	0.09	0.52	997	-37.56
AP-UN ALLIED PROP	17.26	-0.02	-0.12	610	-14.47	DIR-UN DREAM INDU	12.99	0.02	0.15	626	-6.95	LUN LUNDIN GOLD I	17.81	0.15	0.21	91	12.17
ALA ALTARGAS LTD	30.49	-0.08	-0.26	750	9.36	DPM DUNDEE PRECIO	10.98	0.19	1.76	438	29.48	LUG LUGBAY CO	155.14	-0.62	-0.40	355	20.94
AFX ALTIUS GROUP L	47.90	0.11	0.23	49	13.67												

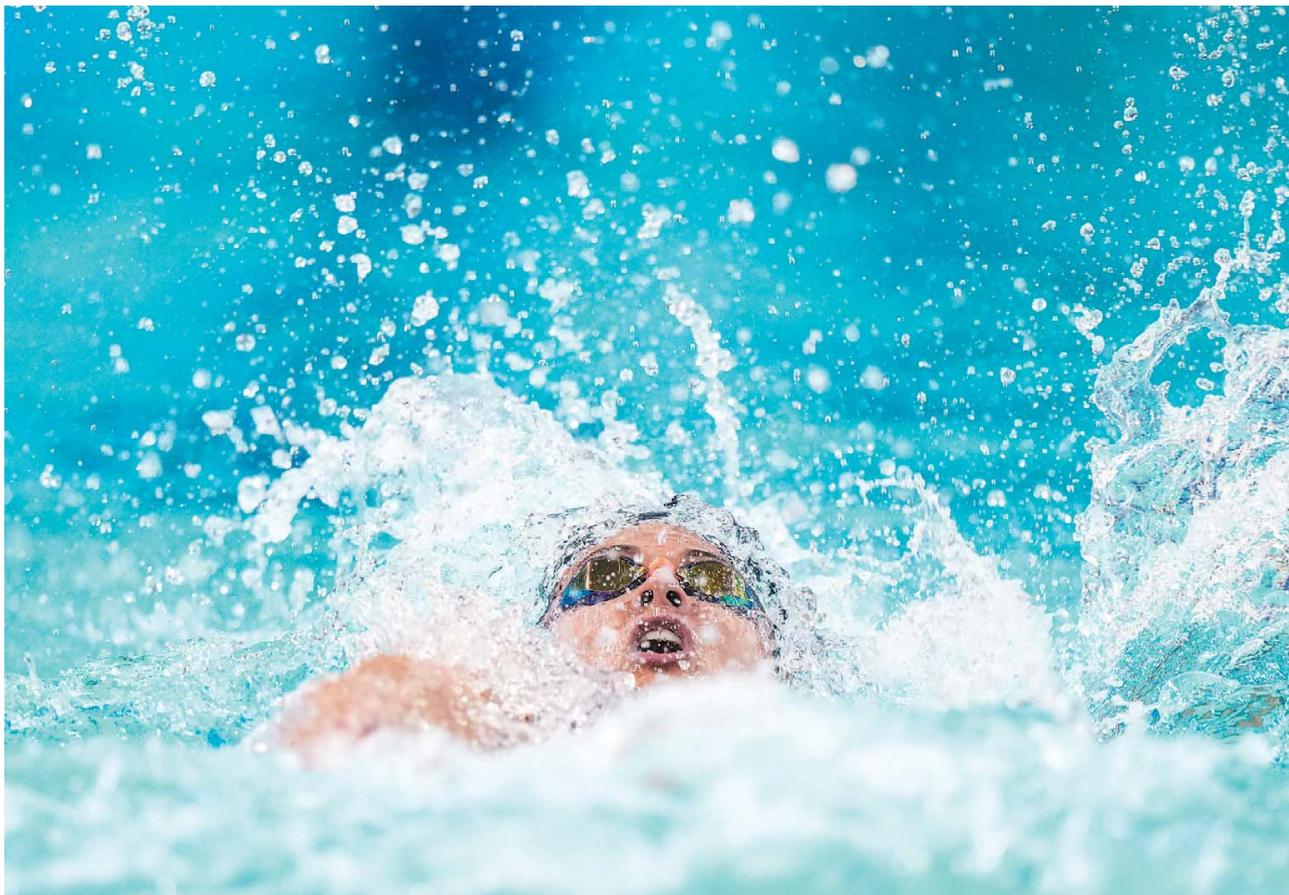


SPORTS

Oilers-Canucks series a showcase of great playoff hockey, writes **Marty Klinkenberg** ■ B13

Orioles make a late comeback to avoid being swept by the Blue Jays ■ B14

{ SWIM TRIALS }



Kylie Masse wins the 100-metre backstroke in Toronto at the Canadian Olympic trials on Wednesday. Her victory secured her ticket to the Paris Summer Games, which marks her third time representing Canada. Grant Robertson has the story on B12. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lifeguards at a swim meet? A long-time Canadian coach owes his life to them

Claude St-Jean collapsed from a heart attack in December and was saved by lifeguards

GRANT ROBERTSON

There's a running joke at major swim meets such as the Olympic Trials being held this week in Toronto: with so many of the world's best swimmers around, what are the lifeguards for?

The answer has less to do with the swimming itself, and more to do with expecting the unexpected.

Claude St-Jean found that out several months ago. As one of Canada's longest-tenured coaches, he's overseen more than a few Olympic swimmers, knows the mechanics of a perfect stroke, and is probably as unlikely to need a lifeguard as anyone.

But at a meet in Pointe-Claire, Que., in December, the 69-year-old collapsed in the bleachers and the world went blank. When he regained consciousness, doctors informed him he suffered a massive heart attack.

"I was dead for two minutes, they said," St-Jean recalled. The lifeguards brought him back.

This week, the long-time coach is authoring his own comeback story, at a meet he might not have lived to see. Less than six months later, he is back patrolling the pool at Canada's Olympic Trials, with 22 swimmers under his watch.

A lengthy scar on his left leg and an incision down the middle of his chest that he calls his "zipper," remind him

of the quadruple-bypass surgery that's given him a new lease on coaching life. It's also a reminder of the unexpected things fate can suddenly throw at you.

"They say I was in the right place," he said. "If I had stayed home that night, I wouldn't be here today. I would just be dead in my apartment."

The ordeal has given him new perspective.

Having reached the highest echelons of the sport — coaching Marianne Limpert to a silver medal in Atlanta in 1996, and Katerine Savard, who won a relay bronze in Rio in 2016 — St-Jean took a step back after the heart attack. He leaned on his colleagues at Club Aquatique Montreal (CAMO),

the respected Quebec program.

"The coaches I work with put the brakes on for me. They go 'Slow down, sit down, stop worrying.' I have good people around me," St-Jean said.

Still he found it tough to stay away, particularly with Olympic Trials a few months away. After being released from the hospital, he coached from his bed, writing up training plans at home and talking to the swimmers by phone.

Eventually he made it back to the pool. First with a lighter schedule, and now fully back and feeling better than before. The thought of missing Olympic Trials wasn't an option.

■ SWIMMING, B12

Spooner's injury puts PWHL body checking under the microscope

RACHEL BRADY

As the Professional Women's Hockey League feels its way through an inaugural season with a more physical game, the realities of high-octane pro hockey were felt Wednesday when top-seeded Toronto lost its marquee scorer, Natalie Spooner, for the rest of the playoffs after a collision earlier this week.

Spooner's hockey postseason is over after she suffered a knee injury in Game 3 of her team's semi-final playoff series against Minnesota on Monday.

Game 4 was Wednesday night in Minnesota with Toronto leading the best-of-five series 2-1.

The Canadian Olympic gold medalist took an awkward hit in the boards from Minnesota's Grace Zumwinkle. Spooner hit the boards on her left side, then fell awkwardly while entangled with Zumwinkle. The 33-year-old Toronto star remained curled up on the ice before crawling off through the open door of her team's bench. Trainers helped Spooner out of the tunnel as she hopped along, avoiding weight on her left side.

It's a massive loss for Toronto in its quest to win the first Walter Cup. Spooner led the PWHL with 20 goals and 27 points in 24 games during the regular season and had a goal and one assist in three playoff games. She's arguably the league's MVP. Opponents



Toronto forward Natalie Spooner is out for the remainder of the PWHL playoffs after suffering a knee injury in Game 3 of the series against Minnesota on Monday. Toronto was in Minnesota for Game 4 on Wednesday night. For results, check our website, globesports.com. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

have struggled all year to move the 5-foot-10, 170-pound power forward off the puck. She is elusive, aware on the ice, tough to catch on a breakaway, and especially immovable when she plants herself in front of an opposing goalie.

There was no call on the hit

on Spooner. A PWHL player safety committee did not deem the play illegal or ill-intentioned. Spooner, put on long-term injured reserve (LTIR) on Wednesday, has not yet spoken about it.

The loss of Spooner and the league's tough play has put the PWHL under a microscope.

Players wanted more body contact in their league, saying they are well-trained athletes, strong enough and fit enough to allow more body contact in their fast, skillful game. Most of the women — especially those who have played in feisty Canada-USA battles — were used to a de-

gree of intense, physical hockey. So the PWHL, looking to be innovative, gave leeway for a more physical brand, but insisted player safety be respected.

But how much physicality is too much? There have been lots of hits this year, plenty clean, but others resulting in major penalties, suspensions, or missed games for injured players. Most recently, those included two hits that drew punishments earlier this month.

Minnesota forward Liz Schepers faced a \$500 fine for her hit along the boards on New York's Jill Saulnier, who was not carrying the puck. Montreal's Sara Lefort was suspended one game for an open-ice hit on Boston's Jamie Lee Rattray — one that caused Rattray to miss the start of her team's playoff series with Montreal. Boston's Lexie Adzija received a five-minute major and was ejected from Game 2 for a hit to the head of Montreal's Laura Stacey.

Boston beat Montreal 3-0 in that series to advance to the final.

While no one wants injuries, the PWHL's senior VP of hockey operations, Jayna Hefford, says that the physical play has been well received by players and fans. They've held video sessions throughout the season with player reps and coaches around the standard of play, and things that need cleaning up.

■ SPOONER, B13

Masse books a ticket to her third Olympics

Four-time medalist wins the 100-metre backstroke with her best time since 2021

GRANT ROBERTSON

The first time Kylie Masse came to the Pan Am Sports Centre in Toronto for a major swimming event, she had to buy a ticket and sit in the stands as a spectator, something she wasn't happy about.

It was the 2015 Pan Am Games and the backstroke specialist from LaSalle, Ont., then 19 years old and yet to launch her storied career, sat with her parents overlooking the pool, quietly fuming

she had missed the qualification. Since then, she's never had to buy a ticket again. Nearly a decade later, Masse has become the main event.

At that same pool Wednesday for the Canadian Olympic trials, the four-time Olympic medalist won the 100-metre backstroke, punching her ticket for the Paris Summer Games. It will be her third time representing Canada on the sport's biggest stage.

Masse took the race in a time of 57.94 seconds, beating Calgary's Ingrid Wilms, who also secured a spot on Canada's Olympic roster, placing second with a time of 59.31. The top two swimmers in each event this week make the team for Paris.

It was Masse's best race since 2021, putting her back in conten-

tion with the world's best after a bumpy few years in which her times slipped. That led her to upend her training and move to Spain to compete and refocus.

"I'm very happy with that. It's been a long time since I've been at 57, Masse said. "It's been three years, so it feels really great."

Wilms, who has been pushing Masse with her own rise up the international backstroke ranks, was more effusive in describing her teammate's performance.

"Kylie Masse is such an icon and a legend," Wilms said. "She's really making a statement that Canada is also here."

The race sets the stage for a showdown in Paris among Canada, the United States and Australia. All three countries have swimmers who have dipped be-

low 58 seconds at recent events. Australia's Kaylee McKeown set the world record this year in a time of 57.33, while Regan Smith of the United States swam in 57.64.

"A lot of my competitors around the world are throwing down 57s quite often, so for me this is a massive step forward," Masse said.

"I think it just tells me that I'm in a really good spot, and I think I needed that to be able to continue to move forward and to just know what I'm capable of and to know where I'm at."

The 28-year-old is a two-time world champion and former world record holder in the 100-metre backstroke. She won silver in the race at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, which followed a bronze

medal at the 2016 Rio Summer Games.

Masse said she grew frustrated last year as her times lagged, but the race Wednesday showed her she was heading in the right direction.

"It's a massive relief. I think over the last two years, I kind of had, as everyone does, small doubts," said Masse, who will be looked upon to lead the Canadian team this summer in the relay events as well.

"To an extent, you begin to hyper-fixate on your weaknesses and you try really hard to fix things, or you try really hard to analyze something," she said. "And I think, for me, I found that detrimental because I was just overthinking and that didn't help me."

Swimming: Athletes found St-Jean's absence from coaching 'hard'

FROM B11

"I didn't think about that. I thought more about being there for my swimmers. Because they come to swim with you, they come to have your expertise and you're not there. That's what I wanted," he said.

During the months he was recuperating, several of his swimmers pressed on without him.

Antoine Sauvé, an 18-year-old vying for a spot in the 100-metre freestyle in Paris, is attending his first Olympic trials this week, and is relieved the worst of the ordeal is behind them.

"When he was absent it was kind of hard," Sauvé said.

"But now he's back, you can really see a difference. Seeing him happy on deck is making me happy."



Emma Finlin powers through the water as she wins the women's 1,500-metre freestyle during the Canadian Olympic swim trials in Toronto on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teammates, Sebastian Gonzalez Barboza and Eduard-Daniel Rusu didn't qualify in the 400 in-

dividual medley on Tuesday, but made it through the upheaval. As did international swimmer Ali

Sayed, who is attempting to represent Egypt in the Summer Olympics under St-Jean's tutelage.

"Some of them were like, 'I'm swimming this one for my coach,'" St-Jean said, pausing for a second to collect his thoughts. "Now I'm crying," he said through tears. "Emotions."

In a role reversal, the swimmers are now coaching him. "We're pushing him to stay in shape and always asking if he's okay," Sauvé said.

Later this week, St-Jean will be inducted into Swimming Canada's Circle of Excellence, the sport's version of a Canadian hall of fame.

He's as grateful to be celebrating victories outside the water as the ones in the pool. "I'm glad to be here," he said.

So what are the lifeguards for? St-Jean laughed. "Because you never know."

NHL PLAYOFFS

DIVISIONAL FINALS

(Best-of-7)
All Times Eastern
EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DIVISION
FLORIDA (1) VS. BOSTON (2)
(Florida leads series 3-2)
Tuesday
Boston 2 Florida 1
Friday
Florida at Boston, TBA
Sunday, May 19
x-Boston at Florida, TBA

METROPOLITAN DIVISION
N.Y. RANGERS (1) VS. CAROLINA (2)
(N.Y. Rangers lead series 3-2)
Thursday
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 18
x-Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE
CENTRAL DIVISION
DALLAS (1) VS. COLORADO (3)
(Dallas leads series 3-1)
Wednesday
Colorado at Dallas
Friday
x-Dallas at Colorado, TBD

PACIFIC DIVISION
VANCOUVER (1) VS. EDMONTON (2)
(Series tied 2-2)
Tuesday
Edmonton 3 Vancouver 2
Thursday
Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Saturday, May 18
Vancouver at Edmonton, TBA
x — played only if necessary

PWHL PLAYOFFS

SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-5)
TORONTO (1) VS. MINNESOTA (2)
(Toronto leads series 2-1)
Wednesday
Toronto at Minnesota
Friday
x-Minnesota at Toronto, 7 p.m.
MONTREAL (2) VS. BOSTON (3)
(Boston wins series 3-0)
Tuesday
Boston 3 Montreal 2 (OT)

MEN'S WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

At Prague and Ostrava, Czechia
Wednesday
Czechia 7 Denmark 4
Switzerland 3 Britain 0
Germany 8 Latvia 1
Slovakia 4 Poland 0
Thursday
Finland vs. Austria, 10:20 a.m.
Canada vs. Norway, 2:20 p.m.
Kazakhstan vs. Sweden, 10:20 a.m.
United States vs. France, 2:20 p.m.

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-7) — All Times Eastern
EASTERN CONFERENCE
BOSTON (1) VS. CLEVELAND (4)
(Boston wins series 4-1)
Wednesday
Boston 113 Cleveland 98
Thursday
NEW YORK (2) VS. INDIANA (6)
(New York leads series 3-2)
Tuesday
New York 121 Indiana, 91
Friday
New York at Indiana, TBA
Sunday, May 19
x-Indiana at New York, 3:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
OKLAHOMA CITY (1) VS. DALLAS (5)
(Series tied 2-2)
Wednesday
Dallas at Oklahoma City
Saturday, May 18
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, May 20
x-Dallas at Oklahoma City, TBA

DENVER (2) VS. MINNESOTA (3)
(Denver leads series 3-2)
Tuesday
Denver 112 Minnesota 97
Thursday
Denver at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 19
x-Minnesota at Denver, TBA

OHL PLAYOFFS

J. ROSS ROBERTSON CUP
(Best-of-7)
LONDON (W1) VS. OSHAWA (E1)
(London leads series 3-0)
Wednesday
London at Oshawa
Friday
x-Oshawa at London, 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 19
x-London at Oshawa, TBA

QMJHL PLAYOFFS

PRESIDENT CUP
(Best-of-7)
BAIE-COMEAU VS. DRUMMONDVILLE
(Drummondville wins series 4-0)
Tuesday
Drummondville 4 Baie-Comeau 3

WHL PLAYOFFS

ED CHYNOWETH CUP
(Best-of-7)
PORTLAND (W2) VS. MOOSE JAW (E2)
(Moose Jaw leads series 3-0)
Wednesday
Portland at Moose Jaw
Tuesday
Moose Jaw 4 Portland 3 (OT)
Friday
x-Portland at Moose Jaw, 10 p.m.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	27	14	.659	—
New York	28	15	.651	—
Boston	22	20	.524	5 1/2
Tampa Bay	21	22	.488	7
Toronto	19	23	.452	8 1/2
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	27	16	.628	—
Minnesota	24	17	.585	2
Kansas City	26	19	.578	2
Detroit	21	22	.488	6
Chicago	14	30	.318	13 1/2
WEST DIVISION				
Seattle	24	20	.545	—
Texas	22	22	.500	2
Oakland	19	25	.432	5
Houston	17	25	.405	6
Los Angeles	15	28	.349	8 1/2
Wednesday				
Miami 2, Detroit 0				
Baltimore 3, Toronto 2				
Chicago White Sox 2, Washington 0				
Seattle 4, Kansas City 2				
Tampa Bay at Boston				
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota				
Cleveland at Texas				
Oakland at Houston				
St. Louis at L.A. Angels				
Thursday				
Washington 6, Chicago White Sox 3, 1st game				
Miami 1, Detroit 0, 10 innings				
N.Y. Yankees 5, Minnesota 1				
Chicago White Sox 4, Washington 0, 2nd game				
Boston 5, Tampa Bay 4, 12 innings				
Cleveland 7, Texas 4				
Houston 2, Oakland 1, 10 innings				
Kansas City 4, Seattle 2				
St. Louis 7, L.A. Angels 6				
Toronto at Baltimore, p.p.d.				

Thursday
All Times Eastern
N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 4-1) at Minnesota (Ryan 2-2), 1:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Littell 2-2) at Boston (Criswell 2-1), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Estes 1-0) at Houston (Javier 2-1), 8:10 p.m.

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

TEE TIMES
THURSDAY-FRIDAY STARTS ON FIRST HOLE-10TH HOLE (competitors from the U.S. unless specified)
7:15 a.m.-12:40 p.m. — Michael Block; Luke Donald, England; Shaun Micheel.
7:26 a.m.-12:51 p.m. — Jeff Kellen; Alex Smallley; Ben Kohles.
7:37 a.m.-1:02 p.m. — Ryan Fox, New Zealand; Josh Speight; Matt Wallace, England.
7:48 a.m.-1:13 p.m. — Zac Oakley, Adam Svensson, Canada; Ryo Hisatsune, Japan.
7:59 a.m.-1:24 p.m. — Adam Hadwin, Canada; Martin Kaymer, Germany;

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	30	13	.698	—
Atlanta	26	13	.667	2
Washington	20	22	.476	9 1/2
New York	19	22	.463	10
Miami	13	32	.289	18
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Milwaukee	26	17	.605	—
Chicago	24	19	.558	2
Pittsburgh	19	25	.432	7 1/2
St. Louis	18	24	.429	7 1/2
Cincinnati	18	25	.419	8
WEST DIVISION				
Los Angeles	29	15	.659	—
San Diego	22	24	.478	8
Arizona	21	23	.477	8
San Francisco	19	25	.432	10
Colorado	15	28	.349	13 1/2
Wednesday				
Milwaukee 10, Pittsburgh 2				
Miami 2, Detroit 0				
Chicago White Sox 2, Washington 0				
Arizona 2, Cincinnati 1				
Colorado 8, San Diego 0				
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia				
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta				
St. Louis at L.A. Angels				
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco				
Tuesday				
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Mets 0				
Washington 6, Chicago White Sox 3, 1st game				
Miami 1, Detroit 0, 10 innings				
Atlanta 7, Chicago Cubs 0				
Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 3				
Chicago White Sox 4, Washington 0, 2nd game				
Cincinnati 6, Arizona 2				
Colorado 6, San Diego 3				
L.A. Dodgers 10, San Francisco 2				
St. Louis 7, L.A. Angels 6				

Thursday
All Times Eastern
N.Y. Mets (Quintana 1-4) at Philadelphia (Walker 3-0), 6:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Jones 2-4) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 0-0), 7:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (TBD) at L.A. Dodgers (Glasnow 6-1), 10:10 p.m.

Taylor Pendrith, Canada.
8:10 a.m.-1:35 p.m. — Byeong Hun An, South Korea; Alexander Bjork, Sweden; Eric Cole.
8:21 a.m.-1:46 p.m. — Adam Schenk; Corey Conners, Canada; Nick Dunlap.
8:32 a.m.-1:57 p.m. — John Daly; Lee Hodges; Robert Madntyre, Scotland.
8:43 a.m.-2:08 p.m. — Peter Malnati; Kurt Kitayama; Victor Perez, France.
8:54 a.m.-2:19 p.m. — Ben Pollard; Zac Blair; Ryan Van Velzen, South Africa.
9:05 a.m.-2:30 p.m. — Jeremy Wells; Sami Valimaki, Finland; K.H. Lee, South Korea.
9:16 a.m.-2:41 p.m. — Jared Jones; Taylor Moore; Patrick Rodgers.
9:27 a.m.-2:52 p.m. — Kyle Mendoza; Andy Ogletree; Erik van Rooyen, South Africa.

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Miami	13	8	2	3	35	20	27
Cincinnati	12	7	2	3	15	10	24
N.Y. Red Bulls	12	5	2	5	20	18	20
Toronto	12	6	5	1	16	17	19
N.Y. City F.C.	12	5	5	2	14	17	17
Charlotte	12	5	5	2	13	17	17
D.C.	12	4	3	5	19	17	17
Columbus	11	3	2	6	13	11	15
Philadelphia	11	3	3	5	21	14	14
Atlanta	11	3	3	5	16	14	12
Orlando	11	3	5	3	14	20	12
Montreal	11	3	5	3	15	23	12
Nashville	11	2	4	5	14	19	11
Chicago	12	2	6	4	12	20	10
New England	11	2	8	1	9	22	7
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Salt Lake	12	6	2	4	20	11	22
Minnesota	10	6	2	2	17	11	20
L.A. Galaxy	12	5	2	5	23	20	20
Vancouver	11	5	3	3	18	13	18
Los Angeles F.C.	12	5	4	3	22	19	18
Colorado	12	5	4	3	20	18	18
Houston	11	5	4	2	11	17	17
St. Louis	11	3	1	7	18	16	16
Austin	12	4	4	4	15	16	16
Seattle	12	3	5	4	15	13	13
Dallas	11	3	6	2	12	11	11
Kansas City	12	2	5	5	21	21	11
San Jose	12	3	8	1	20	28	10
Portland	12	2	6	4	21	25	10
Wednesday							
Atlanta at Cincinnati							
Columbus at Montreal							
Miami at Orlando							
New York City F.C. at Philadelphia							
N.Y. Red Bulls at D.C.							
Charlotte at Chicago							
Houston at Austin							
L.A. Galaxy at Minnesota							
Los Angeles F.C. at St. Louis							
Toronto at Nashville							
Seattle at Salt Lake							
Vancouver at Colorado							
San Jose at Portland							

CPL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Ottawa	5	3	0	2	9	4	11
Victoria	5	3	0	2	5		

The Oilers, Canucks series is playoff hockey that Canadian fans should embrace

Edmonton tied the series with a late-game goal, but either team could arguably be up 3-1 or have swept it by now

MARTY KLINKENBERG EDMONTON

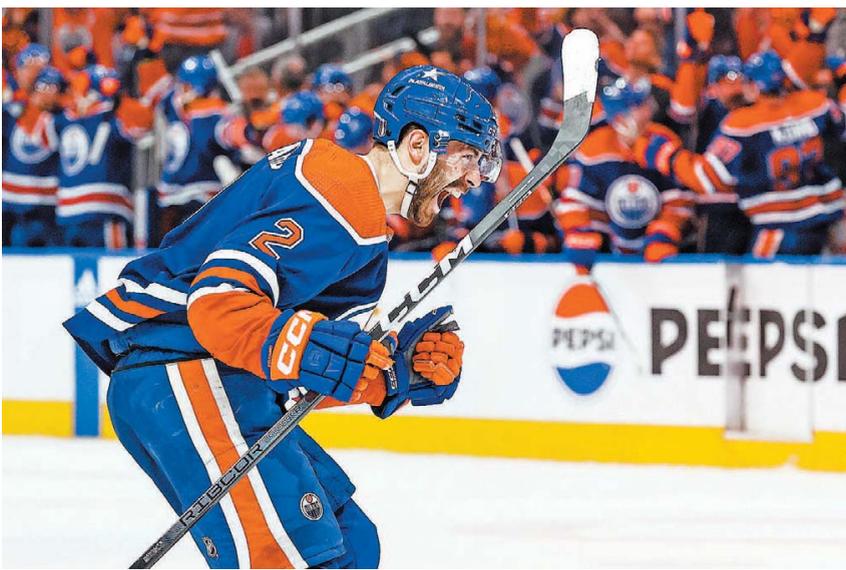
The Oilers and Canucks are engaged in a fierce and furious all-Canadian playoff series. Four one-goal games, one that went to overtime and another on Tuesday that was on the way there before Edmonton pulled it out with 38 seconds left.

It's something to behold, something that Canada's hockey fans should embrace, even if their teams are not involved. One will reach the Western Conference final, giving it a chance to win the Stanley Cup. A Canadian team hasn't accomplished this since 1993.

There have been plenty of chills and thrills. The best-of-seven jousting match is tied at two wins each with Game 5 teed up for Thursday in Vancouver and Game 6 in Alberta's capital on Saturday.

The Oilers possibly saved their season with a clutch 3-2 victory in Game 4. A loss would have pitched them into a 3-1 hole that few teams are able to climb out of. They did it with a 32-year-old backup goalie starting his first postseason game, and after blowing a 2-0 lead in the third period.

Edmonton controlled much of the play over the first 40 minutes but backed off after that and tried



Oilers defencemen Evan Bouchard celebrates a goal during Tuesday's game against the Vancouver Canucks at Rogers Place in Edmonton. PERRY NELSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

to run out the clock. The Canucks gathered some steam and then Dakota Joshua tied it with 1 minute 41 seconds remaining.

It felt like a total collapse was coming and then Evan Bouchard found the back of the net with the help of a screen by Evander Kane in the dying seconds. No drama at all.

It has been a funny series in that either team could argue that it should be ahead 3-1 or even have swept it by now. It has been a brutal series as well, full of those bone-crushing hits that have be-

come synonymous with playoff hockey.

If it's not Nikita Zadorov laying out an Oiler, it is Kane crashing one into the boards in the last minute on Tuesday and possibly waking up his teammates after they had surrendered the lead.

Stars are shining.

Bouchard has scored the winners in both Edmonton victories. In Game 2 he scored 5:38 into overtime to even the series at 1-1. He has three goals and three assists in four games.

Leon Draisaitl had a power-

play marker in the first period and an assist on Bouchard's goal and now has three goals and seven assists in the series. Connor McDavid chipped in another assist and now has six points in the series, 18 in nine postseason outings.

J.T. Miller has done a fine job defending against McDavid, Quinn Hughes has four assists in as many games, Joshua has done yeoman's work and Arturs Silovs, a rookie pressed into duty because of injuries to other Canuck netminders, had 27 saves in Game 4 after saving 42 in the preceding

game. He has been peppered with shots throughout and has stood tall.

Which brings us to backup goalie Calvin Pickard. After Stuart Skinner was picked apart for 12 goals in three games, the Oilers called on Pickard, whose only playoff experience came in relief of Stuart in Game 3.

He was drafted in the second round by the Colorado Avalanche in 2010 and since then has played 241 games in the WHL, 322 in the AHL and just 140 in the NHL.

On Tuesday he was able to mostly hold the Canucks at bay and put Edmonton in a position to win. To this point he has played for six NHL teams, seven in the WHL and AHL and one in Austria.

"It has been a great journey for me," Pickard said afterward. "I'm just grateful for this opportunity."

Standing in front of his dressing stall, Draisaitl said this, "What an awesome guy and an awesome story. I am super proud of him. What he just did is not an easy thing to do."

Nothing is easy during the postseason.

Canucks coach Rick Tocchet was miffed at some of his players after the game. He said they played too softly and made multiple mistakes on Bouchard's winning goal. Then, without naming anyone, called some guys out.

"We need five or six guys to get going," Tocchet said. "We had some guys that acted like they didn't know it was the Stanley Cup playoffs. You can't win if you have five or six passengers."

There is still much more to come.

Long-time women's hockey reporters criticize snub by PWHL

SIMON HOUPPT

The organization representing hockey reporters in North America blasted the Professional Women's Hockey League on Tuesday, accusing it of snubbing small publications that have long supported the women's game, as the rookie league seeks to grow beyond its core fan base.

In a statement posted to X (formerly Twitter), the Professional Hockey Writers Association complained that the PWHL's decision to exclude certain members of the media from the selection process of its annual awards raises questions about its desire for equity and independent coverage.

"The league's handpicked committee ignored and disregarded many dedicated individual media members and entire outlets who have devoted significant resources to covering the PWHL's inaugural season from start to finish," said the statement, which was signed by Erica Ayala, chair of the PHWA's women's chapter and Frank Seravalli, president of the PHWA.

The statement also hinted at growing pains for a startup that played its first game on New Year's

Day, only four months after announcing its formation. Some small outlets that had provided significant coverage of its predecessor, the Premier Hockey Federation (PHF), felt overlooked as the PWHL courted larger audiences and new fans.

In its statement, the PHWA said its women's chapter had been trying "to establish a working relationship between the PWHL and the media corps who cover the league." It claimed that those talks "moved at a glacial pace and left us with more questions than answers, including whether the PWHL values independent coverage."

The statement was deleted a couple of hours later. On Wednesday evening, it was reposted in a slightly modified form.

The statement came one day after the PWHL revealed the names of the 18 members of its awards selection committee, who will determine the winners of six of the league's regular-season awards. In addition to an executive from each of the six teams, two former players, and a representative of the PWHL's player association, the committee includes nine reporters: one from each of the six local team markets,

and three with national outlets.

All members of the PHWA vote on many of the NHL's most prestigious awards, including the Hart, Norris, Calder, Selke, Lady Byng, and Conn Smythe trophies.

After the committee's makeup was announced, numerous other reporters took to X to complain that they had not been chosen.

The PHWA statement also caused some dissension in the ranks of its members, including among those who were chosen by the league to vote on the awards. Hailey Salvian, who covers hockey for The Athletic and is a member of the PHWA's women's chapter, said on X that she and the other eight reporters on the selection committee "are not league affiliated media. And to suggest we are not independent is incorrect and disingenuous."

The Athletic is owned by The New York Times.

On Wednesday afternoon, the PHWA walked back some of its original statement in an email that Ayala sent to The Globe and Mail. The association wrote: "Accuracy is key and we hold ourselves to account just as we do players and hockey personnel. Our statement and tweet yesterday painted with too broad a

brush, insinuating that any voter invited to participate in the PWHL's awards does not provide independent coverage, which is not the case. We stand by our message that the PWHL has a long way to go in creating an equitable media landscape."

Ayala added that the PHWA would be posting an updated statement on the matter, though she did not say when that would be.

Seravalli did not respond to multiple requests for comment. Ayala said she would not be making any additional statement until after the conclusion of a meeting on Wednesday between the PHWA and the league, which had been scheduled before the spat went public.

A PWHL spokesperson declined to comment.

The episode has highlighted a lingering resentment among reporters who had regularly covered women's professional hockey before the PWHL was born last summer out of the ashes of the PHF.

In the spring of 2023, the PHF announced a partnership with the writers' association, which spawned the creation of the PHWA's women's chapter. Mem-

bers of that chapter were given the privilege of voting on the league's most valuable player. A news release at the time declared the partnership was "expected to expand next season to include other awards," and that the PHWA would "have a seat at the table in helping shape the PHF's media access policy in the near future."

Those plans evaporated when the PHF was absorbed by the PWHL.

After the PWHL announced the awards-selection committee on Monday, a number of reporters and editors expressed their displeasure at the turn of events, noting that, for many, covering women's hockey is a labour of love. Mike Murphy, managing editor of The Ice Garden, which has offered steadfast coverage of women's hockey since the fall of 2016 even while enduring the vicissitudes of the sports media economy, wrote on X that he was "tremendously disappointed that no one from The Victory Press" — another independent outlet — "or The Ice Garden was invited to participate in media voting. At TIC, we did everything we could to provide consistent coverage of all six teams... Writers travelled to games on their own dime."

Spooner: Union says that contact in the game is wanted, but limits are needed

FROM B11

"We've had some players go on LTIR that had nothing to do with the level of physicality, and we have a few that probably have," Hefford said. "But we also have a chief medical officer, Dr. Tina Atkinson, and there has been no flag raised that the standard of play has elevated the number of injuries this season. If she ever said 'this is getting too much', then we would need to would respond to that. But that's not the case."

Body checking has never been banned in women's international hockey, but it has been called more strictly. But in the PWHL's rule book, according to Rule 52, "Body Checking," allows for contact "when there is a clear intention of playing the puck or attempting to 'gain possession' of the puck."

Open-ice hits are not allowed in the PWHL. Two players chasing a puck are "reasonably allowed to push and lean into each other provided that 'possession of the puck' remains the sole object." It adds that "The referee, at their discretion, may assess a match penalty if, in their judgment, the player attempted to or deliberately injured her opponent by bodychecking."

The director of the players' union says "we wanted contact, we relish it, we value it, but it's got to have a limit, and we think we're close to that limit now."

"This is what the women asked for, what they wanted, what they signed up for, and what they want to continue," said Brian Burke, executive director of the Professional Women's Hockey League Players Association. "But my view is — and I've told the players this — we've got a real

good level of contact that's permitted, but it can't go up from here. It cannot increase."

He offers this from his experience in the men's game: "We don't want this player pool to suffer the same kind of injuries that we all did."

"I think we've got really good people in charge," Burke said about the PWHL's player-safety committee. "I think they understand the limits that have to be observed."

Many players have spoken positively about the body contact, happy to have the freedom to display their strength and the power, along with their finesse and speed.

"I think we can lead in the physicality factor but if other teams bring it to us, we're going to give it right back and so it depends on what teams bring that day," Toronto's Sarah Nurse said earlier in this series. "But I think that we do a lot of dictating out there and you know, testing the officiating a little bit seeing what is going to be allowed, what we're going to get away with."

Hefford says the increased physicality in the PWHL has prompted talk at various levels of the female game about when and how to introduce contact to its players. This has not been taught as widely throughout the female game as it is in male hockey.

"There's been a lot of discussion around, you know, we need to educate players much earlier, in terms of how to take a hit, how to not put yourself in a vulnerable position," Hefford said. "I think those are things that should be taught anyways, because whether there is increased physicality or not, those dangerous hits happen, and they've happened before in the women's game in the previous standard of play."

What to expect in the Preakness, second leg of the Triple Crown

BALTIMORE

The Preakness Stakes will have a Triple Crown possibility on the line when Kentucky Derby winner Mystik Dan runs in the field of eight horses on Saturday in the 149th rendition of the race. Mystik Dan is coming off winning the Derby by a nose in that race's closest finish since 1947.

Bob Baffert-trained Imagination and Brad Cox's Catching Freedom appear to be the most formidable challenges in the second leg of horse racing's Triple Crown.

Muth, who opened as the favourite, was scratched Wednesday after spiking a fever.

WHEN IS THE RACE?

Post time for the Preakness is 6:50 p.m. Eastern on Saturday.

WHAT'S THE FORECAST?

Rain throughout the early morning through afternoon hours Saturday, making a sloppy, muddy track a strong possibility. It's expected to be about 16 C when the horses leave the starting gate.

WHAT TO WATCH

The Preakness has long been just as much a party as an American classic horse race. The infield, a scene that varies from Kentucky Derby-esque with fancy dresses, hats and cocktails to a concert stage and food and beer stands, will also have a post-race performance by Jack Harlow.

WHO ARE THE FAVOURITES?

Muth, who was ineligible to run in the Derby because of Churchill Downs' ban on Baffert, was installed as the 8-to-5 favourite but spiked a 40 C fever upon arriving at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore. Mystik Dan, initially the 5-to-2 second choice, figures to become the favourite with Imagination and Catching Freedom, who has been feisty on the track this week, not far behind after each opening at 6 to 1.

WHAT DOES THE WINNER GET?

The purse was increased this year to US\$2-million from US\$1.5-million, with the winner also taking home the Woodlawn Vase.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



[CAVALIERS VS. CELTICS]

Within arms reach

Cleveland Cavaliers forward Evan Mobley, right, tries to block a shot by Jaylen Brown of the Celtics during Wednesday's game in Boston. The Celtics won 113-98 to take the best-of-seven series 4-1

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rutschman's two-run homer helps Orioles avoid sweep

Baltimore catchers come up big against Blue Jays closer Romano in ninth inning

NOAH TRISTER BALTIMORE

Adley Rutschman's two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning gave Baltimore a 3-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday, enabling the Orioles – yet again – to avoid a sweep.

Baltimore split the two-game set with the Blue Jays – the middle game Tuesday was rained out – and has now gone 105 straight regular-season series of at least two decisions without being swept. That's tied for the third-longest run in major league history.

The Orioles were swept in last year's AL Division Series against Texas, but the most recent time it happened in the regular season was from May 13-15, 2022, at Detroit. The streak almost ended exactly two years later, but after defensive replacement Isiah Kiner-Falefa misplayed Jordan Westburg's grounder for an infield single to start the Baltimore ninth, Rutschman connected off Jordan Romano.

Rutschman's drive was reviewed – the ball appeared to deflect off a fan who was reaching out above the big wall in right field – but the homer was upheld. Romano (1-1) blew a save for the first time in seven chances this year.

Danny Coulombe (1-0) pitched the top of the ninth.

Westburg led off the first with a homer, but the Orioles didn't score again until Rutschman went deep for the ninth time this season.

Bo Bichette hit a two-run double in the third inning, and the Toronto bullpen worked through big jams in the seventh and eighth.

Toronto starter Yusei Kikuchi struck out nine in 4½ innings. Zach Pop, Genesis Cabrera, Yimi Garcia and Tim Mayza held the lead until the ninth.

Garcia entered in a second-and-third,



Danny Jansen of the Toronto Blue Jays tags out Orioles' Anthony Santander during Wednesday's game at Camden Yards in Baltimore. The Orioles extended their streak to 17 consecutive non-losing series against AL East opponents. MITCHELL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES

nobody out situation in the seventh. He struck out Westburg, intentionally walked Rutschman and retired Ryan Mountcastle and Gunnar Henderson on a pop-up and a grounder. Garcia, who lowered his ERA on the season to 0.53, allowed a leadoff double to Anthony Santander in the eighth. After a sacrifice bunt moved him to third, Colton Cowser was intentionally walked and James McCann tried to squeeze home the tying run.

It took McCann three bunt attempts to get the ball in play, and it went to first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr., who threw home to retire Santander on a close play that was upheld after a review. Mayza then came on and struck out pinch-hitter Ramon Urias.

The Orioles moved Westburg into the leadoff spot and dropped Henderson to fourth in the order, and Westburg gave Baltimore a 1-0 lead with an opposite-field shot.

With men on first and third and two

out in the third, Bichette – who went 5 for 7 with two walks in this series – hit a drive to deep right that Santander got a glove on but couldn't catch. Both runners scored.

The Orioles' streak of avoiding sweeps is tied for third in major league history, according to information from the Elias Sports Bureau via the team. The 1942-44 St. Louis Cardinals (124 series), the 1906-09 Chicago Cubs (115) and the 1903-05 New York Giants (105) also had runs this long.

The Orioles also extended their streak to 17 consecutive non-losing series against AL East opponents, and they remained one of three teams without a three-game losing streak this season. The Cubs and Philadelphia Phillies have not had a three-game skid yet in 2024 either, with Chicago entering Wednesday night's game at Atlanta on a two-game slide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

TFC HIT HARD BY SUSPENSIONS

Toronto FC was missing its coach and four players through suspension for Wednesday's game at Nashville SC after the MLS disciplinary committee handed down its initial verdict on Saturday night's ugly postgame melee with New York City FC. Five other TFC players are out injured. One of them, fullback/wingback Richie Laryea, is both injured and suspended. On Wednesday morning, the league announced one-game bans for coach John Herdman, goalkeeper Sean Johnson and Laryea. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GERMANY ROUTS LATVIA AT HOCKEY WORLDS

PRAGUE JJ Peterka scored twice in Germany's 8-1 rout of Latvia at the ice hockey world championship on Wednesday. Germany, last year's runner-up, netted five times in the second period in Ostrava to hand last year's bronze medalist its first loss. The victory was Germany's second in four Group B games. In Group A in Prague, the Czech Republic topped Denmark 7-4 for its third win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KELLY STILL AWAY FROM ARGOS

GUELPH, ONT. Quarterback Chad Kelly isn't on the Toronto Argonauts' suspended list but re-enters away from the CFL team. The Argos announced early Wednesday they'd placed Kelly on the suspended list but a club official later issued a revision, adding Kelly is still not participating in team activities and isn't present at its facilities. Last week, the CFL suspended Kelly from Toronto's two exhibition games and at least its first nine regular-season games for violating its gender-based violence policy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CAREY PRICE TO RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATE

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Northern British Columbia on May 31 at the school's convocation ceremony. The university highlighted Price's NHL achievements, inspiration of Indigenous youth and philanthropy in Northern B.C. and Canada in its announcement Wednesday. Price, who grew up in Anahim Lake, B.C., back-stopped Canada to Olympic gold in 2014 and led the Canadiens to the Stanley Cup final in 2021. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NETS TO RETIRE CARTER'S NO. 15 JERSEY

NEW YORK The Brooklyn Nets are retiring the No. 15 jersey of Vince Carter, the high-flying guard who will be enshrined this year in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The Nets made the video announcement Wednesday that included former backcourt mate Jason Kidd, whose No. 5 jersey is retired by the franchise. Carter played 4½ seasons with the Nets while they were in New Jersey, averaging 23.6 points. He owns their single-season record with 2,070 points in the 2006-07 season. Carter is the only player in NBA history to play in four different decades. The NBA rookie of the year in 1999 with the Toronto Raptors, he was dealt by the Raptors to New Jersey on Dec. 17, 2004, and played with the Nets through the 2008-09 season. His last season, 2019-20, was with the Atlanta Hawks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's Pendrith returns to PGA Championship in stronger position than last year

JOHN CHIDLEY-HILL

Everything has changed for Taylor Pendrith over the past two weeks. Pendrith won The CJ Cup Byron Nelson on May 5 for his first-ever PGA Tour victory, then tied for 10th at the Wells Fargo Championship on Sunday. Those performances lifted him from 91st on the FedEx Cup standings up to No. 30 and qualified him for this week's PGA Championship, the second major of the men's golf season.

"I started the year not knowing if I was going to get in the majors," Pendrith said. "I could qualify for the U.S. Open and play my way into the other majors. I also wasn't in the signature events at the beginning of the year."

"To play great and get a win and get in the PGA Championship and Wells Fargo last week, and I've got some other big events coming up in the next few months, is awesome."

Moving up to the top 30 in the FedEx Cup and 54th on the official world golf rankings has opened up a lot more for the 32-year-old from Richmond Hill, Ont.

As long as Pendrith can stay within the top 60 on the official ranking by May 30 – coincidentally, the first round of the RBC Canadian Open at Hamilton Golf and Country Club – he'll have a spot in the U.S. Open. If he can climb just four spots by May 20, he will qualify for the British Open.

Pendrith's win at The CJ Cup has already qualified him for the 2025 Masters. These are all huge opportunities for a

player who has never qualified for the Masters or the British Open before. He's played at the U.S. Open three times and made his PGA Championship debut last year.

"I didn't know if I was going to play one of them this year, I was hoping to, but never really knew," Pendrith said. "It's the world's best golfers playing together so it's always an exciting week."

"You get to test your game against the best in the world and on championship golf courses that are made to hold these events and have a lot of history."

Pendrith is one of six Canadians playing at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky., this week.

Corey Connors of Listowel, Ont., and Mackenzie Hughes of Dundas, Ont., who played with Pendrith at Kent State University, are also in the PGA Championship field, as are Adam Svensson of Surrey, B.C., and Adam Hadwin and Nick Taylor, both from Abbotsford, B.C.

Pendrith tied for 29th at last year's PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club in Pittsford, N.Y., and he said that Valhalla has a similar feel.

"This is my fifth week in a row, so I'm just trying to conserve some energy leading into the week," Pendrith said. "Getting all my prep work done but not wearing myself out, because I have played a lot of golf lately."

There are two other elite tournaments

Pendrith has potentially played his way into over the past two weeks.

He's the fourth highest ranked Canadian in the men's world golf rankings behind Taylor (28th), Connors (49th), and Hadwin (51st). The top two Canadians in both men's and women's golf will get to play at this summer's Paris Olympics.

Pendrith is also 13th on the International Team standings for the upcoming Presidents Cup at Royal Montreal Golf Club starting Sept. 24. The top six players in those standings are automatically put on the team, and then captain Mike Weir of Brights Grove, Ont., will choose six more.

Taylor is fifth on the International Team standings, making him a compulsory pick, while Connors and Hadwin are 10th and 11th respectively to bring them within a reasonable range of being selected by Weir. Pendrith and Connors were the first two Canadians to play at the same Presidents Cup in 2022 at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C.

"With a couple more solid finishes, you never know what's going to happen," Pendrith said. "So both of those are on my radar. It'd be an honour to represent Canada for both of those."

"It's a huge bonus to make those teams and good golf takes care of all that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“You get to test your game against the best in the world and on championship golf courses that are made to hold these events and have a lot of history.**”**

TAYLOR PENDRITH
GOLFER

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

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DEATHS



JEAN MARC BELLEFEUILLE

Jean Marc Bellefeuille, born July 10, 1978, passed on May 11, 2024 at the young age of 45 at Toronto General Hospital following a courageous battle with cancer. Jean Marc was the loving spouse of Kiera Henderson; and father to son Andrew, the absolute light of his life. Jean Marc is survived by his parents, Bruce and Marlene Bellefeuille (nee Emond) of Kingston, ON and his brothers, Shawn (Gabriella) and Scott (Darlene). He is also survived by his grandmother Lucille Bellefeuille (Cornwall). Jean Marc will be very much missed by his extended family and work colleagues at BMO Private Wealth. Many thanks to the nursing staff at Toronto General Hospital, and Princess Margaret Hospital for their supportive care.

Visitation will be held at Rosar-Morrison Funeral Home and Chapel, 467 Sherbourne St., Toronto on Friday, May 17th from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May, 18th at Holy Name Catholic Church, 71 Gough St. (Danforth and Pape) at 11 a.m., followed by burial at St. John's Norway Cemetery. A light lunch will be held in the church hall. A celebration of life will be held in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Princess Margaret Hospital.

ROBERT ASTLEY CORBETT DINGMAN

September 13, 1933
May 12, 2024

Died suddenly at home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Always a force, even when his eyesight and his back failed him. He filled the room. Passionate and curious about the world - finance, politics, nature, people. Always the entrepreneur, an inveterate list-maker, a hard taskmaster (hardest on himself), a stealthy doer of good deeds. And a storyteller in the grand manner, most of them true, with the resounding voice to make them all memorable. He discovered fly fishing late in life, but he made up for lost time with countless trips to the Miramichi and around the world in pursuit of salmon. He will be remembered as well for an old-world politesse, balanced in part by a touch of the rogue.

He leaves behind more friends and admirers than he ever realized, and Marnie Collins, his partner in all things for over 50 years; his daughter, Chris (Michael White); sons, Eric (Kay Hall) and Mark (Sarah); grandchildren Thomas, George, and Isabel Dingman; step-grandchildren, Sophie and Ella Geraerdt; his sister-in-law, Virginia Brooks, and her daughter, Laura Brodeur; and our very dear relative and friend, Alexander Bruce Davidson. Predeceased by his mother, Margaret Christian Edwards; father, Robert Eric Dingman; and brother, Matthew Boyd Edwards Dingman. Our enormous gratitude for his medical team, but most especially, Dr. Karen Berti. Donations would be most welcome at OVC Pet Trust or Dying with Dignity.

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DEATHS



ARTHUR L. IRVING

July 14, 1930 – May 13, 2024

After a long, courageous battle with cancer, Arthur Irving passed away on May 13, 2024, at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA.

Arthur Irving was born on July 14, 1930, to Harriet Lila and Kenneth Colin Irving at the General Hospital in Saint John, New Brunswick.

He grew up on Mount Pleasant Avenue, in Saint John, the place he would always proudly call home. He often shared fond memories of his time as a child attending Winter Street School. Forever an entrepreneur, he was always proud of the first sales award he received as a child for top sales of the Saturday Evening Post and the business he started with his brothers, the Jim, Art and Jack farm, selling eggs. This passion for making the sale he would carry through his life.

Arthur loved the time he spent at Rothesay Collegiate School and Acadia University – in meeting lifelong friends, and especially his fond memories of playing with the Acadia Men's Varsity rugby team. Later in life, he would serve as the university's chancellor and always looked forward to his visits to Acadia.

In 1951, Arthur returned home from Acadia to join the family business, Irving Oil. He would always refer to this time in his life as coming home to the very best teacher he would ever have in his father.

In 1972, he became President and Chairman of Irving Oil – what would be a lifelong commitment to the company and its people he loved with all of his heart. With his vision, leadership and enormous drive, the company would grow to become what it is today.

He loved spending time with employees and would never miss a chance to thank a customer for their business. He would always remain deeply committed to the company he loved.

He loved Sandra, his wife and partner in life, with all his heart. He loved his family, his home, his dogs, and the company he dedicated his life to building.

Through many serious health challenges, he never, ever gave up. He loved life and had an incredible will to live. He was always thankful for the care and support of the researchers, doctors and nurses who helped him so much. A very special thank you to all those who helped him through his final cancer battle over the past year. He was forever grateful for your kindness and your care.

He loved time in the outdoors and always a good adventure. He loved canoe trips in the Arctic. He loved adventures on his motorcycle. He loved flowers and trees and picking berries. He loved being in the woods, and he loved picking apples at his orchard and sharing them with the employees of Irving Oil every year.

In all that he did, he was a true champion for Atlantic Canada. "I wouldn't ever want to be anywhere else," he would often say. He loved home. He loved New Brunswick.

Together with Sandra, he was always proud to support students in achieving their dreams and always loved when students would ask him questions, a lesson he would always share – always ask a lot of questions.

He had the deepest respect for his parents, honouring them through his life in the development of the K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre and Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens at Acadia University and the Harriet Irving Library Research Commons and Rose Garden at the University of New Brunswick, amongst other special tributes throughout his life.

He, together with his wife Sandra, have been deeply committed to supporting health research and care, always with the goal of making a difficult journey better for someone else.

At home in Saint John, they championed the cancer survivorship program and at the Lahey Clinic, have supported a chair in Neurology and mentorship programs. At the Massachusetts General Hospital, Arthur and Sandra are dedicated champions of cancer research and care. A special thank you to his team of doctors and nurses there who helped him so much over the many years.

Through his life, Arthur was forever proud of his commitment to Ducks Unlimited, serving on the Board for 32 years, two of these as President. His lifelong commitment would help to propel environmental research across Atlantic Canada. The Beaubassin Research Station was a special project that he would champion in propelling the field further forward. The Arthur L. Irving Institute for Energy and Society at Dartmouth College and the Arthur L. Irving Entrepreneurship Centre at Saint Mary's University are too a lasting legacy of a deep commitment to making this world a better place.

His efforts were recognized in being made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2002, and in 2012, he received the Order of New Brunswick. In 1997, Arthur was inducted into the New Brunswick Business Hall of Fame, and in 2008, he was inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame. Arthur received a Doctor of Civil Laws from Acadia University in 2003; and was granted the title of Chancellor Emeritus from Acadia in 2010. He was honoured to receive an Honorary degree from the University of New Brunswick and from Dartmouth College. In 2013, Arthur received the Red Cross Humanitarian Award for outstanding leadership and in 2019, the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of Saint John, for exemplifying the Rotary motto of "service above self."

His legacy is lasting in his commitment to making Atlantic Canada, Canada and our world a better place. His life lives on in the so many lives he has touched.

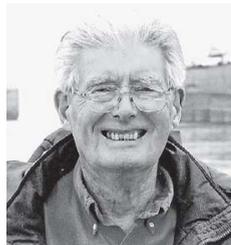
Arthur lived a long life at 93 years, but it would never be long enough. Arthur leaves his wife of 40 years, Sandra Irving, who he loved with all of his heart and who was always by his side; his brother, James K. Irving; his children, Jennifer Goddard, Kenneth Irving, Arthur Irving Jr., Emily Irving and Sarah Irving; eight grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and many wonderful friends and employees who carry his legacy with them always. His brother Jack, who he dearly missed, died in 2010.

A service will be held to celebrate Arthur's life at his home in Saint John on Saturday, May 18th at 10 a.m. ADT. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Brennan's Funeral Home, 111 Paradise Row, Saint John (506-634-7424).

We are forever thankful for his life, love and his inspiration. He will be forever loved and forever missed.

For those who wish to honour his life and his deep desire to help cancer researchers, doctors and other cancer patients, donations may be made to the Mass General Cancer Care Center.

DEATHS



TONY KEMP

Passed away peacefully, at home on Monday, May 13, 2024. Born in Bristol, England, on January 4, 1930, Anthony Lionel Wickenden Kemp of Owen Sound, was in his 95th year.

Beloved husband of Carol Kemp (nee Green) of Owen Sound. Dear brother of Philip Kemp (Pat) of Bristol, England. Cherished uncle of Michael (Alyson), Andrew (Victoria), Mark (Annie) and Sue (Steve).

Predeceased by his parents, Reginald and Mabel Kemp; brother, Graham Kemp (Pam); and by his niece, Sarah.

Tony attended Sherborne School in Dorset and then joined the family jewellery business. In 1957, he decided to further his education and immigrated to Canada. He obtained a B.Sc. from U.B.C. and also a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Chicago. He had a distinguished career as a research scientist at the Geological Survey of Canada and the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington, specializing in studying the geochemistry of Great Lakes sediments.

Tony and Carol retired to the Owen Sound area where they pursued a wide variety of interests. They purchased 70 acres north of Owen Sound, which they proceeded to rehabilitate. Ponds were dug, organic gardens created, and twenty acres of white pine were planted, now a beautiful mature forest. Holidays were spent enjoying tropical birding and snorkeling. There were special trips to the UK to visit Tony's family. For many years, they were well-known antique dealers selling at shows throughout southern Ontario.

Because Tony had always approached any task with enthusiasm and strength, whether it was carrying out a research project or digging a pond, it was especially heartbreaking when, in the last few years of his life, symptoms of Parkinson's disease began to appear. During this time, a wonderful team of doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, support workers and friends strove to make Tony's life easier and more comfortable until the end. We are eternally grateful.

In keeping with Tony's wishes, cremation has taken place. A come and go memorial visitation will be held at Brian E. Wood Funeral Home, 250 14th St. W., Owen Sound, 519-376-7492, on Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 3:5 p.m. Interment will take place at a later date in Lundy's Lane Cemetery, Niagara Falls.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations to Owen Sound Hospital Foundation, Nature Conservancy of Canada or Bird Studies Canada would be appreciated. Online condolences can be sent to Tony's family by visiting his memorial at: www.woodfuneralhome.ca

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BERNARD PIVOT

TV HOST, 89

JOURNALIST INFLUENCED FRENCH LITERARY INDUSTRY THROUGH BOOK-CHAT SHOW

Apostrophes, which ran from 1975 to 1990, held great sway over which books would become bestsellers and which authors became superstars in France

ADAM NOSSITER

Bernard Pivot, a French television host who made and unmade writers with a weekly book-chat program that drew millions of viewers, died May 6 in Neuilly-sur-Seine, outside Paris. He was 89.

His death, in a hospital after being diagnosed with cancer, was confirmed by his daughter, Cécile Pivot.

From 1975 to 1990, France watched Bernard Pivot on Friday evenings to decide what to read next. The country watched him cajole, needle and flatter novelists, memoirists, politicians and actors, and the next day went out to bookstores looking for the tables marked *Apostrophes*, the name of his show.

In a French universe where serious writers and intellectuals jostle ferociously for the public's attention to become superstars, Mr. Pivot never competed with his guests. He achieved a kind of elevated chit-chat that flattered his audience without taxing his invitees.

During the program's heyday in the 1980s, French publishers estimated that *Apostrophes* drove one-third of the country's book sales. So great was Mr. Pivot's influence that, in 1982, one of French President François Mitterrand's advisers, leftist intellectual Régis Debray, vowed to get "rid" of the power of "a single person who has real dictatorial power over the book market."

But Mr. Mitterrand stepped in to stanch the resulting outcry, reaffirming Mr. Pivot's power.

Mr. Mitterrand announced that he enjoyed Mr. Pivot's program; he had appeared on *Apostrophes* in its early days to push his new memoir. Mr. Pivot met Mr. Mitterrand's condescension with good humour. The young television presenter's trademarks were already evident in that 1975 episode: earnest, keen, attentive, affable, respectful and leaning forward to gently provoke.

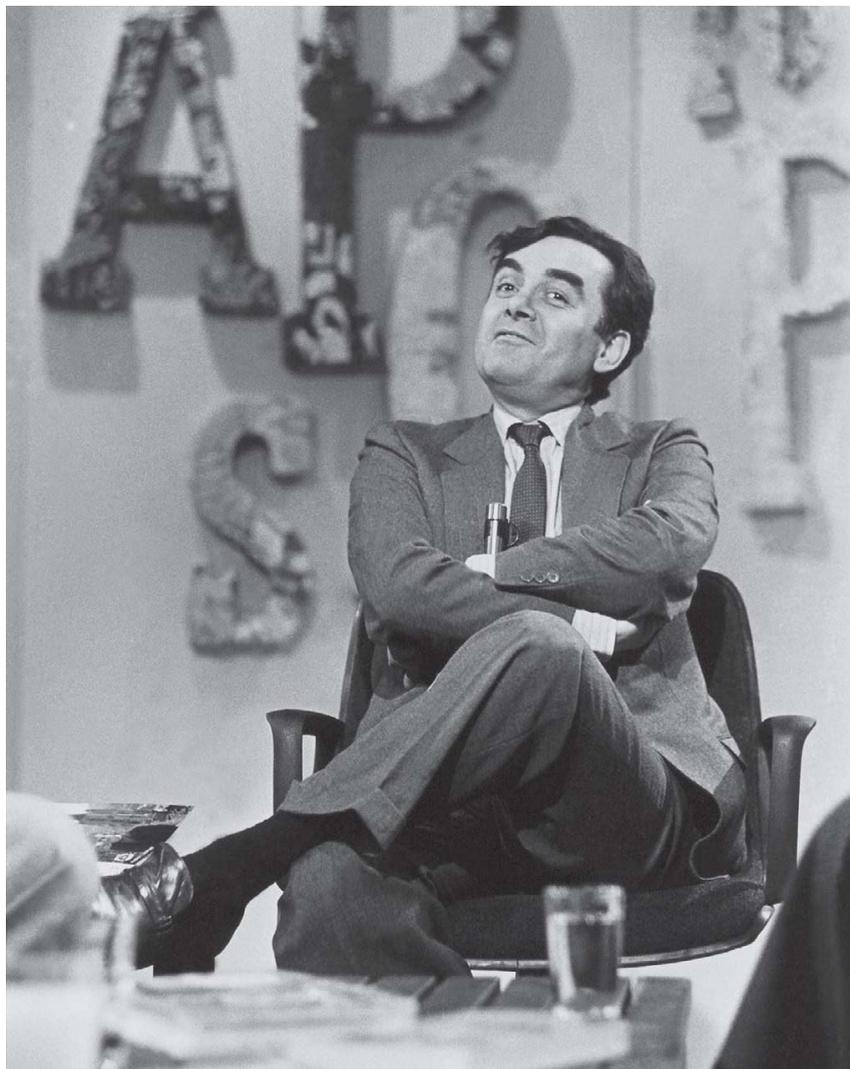
He was conscious of his power without appearing to revel in it. "The slightest doubt on my part can put an end to the life of a book," he told *Le Monde* in 2016.

French President Emmanuel Macron, responding to the death on social media, wrote that Mr. Pivot had been "a transmitter, popular and demanding, dear to the heart of the French."

Mr. Pivot's death took up the front page of the popular tabloid newspaper *Le Parisien* on Tuesday, with the headline "The Man Who Made Us Love Books."

Still, *Apostrophes* had its low moments, which Mr. Pivot came to regret.

In March, 1990, he welcomed writer Gabriel Matzneff, who, grinning, boasted of the kind of



Bernard Pivot hosted the popular French TV show *Apostrophes*. During its heyday in the 1980s, it is estimated to have driven one-third of France's book sales. REMI BERLI/GETTY IMAGES

exploits that 20 years later put him under criminal investigations for the rape of minors. "He's a real sexual education teacher," Mr. Pivot had said with good humour while introducing Mr. Matzneff. "He collects little sweeties."

The other guests chuckled, with one exception: Canadian writer Denise Bombardier.

Visibly disgusted, she called Mr. Matzneff "pitiful" and said that in Canada, "we defend the right to dignity and the rights of children," adding that "these little girls of 14 or 15 were not only seduced, they were subjected to what is called, in the relations between adults and minors, an abuse of power." She said Mr. Matzneff's victims had been "sullied," probably "for the rest of their lives." As the discussion continued — Mr. Matzneff professed to be indignant at her intervention — Ms. Bombardier added:

"No civilized country is like this."

At the end of 2019, with the accusations against Mr. Matzneff accumulating, the video of that show drew outrage. Mr. Pivot responded: "As the host of a literary television show, I would have needed a great deal of lucidity and force of character to not be part of a liberty which my colleagues in the written press and in radio accommodated themselves to."

His show sometimes became the stage for confrontations between rivals, but often it was just Mr. Pivot and a guest. Six million people watched him, and nearly everybody wanted to be on his show.

And nearly everybody was, including French literary giants such as Marguerite Duras, Patrick Modiano, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio, Marguerite Yourcenar and Georges Simenon. On one epi-

sode, Vladimir Nabokov, who was there to talk about his novel *Lolita*, demanded that a teapot filled with whisky be placed at his disposal and that the questions be submitted in advance; he simply read the answers. On another, a haggard-looking Alexander Solzhenitsyn, not long out of the Soviet Union, spoke through an interpreter.

Mr. Pivot told historian Pierre Nora in an interview for the magazine *Le Débat* in 1990, after *Apostrophes* had ended, that his favourite programs had been the ones with the greats whose residences he had been permitted to enter; he cited anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, among others. "I left them with the spirit of a conqueror who had slipped into the private life of a 'great man,'" he told Mr. Nora. "I left also with the delicious feeling of being a thief and a predator."

Most of his guests have since

been forgotten, as he acknowledged in the interview with Mr. Nora. "How many forgotten titles, covered over by other forgotten titles!" he said. "But journalism, as I conceive it, isn't necessarily only about what is beautiful, profound and lasting." Mr. Solzhenitsyn, he conceded, "made me feel really, really tiny."

The responses he elicited were often perfectly ordinary, humanizing his exalted guests. "Literature is just a funny thing," Ms. Duras said quietly, after winning the prestigious Goncourt Prize in 1984.

Mr. Pivot wasn't satisfied with her remark. "But, but, how is it that you create this style?" he pressed. Ms. Duras said, "Oh, I just say things as they come to me. I'm in a hurry to catch things."

A host of American writers appeared on the program, too: William Styron, Susan Sontag, Henry Kissinger, Norman Mailer, Mary McCarthy and others. Poet Charles Bukowski was on in 1978, drunken and downing bottles of Sancerre, molesting a fellow guest and getting kicked off the platform. "Bukowski, go to hell, you're bugging us!" French writer François Cavanna, a fellow guest, yelled. On a later program, a youthful Paul Auster basked in his host's praise of that American writer's French.

Bernard Claude Pivot was born May 5, 1935, in Lyon, to Charles and Marie-Louise (Dumas) Pivot, who had a grocery store in the city. He attended schools in Quincé-en-Beaujolais and Lyon, enrolled at the University of Lyon as a law student and graduated from the Centre de Formation des Journalistes in Paris in 1957.

In 1992, Mr. Pivot refused the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest civilian honour, from the French government. Working journalists, he said, should not accept such an award.

"My father was very modest," his daughter Cécile, also a journalist, said in an interview. "He didn't want to have anything to do with that."

Mr. Pivot was also the author of nearly two dozen books, principally about reading, and several dictionaries.

In addition to Cécile, Mr. Pivot leaves another daughter, Agnès Pivot; a brother, Jean-Charles; a sister, Anne-Marie Mathey; and three grandchildren. His marriage to Monique Dupuis ended in divorce.

"Do I have an interview technique?" he asked Mr. Nora, rhetorically, in the 1990 interview. "No. I have a way of being, of listening, of speaking, of asking again, that comes naturally to me, that existed before I started doing TV, and that will exist when I no longer do it."

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

I REMEMBER

ALICE MUNRO

In 2014, I was looking for a "cocktail suit" at a consignment dress store in Victoria. I did not know what a cocktail suit was, but my stylish friend from New York told me to look for one the same colour as my eyes. She said it would be the right thing to wear when I visited New York to celebrate my first book-writing experience. The subject of my book, a photojournalist, was being honoured at a Leica retrospective show on Broadway in New York — based on my work celebrating his life.

Not knowing the first thing about fashion, I asked the consignment shop owner if she knew what a "cocktail suit" was. She asked what it was for and I told her. The kindly elderly cus-

tomer who was standing beside me said she thought my celebration sounded very exciting and congratulated me. She asked me to tell her more and I blabbered on with large excitement. I did not place her face at all, but as we chatted, I recognized her distinctive voice from CBC Radio. I asked if she was Alice Munro and she somewhat shyly said yes. It was the Alice Munro and her daughter Sheila. I felt so stupid. I was dithering about what to wear to celebrate my very small success, in front of this brilliant woman who had just won a Nobel Prize for Literature the year before. We had a lovely chat and I was beside myself at meeting her. It was all I could do to keep from asking her to sign the corn-



Alice Munro

flower blue cocktail suit I found. She and her daughter could not have been more charming and graceful when they recognized my embarrassment.

I was grateful to have had a chance to look into those intelligent eyes.

Thelma Fayle, Victoria

Years ago as a writers' agent I represented a playwright, Colleen Curran, who had a number of successful premieres at the Blyth Festival, in Blyth, Ont. Alice Munro was a patron of the festival and regularly attended its opening night performances. During the reception after one particular premiere I saw Ms. Munro sitting quietly by herself

off to the side against the wall. I simply had to have my moment with her.

I walked across the room, stuck out my hand and introduced myself as Colleen's agent. Before I had a chance to gush about what a huge fan I was of her short stories, Ms. Munro chimed in with, "Oh my goodness! Isn't she wonderful? I don't know how she does what she does!" And she totally meant it. This was Colleen's night and she was not going to detract from it.

But lucky me. I had my moment with Alice Munro. She was so unassuming, brilliant, full of little surprises and utterly unforgettable.

Patricia Ney Orr, Toronto