

Conservatives to work with Liberals to pass interference bill quickly

BILL CURRY
MARIEKE WALSH OTTAWA

The Conservatives are offering to help the minority Liberal government fast-track legislation to guard against foreign interference provided that the bill's key provisions are put in place before the next federal election.

Conservative MP and foreign affairs critic Michael Chong extended the offer in a letter to the government Tuesday, and Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc said he's open to working with the Official Opposition to see the bill passed quickly into law. The length of time it will take to pass and implement the already long-delayed bill has been a key concern since the government introduced it three weeks ago, given that the next election must take place before October, 2025.

"The Government and Official Opposition must work together to ensure that our democratic institutions and elections are protected from the threats of authoritarian states," Mr. Chong wrote. He said the Conservatives will help ensure the bill progresses rapidly "while ensuring sufficient scrutiny."

After a cabinet meeting, Mr. LeBlanc said he has discussed the proposal with Mr. Chong and is prepared to work with the Conservatives.

"We are completely open to amendments that will strengthen the bill," Mr. LeBlanc told reporters in French. He said he found it encouraging that the Official Opposition was willing to work with the government on such a significant bill.

■ OTTAWA, A6

Vatican issues rare apology after reports Pope used anti-gay slur

ALVISE ARMELLINI VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis, widely quoted as having used a highly derogatory word to describe the LGBT community, did not intend to use homophobic language and apologizes to anyone offended by it, the Vatican said on Tuesday.

It is extremely rare for a pope to issue a public apology.

"The pope never intended to offend or express himself in homophobic terms, and he apologizes to those who felt offended by the use of a term reported by others," Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said in an e-mailed statement.

Italian media reported on Monday that Francis used the Italian term "frocigaggine," roughly translating as "faggotness" or "faggotry," as he told Italian bishops he remained opposed to admitting gay people into the priesthood.

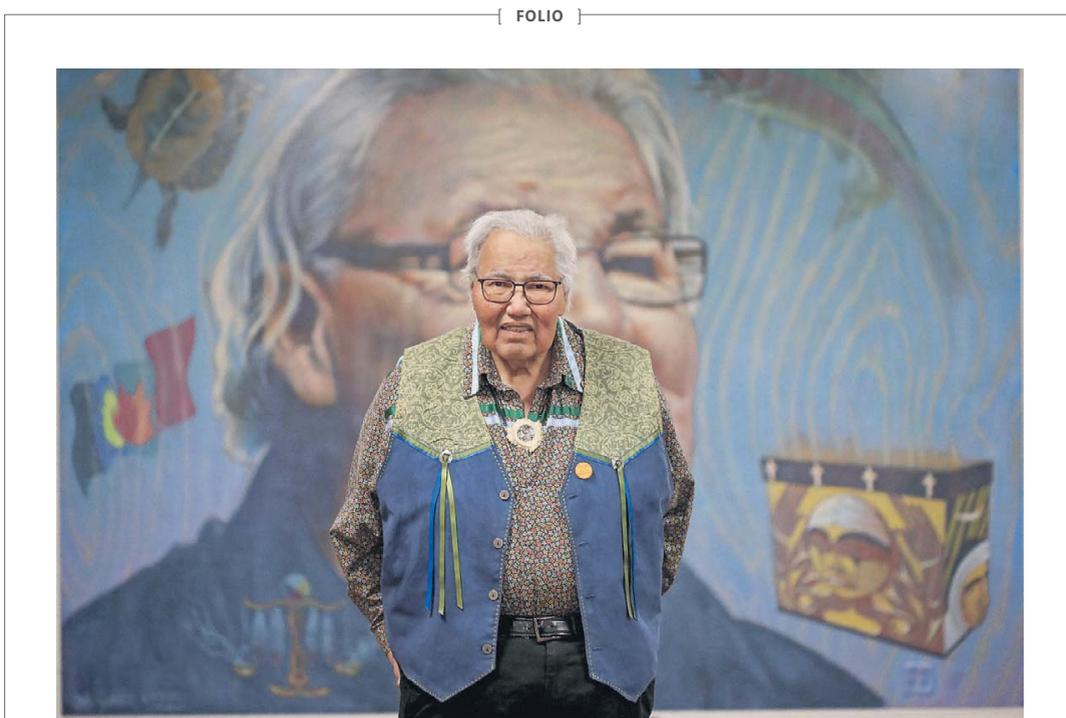
Italian political gossip website Dagospia was the first to report on the alleged incident, said to have happened on May 20 when the pontiff met Italian bishops behind closed doors.

One daily, Corriere della Sera, quoted unnamed bishops who were in the room as suggesting that the Pope, as an Argentine, might not have realized that the Italian term he used was offensive.

Mr. Bruni said Francis was "aware" of the various articles.

The Vatican spokesman reiterated that the Pope remained committed to a welcoming church for all, where "nobody is useless, nobody is superfluous, [where] there is room for everyone."

■ POPE, A3



Murray Sinclair's life has new rhythm, same clear purpose

After years in public eye, former commissioner pivots to new chapter

KRISTY KIRKUP WINNIPEG

It's a bright but crisp Tuesday morning in Winnipeg and Murray Sinclair is about to do what he's done countless times before — deliver a speech to a packed room.

This time, as he makes his way to the front of a room inside the RBC Convention Centre, Mr. Sinclair is assisted by two men, who each grab one of his arms, to climb a couple of steps at the side of the stage.

There is a chair set out for him, which he slowly sits down in. He then takes a breath and begins to address the room.

Wearing a beaded vest made by his wife, Katherine, which signifies he's a member of the

Fish Clan of the Anishinaabe, Mr. Sinclair greets those gathered for Manitoba's public-safety summit and says he regrets that he can't stand to deliver his remarks.

After decades of embracing a public-facing life while advocating for the rights of Indigenous people in this country, notably as the chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mr. Sinclair is taking part in fewer appearances like this one because of the state of his health.

These days, the 73-year-old's life has a slower rhythm. He is staying close to Winnipeg. His baritone voice, used as a lawyer, judge, commissioner and senator, is heard less frequently, while his efforts continue to be deeply felt.

■ SINCLAIR, A8

Former senator Murray Sinclair, 73, continues to be guided by a promise he made to his grandmother to 'always take care of the people.' SHANNON VANRAES/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Cool for school: Pilot project adopts misting stations to help beat classroom heat

CAROLINE ALPHONSO
EDUCATION REPORTER

There is no air conditioning at Toronto's Sts. Cosmas and Damian Catholic School, where the main structure was built in 1950, which means this is the time of year when Enrica Della Mea is used to championing lost causes. She opens windows, turns off lights and makes sure at least two fans are running in every classroom.

The principal does what she can, but she cannot defeat the weather: "The learning and the focusing become difficult when they are overheated."

This year, Ms. Della Mea has a new tool to fix the annual spring issues of sweaty brows and red faces throughout the hallways.

Just last week, the elementary school was given the gift of mist.

In its concrete schoolyard sits



a large blue umbrella with eight small nozzles that, with the push of a button, creates a cooling mist.

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, located in the city's north end, is among 12 schools at the Toronto Catholic District School Board piloting misting fans amid temperatures that make classrooms

Students from the Grade 5 and 6 class at Toronto's Sts. Cosmas and Damian Catholic School cool off at the newly installed misting station last week.

JESSICA LEE/
THE GLOBE AND MAIL

almost unbearable for the last few weeks of the school year. In recent years, parents and educators across the country have complained about extreme conditions in classrooms, particularly around heat waves. This past fall, several schools in Quebec's Gatineau area were closed for a day because of the heat.

Installing air-conditioning systems in aging school buildings is an expensive venture. But as the planet warms, classrooms are becoming increasingly uncomfortable places — and it can affect learning. A 2018 research paper by the Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, Mass., found that for schools without air conditioning, every one-degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature reduced learning over a school year by 1 per cent. The researchers analyzed test scores, temperatures and school air conditioning.

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MOMENT IN TIME

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MPI/GETTY IMAGES

ABOLITIONIST SOJOURNER TRUTH GIVES FAMOUS SPEECH

Those only can appreciate it who saw her powerful form, her whole-souled, earnest gestures and listened to her strong and truthful tones," Marius Robinson wrote in the Anti-Slavery Bugle about a speech by Sojourner Truth, a former slave. Delivered on this day in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, her powerful address came to be known as the "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. Her prose demanding equal rights for women would reverberate across the United States and Canada and make her an important figure in feminist history and in the anti-slavery movement. Ms. Truth's speech was first

published in the Bugle alongside Mr. Robinson's comments, a month after she spoke. "I have as much muscle as any man, and can do as much work as any man," part of the published text read. However, in 1863, feminist and abolitionist Frances Dana Gage published a different version of the speech in the New York Independent that became better known than the original. In the later version, Ms. Truth was said to have repeated the phrase, "And ain't I a woman?" four times. It is still debated today which version better represented what Ms. Truth actually said.

CLAIRE McFARLANE

COLUMNISTS

MARSHA LEDERMAN

OPINION



FIRST PERSON

IAN LEE

OPINION

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As Canada Post faces an existential struggle, Ottawa must step in to mandate changes ■ B4

Quebec residents scramble to safety as tornado tears through area west of Montreal

MORGAN LOWRIE MONTREAL

Residents west of Montreal recounted on Tuesday the moment when a tornado tore through their communities, taking only a few seconds to rip apart homes, vehicles and farm buildings.

The day after, residents described being shaken but unhurt by Monday's violent storm, which left behind a trail of broken trees, flattened buildings and fields full of debris.

Daniel Gélinas said he had seconds to react before his 150-year-old farmhouse was hit around 5:30 p.m. Mr. Gélinas was having coffee in his home in Très-Saint-Rédempteur, Que., near the Ontario boundary, when he looked out the window and saw his belongings spinning in the wind.

"Parts of my deck were starting to fly by, and I started seeing the swirling in the yard, so I grabbed my dog, went to my basement and just jumped down," he said.

Within 30 seconds, it was over, Mr. Gélinas said in an interview.

The storm that tore through his property ripped the roof off the small red farmhouse, flattened his garage and scattered his belongings across the street. A piece of the house's roof dangled from a power line, while broken furniture, wood and equipment were strewn around the swimming pool and garden.

Hydro-Québec crews were on site, walking through a tangle of downed trees and power lines strung with debris.

Environment Canada confirmed Tuesday it was a tornado that hit near Rigaud, which is about 60 kilometres west of Montreal. Meteorologist Michèle Fleury said the confirmation was based on photos and videos, but a



A man observes damage in Très-Saint-Rédempteur, Que., on Tuesday, a day after a tornado touched down in the area. Residents described being shaken but unhurt by the storm. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

team from Western University was en route to confirm its strength and trajectory.

She said it was possible a tornado could have touched down in Ontario as well, though that hasn't been confirmed.

In Rigaud, a crew of family and volunteers were picking up pieces of roof and broken trees from the Ferme Carra dairy farm Tuesday.

Christian Carrière, who runs the farm with his family, said he was at home with his girlfriend and son when they heard the sound of objects pinging against the siding, and saw the rain that had been pelting the window suddenly turn to mud.

"I said, 'Hurry up, let's go, it's a tornado,'" said Mr. Carrière, who rushed his family to the basement.

On Tuesday, he was contemplating the damage to the home, which included broken windows, cracked walls and a block of wood that flew into the kitchen.

On the farm, a corner of the

dairy barn roof was lifted off, and a second building was largely destroyed after the tornado flung blocks of concrete into it, he said. The cows were unhurt, but Mr. Carrière believes the damage could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Très-Saint-Rédempteur Mayor Julie Lemieux said the tornado damaged several homes and farm buildings in the community as well as in Rigaud, but officials don't believe anyone was injured.

Ms. Lemieux said residents received alerts about the storm before it hit, and the municipality responded quickly. She said it's something they've had to prepare for in recent years as severe storms have become more frequent, which she attributes to climate change.

"A tornado, it's the first in decades, but we have to be prepared for it to happen more often," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

At least 37 dead as Rafah offensive expands

Shelling comes after fatal fire in camp for displaced Palestinians drew international outrage

WAFAA SHURAF
SAMY MAGDY
DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

Israeli shelling and air strikes killed at least 37 people, most of them sheltering in tents, outside the southern Gaza city of Rafah overnight and on Tuesday – pummeling the same area where strikes triggered a deadly fire days earlier in a camp for displaced Palestinians – according to witnesses, emergency workers and hospital officials.

The tent camp inferno has drawn widespread international outrage, including from some of Israel's closest allies, over the military's expanding offensive into Rafah. And in a sign of Israel's growing isolation on the world stage, Spain, Norway and Ireland formally recognized a Palestinian state on Tuesday.

The Israeli military suggested Sunday's blaze in the tent camp may have been caused by secondary explosions, possibly from Palestinian militants' weapons. The results of Israel's initial probe into the fire were issued Tuesday, with military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari saying the cause of the fire was still under investigation but that the Israeli munitions used – targeting what the army said was a position with two senior Hamas militants – were too small to be the source.

The strike or the subsequent fire could also have ignited fuel, cooking gas canisters or other materials in the camp. The blaze killed 45 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials' count. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the fire was the



Shelling late Monday and early Tuesday hit Rafah's western Tel al-Sultan district. Seven of the dead were in tents next to a UN facility about 200 metres from the site of Sunday's fire. JEHAD ALSHRAFI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

result of a "tragic mishap."

Israel's assault on Rafah, launched May 6, spurred more than one million people to flee the city, the UN agency helping Palestinian refugees said Tuesday. Most were already displaced multiple times in the nearly eight-month war between Israel and Hamas. Families are now scattered across makeshift tent camps and other war-ravaged areas.

The strikes over the past few days have hit areas west of Rafah, where the military had not ordered civilians to evacuate. Israeli ground troops and tanks have been operating in eastern Rafah, in central parts of the city, and along the Gaza-Egypt border.

Shelling late Monday and early Tuesday hit Rafah's western Tel al-Sultan district, killing at least 16 people, the Palestinian Civil Defence and the Palestinian Red

Crescent said. Seven of the dead were in tents next to a UN facility about 200 metres from the site of Sunday's fire.

"It was a night of horror," said Abdel-Rahman Abu Ismail, a Palestinian from Gaza City who has been sheltering in Tel al-Sultan since December. He said he heard "constant sounds" of explosions overnight and into Tuesday, with fighter jets and drones flying above.

He said it reminded him of the Israeli invasion of his neighbourhood of Shijaiyah in Gaza City, where Israel launched a heavy bombing campaign before sending in ground forces in late 2023. "We saw this before," he said.

The United States and other allies of Israel have warned against a full-fledged offensive in the city, with the Biden administration saying this would cross a "red line" and refusing to provide

offensive arms for such an undertaking. On Tuesday, U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller gave no indication the administration sees Israel as crossing any of the red lines for Rafah, saying the offensive is still on a "far different" scale than assaults on other population centres in Gaza.

The International Court of Justice ordered Israel to halt its Rafah offensive last week as part of South Africa's case accusing Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza.

A new UN Security Council resolution to halt the fighting in Rafah was being drafted by Algeria on Tuesday, with plans to potentially bring it to a vote this week. The U.S. has vetoed multiple Gaza ceasefire resolutions.

On Tuesday afternoon, an Israeli drone strike hit tents near a field hospital by the Mediterranean

coast west of Rafah, killing at least 21 people, including 13 women, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

A witness, Ahmed Nassar, said his four cousins and some of their husbands and children were killed in the strike and a number of tents were destroyed or damaged. Most of those living there had fled from the same neighbourhood in Gaza City earlier in the war.

"They have nothing to do with anything," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu has vowed to press ahead in Rafah, saying Israeli forces must enter the city to dismantle Hamas and return hostages taken in the Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war.

In its investigation of Sunday's deadly strike and fire, the Israeli military released satellite photos of what it said was a Hamas rocket launch position about 40 metres from an area of sheds that was targeted. In the photo, the alleged launcher itself did not appear to have been struck.

He said Israeli warplanes used the smallest bombs possible – two munitions with 17-kilogram warheads. "Our munition alone could not have ignited a fire of this size," he said.

Rear Adm. Hagari said that the fire was "a devastating incident which we did not expect" and ignited owing to "unforeseen circumstances."

Gaza's Health Ministry said two medical facilities in Tel al-Sultan are out of service because of intense bombing nearby. Medical Aid for Palestinians, a charity operating throughout the territory, said the Tel al-Sultan medical centre and the Indonesian Field Hospital were under lockdown with medics, patients and displaced people trapped inside.

Most of Gaza's hospitals are no longer functioning. Rafah's Kuwait Hospital shut down Monday after a strike near its entrance killed two health workers.

REUTERS

Faculty members join protest as U of T seeks to clear encampment

JOE FRIESEN
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
REPORTER

Some University of Toronto faculty members say the administration's threat to discipline those who join a pro-Palestinian encampment has spurred more professors to join the protest.

More than 60 faculty members stood in front of the Simcoe Hall administration building Tuesday to denounce the university's attempts to force an end to the encampment, which has been in place since May 2.

In a show of solidarity with student protesters, the faculty members vowed that if the university asked police to clear the encampment, they would stand in the way.

The encampment is part of a movement that has swept across campuses in Canada and the United States in the past two months. Student protesters have been calling on universities to disclose where their money is invested, divest from companies connected to the Israeli military and cut ties with Israeli universities that operate in the occupied territories.

In some cases the encampments have ended after negotiations between students and university administration, in other cases police have been asked to clear the protesters by force.

The University of Toronto has filed a notice of motion in Ontario Superior Court seeking to clear the encampment and authorize police to carry out the task.

A court conference was held over Zoom Tuesday afternoon to begin planning for that hearing. More than 20 parties are seeking intervenor status, reflecting the significant interest in the case.

The groups included Jewish and Muslim organizations, civil liberties advocates and human-rights groups. There were also lawyers present for the University of Toronto Faculty Association and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3902 at the university, whose members could be directly affected.

The schedule for the hearing is expected to be released Wednesday. Justice Markus Koehnen said as with all injunctions the hearing will be rapid. However, with the number of parties involved it appeared that lawyers were planning for several days in court.



In a show of solidarity with student protesters, some faculty members vowed to stand in the way if the University of Toronto asked police to clear the encampment. SAMMY KOGAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Speaking at the press conference, Deb Cowen, a professor of geography and member of the Jewish Faculty Network, said nearly 200 faculty have attended the encampment, a number that has grown since the university issued what she described as an unprecedented threat.

The trespass notice that the university has circulated states that students present at the King's College Circle site could be subject to discipline, including suspension or even a recommendation of expulsion. It also said faculty, librarians and staff may be subject to measures up to and including termination.

"We are here because we care deeply about our students and because we care deeply about what we are meant to do here in this institution of higher learning," Prof. Cowen said.

She echoed a call from the Ontario Federation of Labour urging the administration not to force a confrontation.

"If you decide to move against the students, you'll have to go through us first," Prof. Cowen said.

Steve Easterbrook, director of the school of the environment, said he was shocked by what he called the administration's "egregious" threat to faculty.

"The idea that a university would call the police on its own students, staff and faculty to remove them from campus is unthinkable. And to threaten staff and faculty with termination is unthinkable. So I and many other chairs and directors have written to the president expressing

our outrage at these extreme measures and over the lack of consultation that led up to them," Prof. Easterbrook said.

Alejandro Paz, an anthropologist, quoted the university's statement of institutional purpose, which describes a right to "raise deeply disturbing questions and provocative challenges to the cherished beliefs of society at large and of the university itself."

In response, the University of Toronto's media relations office characterized the group as a tiny minority of the university's 16,000 faculty.

In its notice of motion to the Superior Court of Justice, the university administration said members of the university community have expressed concerns about their health and safety arising from the encampment, which it alleges has limited freedom of speech and freedom of association for people on campus by restricting access to King's College Circle.

The notice of motion also argues that the encampment limits the expression of those who hold views that differ from those advanced by the protest.

Erin Mackey, a student organizer of the encampment, said talks with the university are continuing. She said U of T president Meric Gertler has not personally joined the negotiations yet. She characterized the sides as far apart on the question of divestment. The university has offered committees to study the issue, she said, while the students are demanding a commitment.

Pope: Language 'blatantly jars' with past messages on LGBTQ issues, ex-priest says

FROM A1

Nevertheless, his reported remarks caused shock and consternation.

Marianne Duddy-Burke, the head of LGBTQ Catholic rights group DignityUSA, called them "shocking and hurtful to many, especially to the innumerable gay priests who have served God's people faithfully and well."

"Unfortunately, even if intended as a joke, the Pope's comment reveals the depth of anti-gay bias and institutional discrimination that still exist in our church," Ms. Duddy-Burke added.

Vito Mancuso, an Italian theologian and former priest, told daily La Stampa that Francis's language was "despicable and surprising because it blatantly jars" with his previous messages on LGBTQ issues.

Francis, who is 87, has been credited with making substantial overtures toward the LGBTQ community during his 11-year papacy.

In 2013, at the start of his papacy, he famously said: "If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge?"

Last year he allowed priests to bless members of same-sex couples, triggering a substantial conservative backlash.

Back in 2018, Francis admitted making "grave mistakes" in the handling of a sexual-abuse crisis in Chile, where he initially dismissed as slander accusations against a bishop suspected of protecting a predator priest.

"I apologize to all those I have offended and I hope to be able to do it personally in the coming weeks, in the meetings I will have [with victims]," he wrote in a letter to Chilean bishops.

REUTERS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ORDERS EVACUATIONS FROM LANDSLIDE'S PATH, THOUSANDS FEARED BURIED

SYDNEY Papua New Guinea ordered thousands of residents to evacuate from the path of a still-active landslide on Tuesday after parts of a mountain collapsed burying at least 2,000 people, according to government estimates.

Officials said the odds of finding survivors were slim, even as relief teams have trickled into the difficult-to-access northern Enga region of the Pacific nation since Friday.

Heavy equipment and aid have been slow to arrive because of the treacherous terrain and tribal unrest in the remote area, forcing the military to escort convoys of relief teams.

"The landslide area is very unstable. When we're up there, we're regularly hearing big explosions where the mountain is, there are still rocks and debris coming down," Enga province disaster committee chairperson Sandis Tsaka told Reuters.

Military personnel had set up checkpoints and were helping move residents to evacuation centres, he said.

The United Nations said on Tuesday six bodies had been recovered so far and the total affected population, including those needing possible evacuation and relocation, was estimated at 7,849. An International Organization for Migration official said that a bridge had collapsed on the main highway to the site, forcing aid convoys to take a longer route.

The government has estimated that more than 2,000 people were buried in the landslide that occurred early Friday, sharply higher than the UN figure of 670 possible deaths, and some local officials' much lower estimates.

REUTERS

Ontario, Ottawa reach housing agreement

Deal for \$357-million in federal funding puts an end to disagreement over province's progress on affordable units

LAURA STONE
QUEEN'S PARK REPORTER

The federal government and Ontario have reached a housing agreement that will provide the province with \$357-million in federal funding this year, ending a months-long disagreement that saw Ottawa threaten to bypass Queen's Park and send money directly to municipalities.

The deal was hammered out by federal Housing Minister Sean Fraser and Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra, who met in Ottawa last week, and puts an end to the argument that Ontario wasn't on track to build enough affordable-housing units.

The dispute stemmed from the

province's plan to meet its target of 19,660 new rent-assisted social-housing units by 2028, part of a \$5.8-billion transfer agreement with the federal government. Ottawa has said Ontario lags far behind its provincial and territorial counterparts when it comes to building more affordable housing and was refusing to share more details of its plan.

But Ontario had argued that the federal government refused to acknowledge the number of units it has built and the tens of thousands it has refurbished, adding that the province has the oldest social-housing stock in the country.

Last month, the federal government said it would bypass the province and send the money directly to Ontario's 47 service managers, which include regional governments and administrative boards that operate social housing and homelessness plans.

In a joint statement released Tuesday, Mr. Fraser and Mr. Calandra said the two governments recognize that their "collaboration is imperative to solving the

housing crisis" and would pursue a "Team Canada" approach.

Mr. Fraser told reporters in Ottawa that Ontario's initial plan didn't meet the necessary targets to unlock the funding but that the new agreement "puts them on par with most other provinces as to where they're at right now."

"This puts Ontario in a place where they're going to be able to achieve the obligations that they agreed to at the outset," he said.

Speaking to reporters at Queen's Park, Mr. Calandra said it's "no surprise" that Ottawa and his province have been in a disagreement over Ontario's numbers. He said Ontario funds affordable housing differently than other provinces and that he was able to explain to his federal counterpart how the system works. In return, he said, Ontario will improve how it collects its data.

"I'm glad they fully understand what Ontario has accomplished in terms of getting affordable housing built," Mr. Calandra said, adding that there has been "extraordinary progress" on

renovated units as well.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a non-profit organization representing municipal and regional governments, welcomed the news of an agreement but called for stronger relationships between all three levels of government "to fundamentally re-think the way that community housing is funded in Ontario."

"The uncertainty that recent events generated for low income individuals and families, as well as municipalities making long-term investments, is destabilizing for those with limited options," AMO president Colin Best said in a statement.

In their joint statement, the Ontario and federal governments said the province has submitted a new "action plan" that provides more data and insights about which housing projects receive provincial funding. The province also included new measures to reflect how Ontario's funding is delivered, since it is the only jurisdiction that distributes funds through municipal service managers.

Ontario also pledged to submit an action plan for 2025-28 by the end of this year in order to continue to receive federal funding under the 10-year national housing strategy agreement.

Ontario's revised 2022-25 action plan forecasts adding at least 8,644 units toward its expansion target by March 31, 2025. The plan also identifies new measures that will put the province on the path to meet the overall target of 19,660 new affordable units by the end of the agreement.

The federal government has previously bypassed provinces to deal directly with municipalities when it comes to funding for housing.

Ottawa has already been signing agreements with municipalities through its Housing Accelerator Fund. It has also threatened to circumvent provinces with its new \$6-billion housing infrastructure fund, announced in April's federal budget, which would require provinces to agree to a list of conditions such as increased density to access the money.

[HISTORY]



Flying high again

Dorothea Barron, 99, sits with pilot Jeremy Britcher in a Spitfire at Biggin Hill Airport near Kent, England, on Tuesday. Ms. Barron was a serving Wren at the time of D-Day in 1944

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five more school boards in Ontario sue social-media giants, cite mental-health concerns

CAROLINE ALPHONSO
EDUCATION REPORTER

Five more Ontario school boards and two private schools are suing the companies behind social-media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok, accusing them of designing unsafe and addictive products that harm the mental health of students and disrupt learning.

The statements of claim were filed on Tuesday in Ontario's Superior Court of Justice by Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, York Catholic District School Board, Trillium Lakelands District School Board, Ottawa Catholic School Board, and District School Board of Niagara, as well as Holy Name of Mary College School, an all-girls school in Mississauga, and Eitz Chaim, a Jewish day school in Toronto.

In March, four of the country's largest school boards — Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and Peel District School Board — became the first in Canada to file lawsuits that accused social-media companies of negligently designing products that interfered with learning and rewired student behaviour while leaving educators to manage the fallout.

The new lawsuits share similar wording and characterize social-media companies as choosing to "maximize profits at the expense of student well-being," without regard to the limited resources that schools have to divert to help young people.

The boards and private schools have filed lawsuits against Meta Platforms Inc., which is responsible for Facebook and Instagram; Snap Inc., the parent company of

Snapchat; and ByteDance Ltd., the owner of TikTok. The school boards and private schools are advancing claims of \$2.6-billion.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

In an e-mailed statement Tuesday, Meta said it was working to "provide teens with safe, supportive experiences online," including investing in technology that finds and removes content related to suicide, self-injury and eating disorders before it's reported.

TikTok said the app has safeguards in place, including parental controls and an automatic 60-minute screen-time limit for users under 18. Snap said it intends to defend the claims, and added that while it has work to do, "we feel good about the role Snapchat plays in helping close friends feel connected, happy and prepared as they face the many challenges of adolescence."

The increased use of social media among children and young people has been a source of worry for policy makers, educators and parents.

Last month, the Ontario government announced that it would crack down on cellphone use in schools. Under new rules coming this fall, students in Grade 6 and below must put their cellphones away, powered off or set to silent mode throughout the school day, unless they receive permission from the teacher. Students in Grades 7 to 12 will only be able to access their phones between classes or during lunch, unless directed by the teacher.

Students who don't comply would be sent to the principal's office, and they could be suspended.

School boards will also be required to restrict access to all social-media platforms on school

WiFi networks and on school devices, the government said.

Last year, Quebec directed its school boards to restrict phone use in classes by Dec. 31, though it left penalties up to local decision-makers. British Columbia said in January that it would work with school districts to design restrictions in time for this fall. And Alberta recently asked families to weigh in on cellphone use in schools.

In the lawsuits, the school boards and schools say that the companies should have known that their "negligent conduct" would disrupt the sleep patterns and brain development of young people, and keep them from focusing and learning in the classroom.

The boards and schools are represented by Neinstein LLP. School boards are not responsible for costs related to the lawsuits and the firm will take a fee if damages are awarded.

Carrie Hughes-Grant, head of school at Holy Name of Mary in Mississauga, said her school has rules around cellphone use. However, it's been challenging to manage behaviour around technology, she said.

"I would really like them to acknowledge the fact that they have knowingly created addictive technology," she said.

Tom D'Amico, education director at the Ottawa Catholic school board, said he hopes that the lawsuits will prompt social-media companies to make changes that will protect young people.

"We're not against technology. We see it has lots of potential for good," he said, adding that "we're seeing the other side of the coin, in the sense of the damage that it's having on their mental health."

Manitoba newspapers' buyer won't rule out run to lead provincial PCs

TEMUR DURRANI WINNIPEG

The soon-to-be owner of three newspapers in the Manitoba market is excited about the future of local journalism but is not ruling out a run to become leader of the provincial Progressive Conservative Party.

"Never say never," Kevin Klein said in a wide-ranging interview with The Globe and Mail. "That's what I've learned from my time in politics."

A cabinet minister until the Tories were defeated by Wab Kinew's New Democratic Party last year, Mr. Klein has been writing a column in the Winnipeg Sun since the October provincial election. He was a city councillor until 2022, after which he ran in Winnipeg's mayoral race that fall, where he placed third. Prior to that, save for a five-month break in 2014, he was publisher of the Winnipeg Sun from 2007 to 2015.

This week, Postmedia Network Canada Corp. announced it has agreed to sell three of the media chain's titles to a group of investors led by Mr. Klein: The Graphic Leader, west of the provincial capital in the small city of Portage la Prairie; Kenora Miner & News, which serves the cottage-country area around Lake of the Woods at the Manitoba-Ontario boundary; and the Winnipeg Sun.

The deal is scheduled to be finalized on or around June 1, subject to conditions set by Postmedia and the Klein Group Ltd. Financial details for the transaction were not disclosed.

Mr. Klein said that when he told his daughter he was acquiring the three papers, she asked him: "Isn't print dead?"

"We all have to admit, the media business is certainly not a venture that everyone's clamouring to get into," he told The Globe. "But as I said to my daughter, 'Remember dear, you still go to the news. You need it from somewhere and you want to make sure that it's trustworthy. But more than anything, you want it to be local news about what is impacting you.'"

Mr. Kinew, however, said he is skeptical about Mr. Klein's plans with the newspapers. The Premier noted that until recently, Mr. Klein was a partisan politician who was involved in an "ugly" campaign against the NDP.

"Manitobans are probably going to be keeping a careful eye on whether there is that balanced coverage," Mr. Kinew told reporters at the legislature.

Mr. Klein said he understands where the Premier's comments are coming from, but that does not deter him. After the deal closes, he is expected to become president and chief executive officer of the newspapers — a role that will be similar to the one he held as publisher, he added.

But Mr. Klein appears to still be interested in a future political career.

The Manitoba Tories picked Wayne Ewasko, another ex-cabinet minister, to be their interim leader in January after former premier Heather Stefanson resigned from the post in the wake of her party's rough loss on election night. The Official Opposition party is expected to hold a vote for a permanent leader in April, 2025.

Mr. Klein said he has not decided whether he will be tossing his hat in that ring. "I want to be very clear that this new venture is what I'm fully committed to right now," he said. "I want to hear from our readers, subscribers and also the employees. I want to see what is working and what isn't."

The Klein Group, which does not publicly list its major shareholders, has "people involved that are all from Manitoba," Mr. Klein said.

"It wouldn't be prudent to say we're looking to make changes. We're looking to learn, and we're excited to listen. And then from that, we'll see what the future brings. We want to provide critical news, information that's factual, and allow readers to form their own minds about what's happening around them."

In a press release, the companies said, both unionized and non-unionized employees at the media outlets are expected to continue in their roles without any job cuts anticipated.

Postmedia president and chief executive Andrew MacLeod described Mr. Klein's investment group as one that will continue the "long tradition of providing trusted and valuable journalism in these important markets," adding in the press release that the newspapers will continue to benefit from his company's support.

An internal memo to employees in Winnipeg on Monday, obtained by The Globe, offered further clarity about the partnership between the Klein Group and Postmedia. It stated that the local newspapers will still be able to make use of news stories and opinion columns from Postmedia's other national outlets.

"This is a model that is unique to a distinct market," the internal memo said. "The papers were no longer sustainable for us, and we were able to attract a local group with a commitment to keeping operations going."

Last month, Postmedia reported a net loss of \$20.1-million in its latest quarter as its revenue fell nearly 13 per cent. The media company, much like its competitors across the country, has faced severe headwinds over the years, cutting hundreds of jobs and closing dozens of Canadian dailies and weeklies.

Trump's hush-money case is about more than sex

The first of the former U.S. president's four potential trials quickly moved from comic opera to soap opera

DAVID SHRIBMAN

ANALYSIS

The most remarkable element of the sensational, salacious and politically significant Trump hush-money trial, which goes to the jury of seven men and five women this week, reaches far beyond the substance of the legal proceeding.

The trial's surpassing meaning, aside from the possibility that Donald Trump may face jail time, may instead be this: Americans in recent years have witnessed so many moments of the unanticipated and the unprecedented, the thoroughly inexplicable and the arguably intolerable, that a former president — once in control of 3,750 nuclear weapons but seldom possessed of self-control — being brought up on charges that he bought the silence of a porn star seemed utterly unremarkable.

It's not that the country is bored with the legal peregrinations of Donald Trump, with the vivid, too-much-information account of his alleged sexual encounter with Stormy Daniels, or with his bid to defeat Joe Biden and reclaim the White House. It's just that Trump Agonistes is a reality show that is constantly being renewed, just as its protagonist hopes that the Trump presidency will be renewed next January.

The first of potentially four Trump trials — and perhaps the only one to conclude before the election, and thus the only one that could brand him a convicted felon while it still matters to voters — swiftly moved from comic opera to soap opera. It was a stage spectacle with, according to Ms. Daniels' testimony, silk pajamas but no condom. Sometimes, it was hard to remember in the midst of the indecent particulars and the promiscuous charges of mendacity that this was the first such trial of a former American president, with an election in the balance — an election that both the Trump and Biden camps have labelled a test of the sturdiness of American democratic values.

That such a test came down, at least in part, to a trial such as this will be a mystery to historians decades from now.



Former U.S. president Donald Trump speaks to the media as he arrives at court in New York on Monday. STEVEN HIRSCH/GETTY IMAGES

The Trump trial may lack the cultural significance of the Salem witch trials (1692), the trial of the abolitionist John Brown (1859), the Leo Franck murder trial (1913), the Scopes-Monkey evolution trial (1925), the trial of the anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti (1927), or even the O. J. Simpson trial (1995), each of which once held the title of "trial of the century." But it was a weeks-long trial of a former president in the middle of a political campaign. It had its moments of high drama and high dudgeon, and in some ways it marked a new low for Mr. Trump and American politics.

Like Mr. Trump did with his indictments, his arraignments, the release of his mugshot and his other legal travails, he has managed to transform peril into opportunity, both financial and political. As the trial was winding down, he sent repeated messages to the millions on his e-mail list. One of the e-mails described him as "the most persecuted man in American HISTORY — and IT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE!" He

continued: "I've been Stripped of my Rights and I've been ILLEGALLY GAGGED INTO SILENCE. But I am still here fighting for you because YOU TRULY MEAN THE WORLD TO ME!"

The United States has witnessed trials of passion before. The country was transfixed by the 1907 and 1908 trials of Harry Thaw, who killed the prominent architect Stanford White in a fit of jealous rage over the ingenu Evelyn Nesbit (Thaw's wife) in front of nearly a thousand people on the rooftop of Madison Square Garden. The country was again mesmerized by the 1980-81 trial of Jean Harris, the headmistress of the tony Madeira School, who was convicted of murdering Herman Tarnower, the author of the popular *The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet*.

The Trump trial was over an alleged one-night stand, though the former president apparently did say, "We were great together."

When senator Dale Bumpers rose in Bill Clinton's Senate trial, which grew out of

the impeached president's sexual involvement with a White House intern a full quarter-century ago, Mr. Bumpers had it half-right. "When you hear somebody say, 'This is not about sex,' the senator said in an old-time stem-winding defence of his fellow Arkansan, "it's about sex."

Mr. Trump's case is about more than sex.

To oversimplify, the Salem witch trials were about community hysteria and the potency of accusation, the John Brown trial about fanaticism and zealotry, the Leo Franck trial about antisemitism and the nature of justice, the Scopes-Monkey trial about the power of religious fundamentalism and the resistance to modernity, the Sacco and Vanzetti trial about extremism and xenophobia, the O.J. Simpson about celebrity in America. In a way, the Trump trial, and by extension the Trump phenomenon in the United States, is at once a trial about all of them.

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National security is no time for amateur hour

Canada's intelligence system needs some kind of co-ordination, an issue the PM must fix

CAMPBELL CLARK

OPINION



If you want your government officials to be on the ball when it comes to foreign interference, it might help if they could make a list, within a matter of months, of who should get a report drafted specifically for the prime minister.

There was a report like that – an overview of the strategy and tactics used by China to influence or interfere with political actors. On March 9, 2023, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service completed a redrafted version, specifically for the eyes of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Eight months later, it still hadn't been shown to the PM, because the list of recipients hadn't been approved.

There's a lot of that kind of thing in the report released this week by the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA).

Intelligence on foreign interference was collected, for sure. But then there was disagreement about how it should be reported, whether it should be reported, who should get it or how it should be read.

National-security intelligence was bogged down in an amateur-hour paper-chase.

This is a system crying out for co-ordination. That's the prime minister's job.

NSIRA was created in 2019 as a successor to two previous bodies tasked with keeping an eye on the two main intelligence bodies – CSIS, the spy service, and the Communications Security Establishment, responsible for electronic snooping. But there are other agencies involved in intelligence, including arms of Global Affairs Canada and the Privy Council Office, the central government department that reports to the prime minister. There are senior civil servants, including the prime minister's

national security and intelligence adviser, making decisions about what the PM sees.

What's not clear is how they work together to disseminate intelligence.

When CSIS thought they were alerting the top dogs to Chinese government interference in Canadian politics, the national security and intelligence adviser once told them it was standard diplomatic activity by foreign envoys. There were several instances where readers of intelligence reports did not grasp their "intended import," which makes you wonder how they are written. There wasn't proper tracking of who read reports.

And NSIRA politely noted government officials might want to pay attention, by saying "there must be interest on the part of consumers for the intelligence they receive." You have to think that should start with Mr. Trudeau. He should be doing something about it by ensuring proper organization of how intelligence is assessed and shared.

Instead, NSIRA's report suggests intelligence reports regularly don't make it to key readers.

Except by mistake.

One example was that report the Prime Minister never read. It started out, according to NSIRA, as something called the "Targeting Paper," which was written by a CSIS analyst combining electronic and traditional intelligence into an overview of Beijing's strategy and tactics in influencing or interfering with political actors.

It was completed in June, 2021, but not disseminated around government. CSIS told NSIRA there were a variety of reasons, from COVID-19 and "logistical challenges" related to classified material, staff turnover, legal issues, "and the overall sensitivity of the material."

More than a year later, the author of the report asked why it hadn't been disseminated, and CSIS, after a few more months, sent it out to senior officials. Nine days later, the national security and intelligence adviser asked CSIS to claw it back – but in the meantime, it had been read by 40 officials.

There was a conflict about what it meant: The national security and intelligence adviser

argued the report didn't cover interference, but standard diplomatic work. CSIS, according to NSIRA, saw it as "the most complete and detailed analysis of [China's] foreign interference directed against Canadian political actors."

The Prime Minister never saw it. A shorter version was drafted for him, but CSIS director David Vigneault never approved a distribution list. The national security and intelligence adviser never followed up, so the PM never saw it.

If that was a one-off, it would be concerning. But NSIRA's report places it in a larger pattern. Disagreements, sensitivities, a lack of clear policy direction – all got in the way.

That's up to the Prime Minister to fix. Wesley Wark, a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, said that in other countries, such as Britain and Australia, there is a co-ordinating security body at the centre of government that emphasizes high-quality assessments of intelligence. At the very least, Canada's intelligence community needs to be organized.



Conservative MP Michael Chong, seen in Ottawa on May 3, says his party offered to work with the government to ensure a foreign-interference bill passes before the next election. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa: Advocates caution against rushing law

FROM A1

The federal government unveiled legislation in early May to combat foreign interference by creating a mandatory registry for people undertaking "influence activity" in politics or government on behalf of foreign powers and giving Canada's top spy agency more authority to combat threats.

The Countering Foreign Interference Act would also create new foreign-interference criminal offences, including political interference. When it tabled the bill, the government said it would make it easier to prosecute anyone who tries to coerce someone with intimidation or threats on behalf of a foreign entity or terrorist group.

The omnibus bill was tabled days after the Hogue inquiry into foreign interference released its first report, saying meddling in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections undermined the right of Canadian voters to have an electoral process "free from coercion or covert influence" and may have affected results in a small number of ridings.

The acts of foreign interference that occurred, or are suspected to have occurred, "are a stain on our electoral process and impacted the process leading up to the actual vote," Commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue wrote.

The legislation also creates a Foreign Influence Transparency Commissioner, who would oversee the newly created registry.

Intelligence experts told The Globe ensuring that Bill C-70 is in place before the next election is critical to deter foreign interference in the next campaign and to put in place more protections. However, University of Ottawa professor Thomas Juneau cautioned that Conservative support alone will not ensure the bill is in place prior to the next election given that it will face other hurdles, including getting through the Senate.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association has previously said it's concerned that the new legislation is not compliant with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and requires significant changes. When asked about the possibility of fast-tracking the legislation, the group noted on Tuesday that the sweeping bill amends laws pertaining to the federal spy agency, criminal law and national

security, and leaves significant portions of some of the new protocols to future regulations.

"It is essential there are meaningful and thorough committee hearings in the House and Senate to ensure civil society and experts can effectively review the bill and suggest amendments," the group said in a statement from its director Shakir Rahim and Anaïs Bussièrès McNicoll.

Mr. LeBlanc also defended his government's approach to intelligence on foreign interference after the release of a highly critical report from the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA). The report described an "unacceptable state of affairs" with respect to poor tracking of who has read or received key intelligence reports. The report also described tension and disagreement between key branches of the federal government's intelligence community.

Mr. LeBlanc said significant changes have already been made that address the issues raised in the report. He said the Prime Minister directed more than a year ago that there should be broader sharing of intelligence information with relevant ministers.

"Those improvements have been largely in place for some time," he said.

In an interview, Mr. Chong questioned the minister's assertion, noting that the report provides detailed examples of confusion and disagreement over documents prepared for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as recently as last year.

Mr. Chong said the Prime Minister is ultimately the one who must ensure the system that provides him with advice and national-security intelligence is functioning properly.

"The Prime Minister is responsible for that breakdown," he said. "It just seems like chaos."

Mr. Chong and his relatives in Hong Kong had been targeted by Beijing in the leadup to the 2021 election.

In Question Period, Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet said the report details a serious lack of co-ordination on national-security matters.

"These are not challenges, they are a monumental failure through ignorance and a lack of interest," Mr. Blanchet said.

Carleton University associate

professor Stephanie Carvin, a former CSIS intelligence analyst, said the report clearly identifies problems with how intelligence is managed inside government. She said she agreed with the report's recommendation that more needs to be done to improve the "intelligence literacy" of the government officials who receive and interpret intelligence.

The report said intelligence consumers in government did not always understand the significance of the intelligence they received nor how to integrate it into their policy analysis and decision-making.

It also said there were disagreements between intelligence units and senior public servants as to whether activities being described were foreign interference or legitimate diplomatic activity.

"The value of this report is understanding where the breakdowns have happened," she said. "If we don't get the public administration aspects of intelligence correct, there are real consequences."

NDP MP and public safety critic Alistair MacGregor said in a statement that the Liberals have done very little to deal with foreign interference. He accused the Conservatives of only pretending to care and failing to consider the need to study the bill, hear from witnesses and do "everything responsibly to protect Canadians' interests and our democratic institutions."

Mr. MacGregor said the NDP is however, looking for ways to expedite the recommendations from the NSIRA report.

Both the NSIRA report and the public inquiry led by Commissioner Hogue have raised concerns about accessing documents subject to cabinet confidence. Mr. Trudeau defended the level of disclosure from his government, but didn't commit to releasing the requested documents.

"We have demonstrated transparency and openness with the commissioner and with all the different commissions," he said.

A House committee on Tuesday passed a motion calling for Mr. LeBlanc and senior civil servants to testify on the redaction concerns raised by Commissioner Hogue.

The Liberals voted against the Conservative motion. It was supported by the NDP and the Bloc.

Parole board actions enabled harassment of female staff, commissioner says

IAN BAILEY OTTAWA

Canada's parole board grossly mismanaged its response to a campaign of harassment that a former board member inflicted on several female staff members at the federal government agency, the integrity commissioner has ruled.

In a report Tuesday, the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner said the board's administration created a danger for the safety of employees at its office in Kingston in how it handled the case.

"The actions taken by [Parole Board of Canada] management failed to convey the seriousness of the matter, and actually fostered an environment that enabled the board member's misconduct," Harriet Solloway said in a statement accompanying the release of her report.

The report said that over a period of eight years, starting in 2014, Michael Sanford, a board member at the Ontario regional office in Kingston, made repeated unwanted advances toward a total of four female employees.

His alleged actions included touching, inappropriate comments and unsolicited phone calls and text messages.

Some incidents were not properly documented, and limited documentation available was not maintained, the report said.

"It is reasonable to conclude that this serious error enabled new members of [parole board] management to ignore the evidence of Mr. Sanford's prior misconduct thereby contributing to his reappointment for a second term."

After being reappointed as a board member in 2020, Mr. Sanford subsequently behaved in an inappropriate way with at least two of the four female employees he harassed, the report said.

It said Mr. Sanford left the board in 2022 after the then public safety minister agreed with a request by Ms. Solloway to launch a judicial inquiry as a result of Mr. Sanford's behaviour.

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for the current Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc said the entire situation is unacceptable.

"We expect all government departments and agencies to foster safe and respectful workplaces for their staff," Jean-Sébastien Comeau, deputy communications director in the minister's office, said in a statement.

"The situation that was outlined in the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner's report is unacceptable. The Parole Board of Canada has accepted all of the recommendations formulated by the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner, and the minister has directed his officials to work with the executive team at the Parole Board of Canada to ensure the recommendations are fully implemented."

The board is an independent tribunal that reports to Parliament and makes conditional release decisions for offenders serving federal sentences of two or more years, or offenders serving sentences of less than two years in provinces or territories without their own parole boards.

The parole board did not respond to a Globe and Mail request for comment on the situation. The Globe was also unable to reach Mr. Sanford for comment.

The commissioner said parole board management did not take adequate action to stop or document Mr. Sanford's behaviour, failing in an obligation to maintain a safe work environment for employees.

The report said insufficient and ineffective measures were put in place to deal with Mr. Sanford's behaviour and to protect employees.

"Moreover, [parole board] management trivialized Mr. Sanford's misconduct by advising him to 'refrain from being too friendly with the public servants,' thus diluting any attempts to convey that his conduct was completely unacceptable and not to be repeated," the report said.

Ms. Solloway said, in her report, that the situation is especially vexing because her office reported on similar incidents at the board in 2014 and made a series of recommendations to deal with such matters, including the implementation of a structured process to assess past workplace behaviour for prospective board members.

In light of the latest situation, Ms. Solloway made three recommendations, including acting on the 2014 proposals; better managing information related to incidents of harassment; and implementing a management review of the board's Ontario regional office in Kingston "with a particular attention to workplace well-being."

A parole board response included with the report said the organization has acted on or is moving to deal with the proposals.

The report said Michael Sanford, a board member at the Ontario regional office in Kingston, made repeated unwanted advances toward a total of four female employees.

MPP uses Indigenous language in Ontario Legislature for the first time

In Oji-Cree, Sol Mamakwa asks about promised long-term care home in Sioux Lookout, prompting renewed pledge from Premier Doug Ford

JEFF GRAY
QUEEN'S PARK REPORTER

After a lengthy standing ovation from all parties in the Ontario Legislature, Sol Mamakwa, the only First Nations MPP in the province, rose to speak in his mother tongue on Tuesday — making history.

While he first began his remarks with the often-heard word, *miigwech* — which translates to “thank you” — he continued for 10 minutes in Anishiniimowin, known in English as Oji-Cree. It marked the first time an Indigenous language was granted full status in proceedings at Queen's Park.

Until now, only English and French were recognized with simultaneous translation services and transcriptions in the official record of debates known as Hansard. But a recent rule change championed by Mr. Mamakwa means that, with two days' notice to allow for translation to be arranged, Indigenous languages are welcome in the chamber where Ontario's laws are made.

“We assume strength in speaking our language, and it's like a healing medicine,” Mr. Mamakwa, the NDP MPP for the vast and remote northwestern riding of Kiiwetinoong, told the House, according to the simultaneous translation. The speech focused on the need to preserve Indigenous languages, which were at one time banned in residential schools attended by many First Nations people.

Two Oji-Cree translators sat in the glassed-in corner booth normally occupied by their French and English counterparts. Scores of friends, family and First Nations leaders, some in headdresses, looked on from the galleries, including



Sol Mamakwa, the NDP MPP for the vast and remote northwestern riding of Kiiwetinoong, holds an eagle feather as he stands in the Ontario Legislature on Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/CP

Mr. Mamakwa's 79-year-old mother, Kezia Mamakwa, who got a standing ovation of her own when her son told the legislature before his speech that it was her birthday.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford, who has spoken before of his fondness for Mr. Mamakwa, listened to the MPP's address with the translation earpiece pressed firmly to his ear. The Premier dashed across the aisle to warmly embrace Mr. Mamakwa afterward, amid another standing ovation.

Mr. Mamakwa, his party's deputy leader, then rose first in Question Period to use his own language to ask why Mr. Ford's government had failed to build a 76-bed long-term care home in Sioux Lookout, about 300 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, where First Nations elders from across Kiiwetinoong could be cared for closer to their home communities and in their own languages. He said Mr. Ford had first promised it in 2018.

“Elders like my mother should not have to wait seven years to access a long-term

care bed in Sioux Lookout,” Mr. Mamakwa said, adding that 100 beds were now needed. “The system has failed them.”

At first, Mr. Ford let his Minister of Long-Term Care, Stan Cho, answer. With sombre respect replacing the typical Question Period theatrics, Mr. Cho offered to speak to Mr. Mamakwa in his office about the issue. But then Mr. Ford himself rose, praised the NDP MPP, and pledged to get the new care home built.

“I went to Sioux Lookout,” Mr. Ford said. “You remember I went up there, and I committed that I am going to build that long-term care home. And I am committing today, in public: We will be building those beds.”

The renewed promise was sealed with another hug and a handshake in the middle of the chamber, and another standing ovation.

First Nation leaders said the move to allow Indigenous languages in Ontario's legislature sends a powerful message. They seek to preserve and promote Oji-

Cree and other Indigenous languages, many of which are threatened with extinction.

Among those looking on was Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, an umbrella organization that represents 49 Ontario First Nations.

“Especially in a very colonial institution, like where we are right now, to be able to hear your language spoken, it's pretty significant,” he said.

A similar rule allowing for Indigenous languages, with notice to allow for translation, has been in place since 2019 in the House of Commons in Ottawa. The Senate allowed Inuktitut in its debates in 2008. Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon also allow Indigenous languages in their debates. Mr. Mamakwa said he hoped more legislatures would now take similar steps.

Tuesday's historic moment was the result of an exchange between Mr. Mamakwa and PC House Leader Paul Calandra several weeks ago. Mr. Calandra said that, until then, he had been unaware Indigenous languages were not allowed in the legislature. Over a subsequent breakfast with the NDP MPP, they worked out the rule change.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Calandra said making it possible to do away with the need for two-days' notice is a goal. But he said it is difficult, as translators often live in remote communities.

After Question Period, Mr. Mamakwa told reporters he remembered sitting in detention at his residential school, where he was forbidden from speaking the language he had just used to question the Premier.

“This is 30 years ago. We were not allowed to speak our languages,” said the 53-year-old from Kingfisher Lake First Nation, which has a population of 500 and is about 500 kilometres north of Thunder Bay.

“I've been here six years. What took so long? What took so long for me to speak my language in this place?”

With a report from Laura Stone

Heat: Only 38 of nearly 200 Toronto Catholic schools are air-conditioned

FROM A1

After only a few days using the misting system, Ms. Della Mea noticed a change. Teachers came by the office to grab the remote so their classes could spend some time under the umbrella and cool off. The gym teacher had an activity outdoors with his class and used the misting station for a bit of relief.

On Friday afternoon, within seconds of the recess bell, students ran to the umbrella. It was a mild, pleasant spring day but little hands reached up toward each nozzle so they could feel the mist.

“It's refreshing,” said Simeon Tarranco, a Grade 3 student.

Ella Mazzotta said her Grade 1 classroom can get uncomfortably warm this time of year. “When I'm doing work, I get sweaty and then the sweat drips on my paper,” she said. This marked her second time under the umbrella. “When it's cold, it feels nice on my skin.”

Eden Kennedy, a Grade 6 student, said some of her classmates feel sick when the classroom gets hot. She was more pragmatic about the new misting system: “I think it'll be a lot better than just having nothing and being gross and sweaty out here.”



Students at Sts. Cosmas and Damian Catholic School run to the misting station at the school during recess last week. The school board says misting systems at 12 schools cost \$48,000. JESSICA LEE/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

The Toronto Catholic board said the 12 misting systems cost a total of \$48,000. It plans to run the pilot program until the end

of the school year, and again in September if the weather is warmer than usual.

Only 38 Toronto Catholic

schools of nearly 200 are air-conditioned. Many other schools have cooling centres, which are generally wall-mounted air-con-

ditioning units in large areas such as libraries or gyms that students rotate through for heat breaks.

Trustee Maria Rizzo pitched the idea of misting stations to the school board last year. Ms. Rizzo explained how uncomfortable she was when her air conditioner broke down at home. A splash of water brought some relief, she said.

That same week last May, she attended an event that had a misting station in the backyard.

It sparked the idea to introduce a motion to the school board.

“I think that they'll have fun with it. That's really important, because if they're having fun, and then they're happy, and then they come back in and they learn,” Ms. Rizzo said during a visit on Friday to Sts. Cosmas and Damian school.

The misting station won't be limited to only student use. Ms. Della Mea's office doesn't have any windows, which makes it quite humid. Her hair usually goes into ponytail, and she turns the fan up to full speed.

On Friday afternoon, she stood by the umbrella with a group of students, raised her arms and let the mist cool her down.

Ottawa accused of failing to provide funding for Northern Ontario hospital

GABRIELA CALUGAY-CASUGA
OTTAWA

The federal government is placing the onus on Ontario to ensure a Northern community gets a new health campus but First Nations leaders and the province say Ottawa has failed to provide promised funding required to make the project a reality.

Speaking outside of a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu said Ottawa is working closely with Ontario to ensure a hospital gets built.

“Look, we have supported Ontario with billions of dollars of transfers to improve health for all Ontarians,” she told reporters. “We'll continue to help them in meeting those responsibilities.”

The new facility would be located in Moosonee, Ont., and would replace the 75-year-old Weeneebayko General Hospital in Moose Factory.

The Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA), a First Nation regional health authority lo-

cated on the west coast of James Bay in Northern Ontario, says the current hospital is in a state of disrepair.

Elizabeth McCarthy, director of strategy and communications for WAHA, said Tuesday it is her understanding that federal health transfers do not go toward capital projects like the new hospital. The health authority is expecting a direct transfer of funds under an agreement signed in 2007 known as the Weeneebayko Area Health Integration Framework Agreement.

The agreement spells out federal funding for 45 per cent of capital costs to build the new campus.

When the federal budget was tabled this April, WAHA said it looked for funding. But there was no financial commitment contained within it for the project.

When asked about the lack of funding on Tuesday, Ms. Hajdu said there is a “pattern of behaviour” where the province “defers to the federal government when we're talking about the health of Indigenous peoples.”

In response to Ms. Hajdu's comments, Hannah Jensen, a spokesperson for Ontario's Health Minister Sylvia Jones, said the federal minister is “fully aware that this is not about the provincial-federal health deal” but this issue is “exclusively about the federal government failing to uphold their responsibility under WAHIFA and putting the future of this project at risk.”

Ms. Jensen also said Ms. Hajdu and federal colleagues have been invited to join provincial partners to see the site firsthand on June 17 to understand why building a new hospital in Moosonee is “important now more than ever.”

On May 14 on X, Ms. Jones shared a letter saying she had met with the federal government to urge it to uphold its funding commitment.

“A replacement is critical to ensure the 12,000 people living along the Western James Bay and Hudson Bay Coast can continue to access care,” Ms. Jones wrote.

First Nations leaders also say it is incumbent upon the federal

government to make good on its promise.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, whose umbrella organization represents 49 communities in Northern Ontario, said at a Monday news conference he was a “bit angry” about First Nations leaders needing to travel hundreds of miles from their communities to explore Canada to follow through.

“You actually need to step up and honour these commitments that you've made,” he said. “Enough of these empty gestures.”

WAHA said in a press release the process to get approval and eventual funding began “in earnest” in 2019. Its chief executive, Lynne Innes, said contracts have been recently awarded and some construction has begun. Funding was expected this year, she said, adding that the expected federal contribution is \$1.34-billion.

Ontario NDP MP Charlie Angus, along with leader Jagmeet Singh and NDP Indigenous services critic Lori Idlout, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau to express their “deep disappointment” in the government's decision “to walk away on a commitment to build a proper hospital in the James Bay region.”

Mr. Angus also issued a statement saying Ms. Hajdu is signalling the health crisis in James Bay is not a priority for her.

“She is attempting to obscure the facts over her lack of action and is hiding in jurisdictional game playing,” Mr. Angus said.

Mr. Singh asked Mr. Trudeau about the missing funding during Question Period on Tuesday. In response, the Prime Minister said the government “will continue to work to respond to the important needs of First Nations communities around health care.”

Leo Friday, Grand Chief of the Mushkegowuk Council, which includes Moose Cree Nation, said Monday he was perplexed by the federal government's lack of action.

“I would have expected Ontario to resist, but I would expect no trouble from the feds.”



Murray Sinclair visits Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School in his hometown of Selkirk, Man., where a mural of his likeness graces the school's main entrance. He said of the mural, painted by Winnipeg artist Charlie Johnston along with some students, that 'it's nice to be honoured in that way.' SHANNON VANRAES/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Sinclair: Manitoba Premier calls advocate 'the living embodiment of reconciliation in Canada'

■ FROM A1

As he speaks to the crowd, Mr. Sinclair's drive remains clear. The same purpose has propelled him since childhood.

He shares a story about his grandmother, Catherine Simard - his kookum. She attended the Fort Alexander Residential School as a novitiate, whose role was to essentially be a servant to nuns.

Along with Mr. Sinclair's grandfather, Ms. Simard raised her grandchildren after their mother, Florence, died of a stroke. Mr. Sinclair was one year old at the time of Florence's death.

Ms. Simard wanted her grandson to become a priest while he wanted to go to university. Eventually, she relented and agreed to sign required documentation.

But she made an appeal that has played out in his mind ever since.

"She looked at me and said, 'Okay, I understand. So, here's my request. If I sign these, you have to promise that you will always take care of the people. You have to promise me that.' And so, I said, 'I

promise you I will do that.'"
 These words have been Mr. Sinclair's guide. When he faces an important decision, he wonders what his kookum would think. Many times - in dreams, he says - she's appeared before him to indicate: "So far, so good."

"I am always guided by the sense of responsibility to family and to community," he says. "Everything I've ever done in my life has been about that question: 'What is it that I can do to help our family, our community to be safer?'"

This winter, Mr. Sinclair moved into assisted living, along with his wife, who has been medically vulnerable in the past few years. He lives with congestive heart failure, which affects his heartbeat and the way he breathes.

He also has lymphedema, which caused a buildup of fluid in his legs. Though his legs have been drained of fluid, he lost a lot of muscle mass that affects strength, which he says means they

do not work as well.

He also doesn't drive much any more, despite still having a licence. Mr. Sinclair often gets help from his kids or from his assistant, James, to get around.

Inside the assisted-living building, it hasn't taken him long to form bonds. He's known for chatting up staff and residents alike, including Bonnie and Clyde.

Bonnie and Clyde are zebra finches, small songbirds known for their social nature. Using a walker, he heads down from his unit to visit the birds in the afternoon, along with their four babies. He lobbied to see them named Bezhig, Niizh, Niswi and Niitwin - one, two, three and four in Ojibwe.

When he stands by their cage, he talks to the birds and gives them instructions, such as to stop fighting. He also sits near them to complete crossword puzzles from The New York Times and The Washington Post.

But Mr. Sinclair is not settled into a life of full retirement. He has returned to law practice at Cochrane Saxberg LLP to

mentor young lawyers. He's also been writing his memoirs, *Who We Are: Four Questions For a Life and a Nation*. The questions that inspired the book are: "Where do I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here? Who am I?"

Mr. Sinclair started writing his memoirs as a letter to his granddaughter, whose English name is Sarah, after he suffered a minor stroke. He feared then that he may not be around as she grows up.

The book, expected to be published this fall, will look at the future for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada and include experiences that shaped him as a man, a father of five and a grandfather of five.

Mr. Sinclair is best known for his work leading the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which spent six years examining the lasting effects of Indian Residential Schools and presented a final report in 2015. The commission's work, and its 94 calls to action, have formed a blueprint for change for the country.

He is also recognized for other roles, such as serving as co-commissioner of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. Established in 1988, it was created in response to the murder of Helen Betty Osborne and the shooting death of J.J. Harper after an encounter with a Winnipeg police officer. The events raised significant questions about how the justice system was failing Indigenous people.

Mr. Sinclair was Manitoba's first Indigenous judge. Additionally, he conducted a pediatric cardiac inquiry called after 12 children died in 1994 while undergoing or shortly after having surgery at Winnipeg's



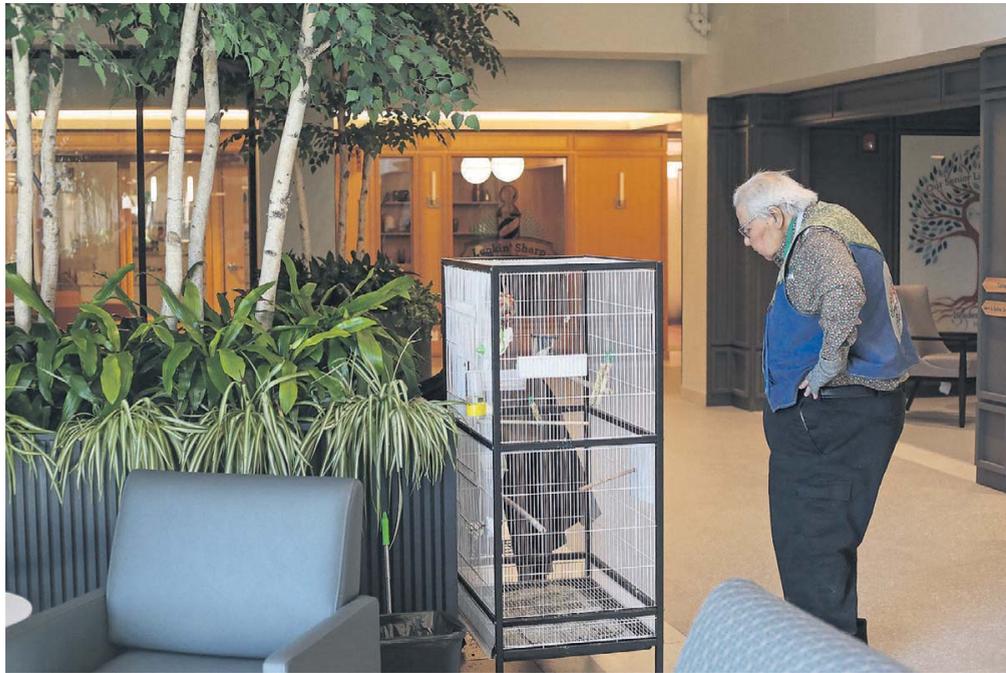
Mr. Sinclair, seen at centre left in a black suit, marches with others during the Walk for Reconciliation in May, 2015, in Gatineau. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mr. Sinclair places his hands on the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, of which he was the leader, in Ottawa in December, 2015. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mr. Sinclair speaks with a staff member at Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School in April. In addition to the mural, the school has also named its cafeteria in his honour. SHANNON VANRAES/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Mr. Sinclair and his wife moved into assisted living this winter; he lives with congestive heart failure that affects his heartbeat and the way he breathes. Inside the building, it hasn't taken him long to form bonds. SHANNON VANRAES/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Health Sciences Centre.

In 2016, he was appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and he retired from that role in January, 2021. The following July, he was named as the first-ever Indigenous person to serve as the chancellor of Queen's University. He decided not to seek reappointment but will stay on at Queen's as a special adviser to the principal on reconciliation.

Mr. Sinclair grew up in Selkirk, Man. The small town, which has a population of approximately 10,500 people, is evidently proud of its connection to him.

There is a Murray Sinclair Park, which Mayor Larry Johannson said "will serve as a constant reminder to young people who play there that they too can grow up in our community and accomplish great things."

Inside the Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School, the cafeteria is called Senator Sinclair Commons. A mural of him was painted on the wall by Winnipeg artist Charlie Johnston, along with some students. During a recent visit, Mr. Sinclair said he admired the effort put into it and said, "It's nice to be honoured in that way."

The area is filled with lasting childhood memories. One house - now gone - where he lived with his grandparents, north of Selkirk, was located close to the Red River and he used to swim there.

Mr. Sinclair also fondly recalls growing up alongside his "twin" (well, almost). His late brother, a massive Winnipeg Blue Bombers fan called Buddy (whose legal name was Henry Jr.), was born a year after



In his building, Mr. Sinclair regularly visits a pair of zebra finches, named Bonnie and Clyde, and their four offspring. He lobbied to have the babies named Bezbig, Niizh, Niswi and Niiwin - the numbers one, two, three and four in Ojibwe. SHANNON VANRAES/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Murray and was his "comrade-in-arms."

While he is lauded for his ability to speak about the country's most difficult moments, Mr. Sinclair, whose Ojibwe name is Mizanay Gheezhik, meaning "the One Who Speaks of Pictures in the Sky," is a warm and social person at his core.

When you show him a picture of a child - which is pretty much a must if you're a parent who shares any amount of time with him - his face lights up with a wide smile. His quirky sense of humour is a hallmark of his personality. Take, for example, when he dressed up as a bumblebee to impress his granddaughter for

Halloween. And then there was the time he was Shrek.

Niigaan Sinclair, Mr. Sinclair's son, a well-known commentator on Indigenous issues and a professor at the University of Manitoba, says his father carries "a spirit of humour" to cope with some "very, very hard things."

He says his father also loves people - when he'd go with his dad to the mall to run a simple errand, such as getting a tube of toothpaste at a drugstore, it would somehow turn into a four-hour trip.

"Dad can't not talk to people and visit with people," he says. "Of course, he knows everybody because he's done everything."

Niigaan says his father is still the same way and he wants to hear people's stories. He says his dad also carries the weight of some of the most horrific ones in the country's history.

As the head commissioner of the TRC, his father was "the listener" who heard brutal and violent accounts from the perspective of survivors and what they experienced during their childhoods at residential schools.

"How could you not have that burden to carry for the rest of your life?" Niigaan says. "At this phase of his life, it's not just physical health. It's the fact that he's - for his entire career - helped this country through its most difficult and darkest chapters."

But he says a remarkable thing about his dad is how he is "able to carry those stories a little bit lighter" because of his commitment to traditional Anishinaabe ceremonies, spending time with his children, his grandchildren and in Winnipeg and Treaty 1 territory.

message from Manitoba's new Premier, Wab Kinew, sent only a few days prior, that led to his appearance at the public-safety summit. He said he usually requires more notice to get somewhere, but he told Mr. Kinew: "Because it's you, I'll do it."

The two go way back - to the time when Wab, now 42, was learning to crawl.

The Sinclair and Kinew families founded an Anishinaabe preschool together. The idea was fuelled by a desire to ensure their children learned the Ojibwe language, as well as their culture. The program began in the living room of the Sinclair home and eventually they secured space through the Winnipeg school division for it. The families remain close.

At the ceremony last October, Mr. Sinclair called the swearing-in of the new Premier "Manitoba's true act of reconciliation."

Mr. Kinew, on the other hand, sees Mr. Sinclair as "the living embodiment of reconciliation in Canada" - someone he describes as a wise and calm presence who is focused on bringing people together.

"To me that is what a reconciliation is all about," he said in an interview.

Mr. Kinew also feels indebted to Mr. Sinclair.

"You don't get the opportunities that I've enjoyed in my life without the contributions of Murray Sinclair," he said. "As much as I feel like I owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude, I hope all Canadians feel the same way."

Looking at the future, Mr. Kinew believes his mentor "will always have a tremendous role in the public discourse of this country."

At this juncture of his life, Mr. Sinclair sees himself having a strong sense of who he is and a good sense of humour. He admits, when speaking of his energy levels, that he doesn't "last long" and he knows when it's time to rest.

"I don't know about that, but okay," Niigaan says with a chuckle. "He will give and give and give. And sometimes, he needs others to remind him of the importance of loving himself."

When people reach a certain age, especially after a long career in public service, Niigaan says, they need to determine the contribution they will continue to make while focusing on family and community.

Niigaan says his father needs care and support with his health. In turn, the family wants to spend as much time as they can with him.

"He also wants to give to us the stories that perhaps he hasn't shared for most of our lives," Niigaan says.

"These are things that I think he wants to give to us before he travels to the west as they say in our culture, which is, enters the next spiritual phase of his life, where he goes and visits our relatives."

There, people like Mr. Sinclair's grandmother - his beloved kookum - will be waiting for him.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau embraces Mr. Sinclair on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in Ottawa in 2022. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mr. Sinclair makes it known it was a text

EDITORIAL

ANDREW SAUNDERS
PRESIDENT AND CEO

DAVID WALMSLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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

A test for the new Senate awaits

When the Senate voted this month to change some of its rules, Conservative members decried it as a Liberal plot to undermine what they fully expect will be a Conservative government after the next election.

Their theory was a tad conspiratorial. Look! The elites are already rigging the system against Pierre Poilievre!

But overblown rhetoric aside, the Conservatives have grounds to raise the issue. The Senate has changed dramatically since 2015. Few Canadians likely realize the degree to which it has become a creation of Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's policies, and how that might impact a future Conservative government.

Mr. Trudeau began refashioning the Senate in 2014, when he booted every Liberal senator out of the Liberal caucus, turning them into independents. He said his goal was to create a "non-partisan" Senate, composed, in his words, "merely of thoughtful individuals representing the varied values, perspectives and identities of this great country."

After the 2015 election, the Trudeau government created an advisory board that recommends candidates to the Prime Minister when there is a Senate vacancy to fill. Mr. Trudeau has since named 81 out of 96 sitting senators based on those recommendations (there are nine vacancies).

The Trudeau government is represented in Senate by a three-member team whose job is to shepherd legislation through the unelected body, but which has no power to direct votes. There is no Liberal caucus, so all those new senators, starting in 2017, set about changing the rules so that they could sit in formally recognized groups.

The largest is the Independent Senators Group, followed by the Canadian Senators Group and the Progressive Senators Group. There are 10 "non-affiliated" Senators. The Conservative caucus is still there, stuck at 13 members.

In the latest rule change - rammed through in a government motion, and adopted because time allocation was used to end debate - the independent senators have granted their group leaders the same powers as the head of the Conservative caucus, such as the right to defer votes on legislation, to sit in on committees to question witnesses, and to speak without a time limit.

Individual senators could already delay legislation for months, a power that nominally independent members used to freeze a Conservative Senate bill on a foreign-agent registry. But now they will have an even bigger arsenal.

The Trudeau government finally has the Senate it set out to get, filled with the right people, playing by its rules. It's not without its merits, at least on paper. But politics is messy, and it is reasonable for the Canadians to wonder what happens if the Conservatives take power in the next election.

By then, the Conservative Senate caucus will likely have lost more members to mandatory retirement. It will be a tiny rump, up against three larger groups armed with powers that used to belong only to the government and opposition caucuses.

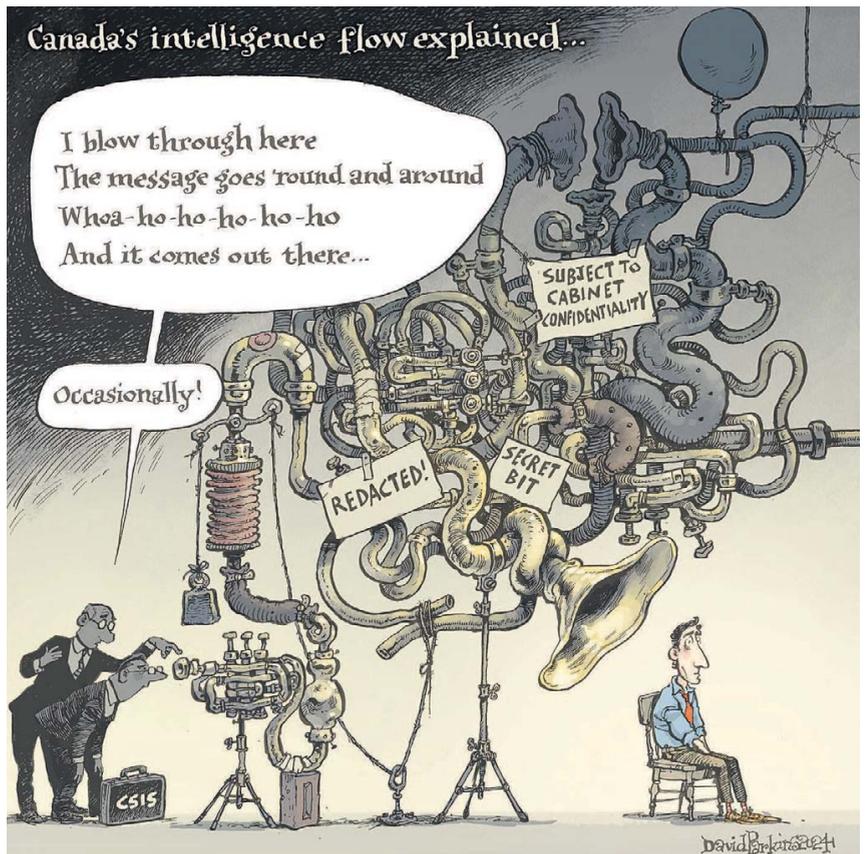
Those groups will have the ability to delay and block government legislation in multiple new ways. But they will be unaccountable to voters, because of their ostensible separation from any political party.

In 1988, the Liberal majority in the Senate refused to pass the Progressive Conservative government's free trade bill. Brian Mulroney fought back by calling an election, and his party trounced the Liberals. The Liberals paid a price for their outrageous overstep.

In the Trudeau Senate, that democratic accountability is gone. If a future Poilievre majority government tables a bill to end the carbon tax, or pushes through unpopular cuts to spending in an effort to reduce the deficit, a high-minded, unelected Senate that believes in its own branding could potentially scupper the agenda of a duly elected government - and do so without a shred of accountability.

Whatever the merits of the new, nominally non-partisan Senate might be, it does not give senators the right to supersede the will of the House of Commons. Governments have the democratic right to pass bills, even flawed ones. The Senate can do their best to fix those flaws, but in the end it must cede to the body that actually answers to voters.

If and when the time comes, the independent senators must live up to Mr. Trudeau's billing. And they should remember that their job is to pass government legislation, not to defeat it.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAMP OVERSIGHT

Re "U of T seeks injunction order to clear pro-Palestinian protest as students, supporters rally" (May 28): Of course free speech is to be cherished, along with the right to protest. However, student protests occurring on many campuses do not seem to be about those rights at all.

Students appear to feel they have the right to tell universities how to conduct business, whether it is in respect to endowments or other financial investments. They have no mandate to have input on any of those things.

They should erect their makeshift camps on their parents' properties, or confine their protests to the streets like a picket line. If they want to run for office on their strongly held position, they have every opportunity. Then see if they can garner enough support.

No university should ever accede to their demands.

■ Paul Martin White Rock, B.C.

I am appalled that protesters, representing only themselves, can demand that the University of Toronto divest from any connections with Israel.

This shouldn't be a question of "free speech." I find they are threatening the university with their demands. It seems bizarre that the university even negotiates with them.

On what basis can this or any other unofficial group make demands on the university - demands that may not reflect the views of the majority of students, staff, alumni, the board of governors and others who contribute intellectually and financially, and whose donations and taxes help fund it?

■ Don Moffat Toronto

INITIAL SCOPE

Re "Unacceptable state of affairs": Watchdog slams handling of foreign interference intel" (May 28): So many roles and agencies: the NSIRA, NSIA, CSIS, CSE, RCMP. Maybe it's time to pare down their number.

What is the point of having so many agencies and advisers while we are still being interfered with and played? Might as well downsize to one agency.

Even if we get the same results, at least we are not wasting our tax dollars.

■ Joanne O'Hara Oakville, Ont.

CHINESE GIANT

Re "Do not merge with U.S. tariffs on Chinese EVs" (Editorial, May 27): In the same paper, an article reports that "Hong Kong police make threatening phone call to pro-democracy supporter living in Canada." Another is about the foreign-interference committee

("Conservatives, Bloc investigating Ottawa's refusal to share foreign-interference documents"). And an op-ed argues that the case against democracy activist Jimmy Lai "has all the markings of a sham trial." Did other readers experience the same cognitive dissonance as I did?

China is not a supplier on which we should rely - remember the fiasco over a promised COVID-19 vaccine? - nor is it a market on which we should build an economy.

One last thing to consider: Most vehicles today are equipped with various monitoring and recording devices. Is this information we want the Chinese government to collect?

■ Marc Côté Toronto

Re "China's risky industrial gamble might end the way of the Soviet Union" (Report on Business, May 25): This feels like comparing apples to oranges.

The Soviet Union of that era was a clumsy command economy and its "reforms" were doomed to fail. China today has a huge, fully functioning market economy (with a strong state sector) run by a smart, flexible, adaptable business class linked massively to the global economy.

If the Chinese government gets into trouble, it would not be because of its new strategy of economic and scientific revolution.

■ Stanley Brideau Ottawa

ALL OUR CHILDREN

Re "Ottawa should play fair on child-care fees" (Editorial, May 24): Yes, Quebec's tax credit was "successful" in stimulating substantial expansion - of the for-profit centres that are now the majority in the province.

Ironically, however, a new Quebec Auditor-General's report on child-care quality assessments challenged this concept of "success." Strengthening previous research, it showed that both funded and unfunded for-profit daycares failed quality assessments at high rates (57 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively) compared with non-profit child-care centres (21 per cent).

Child-care quality is a known defining factor that determines whether child care is beneficial or harmful for children. With this in mind, the new report is a graphic and data-based illustration of why the Quebec tax credit - like other "fund the parent" consumer-side models - should be viewed as a simple but wrong solution.

■ Martha Friendly
Childcare Resource and Research Unit; Toronto

Demand for affordable child-care spaces far exceeds current supply. But what is needed to reduce demand and increase supply should not be tax credits, but a real ex-

pansion plan, with capital investment from provincial and federal governments, to expedite building new not-for-profit child-care spaces - the missing piece from Day 1.

Canada should not repeat Quebec's unfortunate decision to increase tax credits that spurred massive expansion of for-profit child care. I believe the "bottom-line" motivation of for-profit corporations is incompatible with delivering high-quality services with well-paid, qualified staff.

Highways, bridges and battery plants have seen huge public investment, but not important social infrastructure that helps create healthy communities and equitable economic opportunities.

Yes, "affordable child care cannot be a lucky lottery ticket" for parents. Nor should it be a "windfall for some," especially not corporate investors who siphon off public funding that could otherwise go to needed public services.

■ Janet Davis

Former Toronto city councillor; child-care policy adviser, early childhood education

MISSION STATEMENT

Re "Eighteen years and \$46-billion later, the CPP admits it could have earned more just by buying index funds" (May 24): The implication seems to be: Stop wasting the money of Canada Pension Plan members and move to a low-cost strategy based on passive index funds. However, I believe this would be an incorrect conclusion for two reasons.

First, set in the proper risk-adjusted context, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board handily outperformed its passive investment alternative over the past 10 years. The comparability of investment performance requires not only returns data, but also risk data. Second, the conclusion above is based on a mischaracterization of CPPIB's approach to investing. It has chosen to become an engaged long-term owner of productive capital, rather than a passive index-fund investor. Thus it must invest in the necessary human resources to make this a credible reality.

These resources do not come cheap. However, they are essential to CPPIB achieving its mission to maximize long-term return without taking undue risk.

■ Keith Ambachtsheer
Director emeritus, International Centre for Pension Management; executive-in-residence, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

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OPINION

Joe Biden has a Kamala Harris problem

The unpopular VP has become a campaign issue for the Democrats' presumptive nominee, who would be 82 on inauguration day

GARY MASON

OPINION



The *Daily Show* recently aired an interview with U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris's "holistic thought advisor," Dahlia Rose Hibiscus.

Of course, the position doesn't exist, and Ms. Hibiscus is a fictional character. The point of the skit was to bring attention to the often nonsensical utterances of Ms. Harris. Her flaky meanderings have become a thing, and have fuelled growing concerns in the U.S. about her one day serving higher office.

And for her, the only office higher than the one she current-

ly occupies is the presidency.

It wouldn't have taken too much digging for the folks at *The Daily Show* to come up with examples of some of Ms. Harris's most egregious word salads. To wit: "... That's on top of everything else that we know and don't know yet based on what we've just been able to see, and because we've seen it or not doesn't mean it didn't happen," she said in one speech.

In another, she offered: "We have the ability to see what can be, unburdened by what has been and then to make the possible actually happen."

Elsewhere, she exhorted: "I think it's very important ... to see the moment in time in which we exist and are present, and to be able to contextualize it, to understand where we exist in the history and in the moment as it relates not only to the past, but the future."

Ms. Harris has been receiving more attention of late because it is a presidential election year, one in which the age of her running mate has become a hot issue. Joe Biden will be 82 years old

by the time he is sworn in for a second term, should he win. If he does, Ms. Harris may have to take over before his term is done.

President Harris. Those words are starting to sink in with many Americans - and they have made them extremely nervous.

To say that Ms. Harris has been a disaster in her position might be an overstatement, but not much of one. Her polling numbers are frightening. A YouGov poll from earlier this month found that 55.2 per cent of Americans had an unfavourable opinion of Ms. Harris, compared with 41.6 per cent favourable. And an NBC voter-intention survey last summer found that she had a net -17 rating - the lowest NBC has ever measured for a sitting VP.

Why is she so unpopular? First, there is the obvious: she is a woman and she is Black. If sexism and racism didn't exist in America, then these would not be factors. But they do, and Ms. Harris's polling numbers are a reflection of that reality. Still, that doesn't explain everything. After all, Mr. Biden chose her as his

running mate at least in part because she is a woman and because she is Black.

Republicans have feasted on Ms. Harris's inability to form any kind of bond with the American public. She is a terrible public speaker, which doesn't help; she is also neither warm nor engaging. She has the cold, no-nonsense demeanour of the former prosecutor that she was.

She hasn't really accomplished much in her position either. In part, it's because she doesn't understand Washington. The most successful vice-presidents of the past all knew how the city worked because they had been an integral part of it for so long: Walter Mondale, George H.W. Bush, Al Gore and especially Mr. Biden himself, among them. The fact that Ms. Harris is an outsider has hurt her ability to get things done.

She's also been hampered by files that are simply lose-lose for the Democrats. Ms. Harris has looked particularly inept around the crisis at the U.S.'s southern border, which has turned into a winning issue for the Republi-

cans. She has, however, done better on the topic of abortion rights, something that is likely to be a central talking point for her on the campaign trail.

American news sites have been filling up with stories about the "Kamala Harris problem" for the Democrats. They are often littered with quotes from unnamed party operatives who indicate that discussions have taken place about getting Ms. Harris to step down from the ticket. But these same stories all end up suggesting this is unlikely to happen. So Biden-Harris it is surely to be.

And Republicans couldn't be happier.

They are already campaigning around the slogan: A vote for President Biden is a vote for President Harris. They want Americans to start thinking hard about this possibility. Whether that prospect is enough to frighten voters into marking an X beside Donald Trump's name is something else entirely.

But if Mr. Trump does win, he may have Kamala Harris to thank.

Messi was supposed to play in Vancouver. Then things got messy

MARSHA LEDERMAN

OPINION



VANCOUVER

The Vancouver Whitecaps set an attendance record Saturday night at BC Place. But the real story was the guy who wasn't there.

"Where is Messi?" the crowd chanted.

Lionel Messi is considered one of the greatest soccer players of all time - maybe the best. After spending most of his career with Barcelona and leading Argentina to a FIFA World Cup victory in 2022, Mr. Messi stunned the soccer world in 2023 when he left Europe to play in North America, signing a multimillion-dollar contract with Major League Soccer's Inter Miami CF.

"With the most revered and influential athlete on the planet playing in Miami ... the U.S. is now a soccer nation," *Time* magazine wrote. MLS merchandise sales, viewership and attendance soared after he signed.

For the Whitecaps, what was to be Mr. Messi's first game in Vancouver was a huge draw. People splurged on season tickets, or on four-match packages, knowing it would include a date with Miami. Fans spent hundreds - even thousands - for single tickets.

And then things got messy.

On Thursday, the Whitecaps broke the news to fans: Mr. Messi was not travelling to Vancouver. Nor were two other star players, Luis Suárez and Sergio Busquets.

Parents who had shelled out big bucks to give their soccer-loving children this bucket-list experience were furious. Kids were devastated. All the apologies in the world weren't going to make up for this ugly moment in the



A young fan holds a Lionel Messi jersey before the start of the Inter Miami CF and Vancouver Whitecaps game at BC Place on Saturday. Mr. Messi did not play at the game as fans had hoped.

JEFF VINNICK/
GETTY IMAGES

beautiful game.

The Whitecaps tried, though - first announcing that anyone under 18 would get a free kids' meal, and that all food and beverages would be 50 per cent off. Then, on game day, ticket holders were offered a free ticket for a 2024 regular-season match.

On game night, more than 51,000 people showed up, more than double the average crowd. The atmosphere was lively; the crowd was in good spirits, in spite of it all, including the final result: Miami won 2-1.

But many missed a chunk of the game, stuck in giant food lines for those free kids' combos. I took one look and headed for a different line, for a couple of half-price hot dogs. (I was briefly tempted by the \$42 lobster roll -

now selling for a mere \$21. One night only!)

I saw the faces of aggrieved parents entering the stands after doing time in a line-up with hungry kids (who had to be present to qualify for the freebie). I thought: I wonder if they'll ever buy a ticket for a soccer game again.

There had been concern that Mr. Messi, 36, wouldn't play because of BC Place's artificial turf. Inter Miami said that was not the reason; manager Gerardo Martino said he and the coaching staff decided to rest their star after training on Thursday. There was talk of the congested schedule, with three Miami games in one week. Plus, there's the fact that Vancouver is just so far away - three time zones from Miami.

Was any of this a surprise? Did

they just figure this all out two days before the match? Or did Miami allow yet another team to sell a whole bunch of tickets based on a false premise? This isn't the first time Mr. Messi has been a no-show, either. Is the league okay with this?

Rubbing salt in Vancouver's wound of absence, Mr. Messi and Mr. Suárez appeared at an Inter Miami youth game Friday night "to inspire the next generation of fútbol stars," a Miami team press release stated.

Inter Miami CF did not respond to an e-mail requesting an interview. In a statement on Friday, MLS said it will "continue to review measures regarding how clubs report player availability."

Soccer is a particularly grueling sport, sure. So create a schedule that allows the league's biggest draw to actually attend the games.

Whitecaps chief executive officer Axel Schuster said in an interview Tuesday that the team was also devastated. Some players had flown in family from Europe for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. But he quickly regrouped.

"My job was, after a moment of disappointment and frustration, to encourage everyone to put back energy into the project because we knew that a lot of people will come and we still wanted to make it a good game-day experience."

When I asked him how he reacted when he found out the news, he responded that he had better not say. "You know I'm German; we are very direct in our language and our culture."

You have to feel for the Whitecaps. But if the league and its teams are going to allow so much to ride on one star, that marquee player had better show up. Or there should be consequences. Half-price concessions are hardly an adequate concession.

Free trade with our friends, absolutely. With our enemies? Not so much

ANDREW COYNE

OPINION



Trade was not an issue with the Soviet Union. Western leaders did not have to take into account the effects of their security policies on trade with the USSR, or of trade policy on security.

Because there was no trade with the USSR, or none to speak of: Soviet leaders were not only at the helm of a totalitarian dictatorship, but practitioners of communism, including a closed economy, at least to the capitalist world. Trade with the USSR never accounted for more than 1 per cent of U.S. trade, or 4 per cent of European countries'.

China presents an altogether different conundrum. The country's economic policy, nominally still communism, could more accurately now be described as state capitalism, with a heavy emphasis on exports. China accounted

for one-sixth of all U.S. imports in 2022, and one-fifth of European imports.

For a time Western leaders saw this as a positive development. Certainly it was in economic terms. For all the talk of a China Shock, the arrival on Western markets of vast quantities of cheaply priced Chinese goods was a large net gain for the West.

Fashionable as it may be in some quarters to talk down the gains to consumers as having come at the expense of workers, the truth is that cheap imports also benefited large numbers of Western workers: as consumers themselves, and as the makers of the goods and services that consumers bought with all the money they saved owing to low-priced Chinese imports.

But trade with China also had an expected geopolitical payoff. Trading with the West would, it was thought, lead China to identify more with the West. In time they would become more like us: less dictatorial at home, less aggressive abroad.

Neither of those predictions has come true. If anything our exposure to trade with China is now seen as something of a threat, especially in militarily sensitive sectors or in commodities, such as critical minerals, where China has a stranglehold on the world market.

Where does this leave Western trade policy with China? The answer is unclear, except that it cannot be as it was before. Despite efforts to portray their interests as opposed, trade between two friendly countries is more an exercise in co-operation: each country specializes in its areas of comparative advantage, to their mutual enrichment. That is the enduring case for free trade. If, say, Portugal gets rich on trade with Canada, so what. We get rich, too.

But we do not want to enrich China. Indeed, so grave a threat has China become that we should perhaps wish that China were poorer, rather than richer - even if it means making ourselves a little poorer in the process. Trade

with China was worth pursuing in the past. But it seems odd to be carrying on business as usual even as it is preparing to invade Taiwan.

That doesn't mean cutting off trade with China altogether. But it does mean looking a little more carefully at the issue than we might have previously.

Take the Biden administration's recent decision to raise the tariff on imports of Chinese electric vehicles from 25 per cent to 100 per cent. In most situations this bit of rank protectionism would be an obvious error - "a stark admission," as *The Globe* editorial board wrote, "that U.S. automakers can't compete." Tariffs of this kind, they continued, not only hurt consumers, but invite retaliation and undermine international trade rules.

All very true, and all quite convincing - had the editorial been written a decade ago. The Biden tariffs are bad trade policy, without a doubt. But is trade policy still the lens through which they should be viewed? It is in our

interest to pursue the freest possible trade with our friends. But is it the case with our enemies?

If Portugal takes over the EV industry, it's not an issue. If China takes over the EV industry, it may be: not as a matter of economics, but of security. Such claims should still be viewed skeptically. There are any number of old-fashioned protectionist interests hoping to hide behind the new-fangled concern for security. But they can't be dismissed out of hand.

How to keep the momentum up for free trade even as we are taking a harder line on trade with China and other dictatorships? By offsetting higher barriers to trade with hostile countries with lower barriers to trade with friendly countries: "friendshoring," as the phrase has it, rather than "onshoring."

The one acknowledges new and legitimate security concerns in a changing world; the other merely capitulates to the demands of special interests for protection, which never change at all.

LIFE & ARTS

TRAVEL | OPINION | PUZZLES | WEATHER

Spending time in Barranco, Lima? Eat, eat, eat

Feasting for three days in this food-focused neighbourhood is both fun and affordable

CAORA MCKENNA

In February, I spent two warm weeks walking and eating my way through Lima's Barranco neighbourhood. I was eating what Peruvians call *lonche*, a tradition similar to late-afternoon tea, at 4 or 5 p.m., then dinner a few hours later until someone told me Peruvians only eat one or the other. But I couldn't help it – every incredible meal left me more excited for the next one.

When I wasn't eating, I was admiring the culture of the neighbourhood. I visited San Francisco Plaza's colourful ranch houses, perused the bookshelves at Placeres Compulsivos and Librería La Rebelde and shopped for Peruvian souvenirs. At Artesanías las Pallas and Dédalo, I found toros, or bulls, figurines of the god Ekeko representing abundance and happiness in the home, and miniature boxes called *retablos* depicting various scenes.

Every day started or ended along the malecón, the esplanade along the waterfront, and the best ones did both.

If you're visiting Lima on your way to Machu Picchu and don't have two weeks in the city, I suggest these three food-focused and affordable days in Barranco instead.

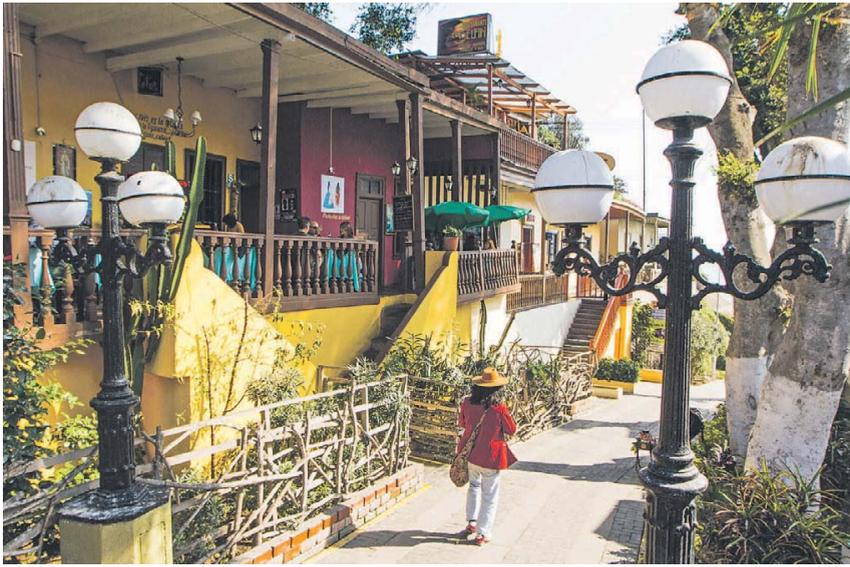
DAY 1

Start your day at Ciclos Café, a small coffee shop and roastery that teaches you about Peru's coffee industry. The country is one of the world's biggest bean exporters, but only recently adopted a culture of third-wave coffee, with trendy coffee shops emphasizing high-quality beans, often lightly roasted.

Take a wander through local grocery store Metro Barranco, because no trip is complete without a slow walk up and down every aisle of the grocery store (I snagged some Alacena mayonnaise with a touch of lime to take home.)

Head next door to Canta Rana for lunch. The restaurant's walls are covered with photos, posters and newspaper clippings, and most Sunday afternoons it's stuffed with families. I went on a Monday when it was quieter and made sure to order the ceviche.

Lima is known for its ceviche – fresh fish prepared in lime juice



The Bajada de los Baños leads visitors to the public beaches lining much of Lima's coast. The Bajada will exit out to Playa Barranco with the sandier Playa Yuyos a bit further south. PAO FLORES/PROMPERU

with thin-sliced red onion, sweet potato and choco, which are large, soft corn kernels. The combination of ingredients makes each bite taste perfectly balanced. You should order at least one *tiradito* (fresh fish sliced thin and served in sauce) and a cold glass of *chicha morada* (a refreshing mix of purple corn, pineapple skins, and pinch of cinnamon and cloves). *Canchitas* will be brought to your table, a crunchy, salty corn nut that is best eaten with a spoonful of lime juice from your ceviche plate.

As the day fades, find a bench along the malecón and watch as it fills up with people watching the sunset.

For dinner, head to Domeyer Street and try to snag a table at Awicha, a contemporary Peruvian restaurant whose name means grandmother in Quechua, a nod to the woman who taught chef Jason Roman how to cook, or Japonesa & Co. a Japanese fusion restaurant with delicious rolls that put a Peruvian twist on sushi and maki. I got a table tucked inside the terraza and devoured salmon sashimi and the TNT roll.

DAY 2

Start your day with a coffee from COSMO café. If it's a Saturday or Sunday, stop into La Casa de Kanú on your way to the Lima Museum of Contemporary Art. Kanú has used books, including yours in English if you finished your vacation read early, and wall-to-wall prints by local artists



Ciclos Café teaches customers about Peru's coffee industry. Peru is one of the world's biggest bean exporters, but only recently adopted a culture of third-wave coffee. PIONEROS CINE/PROMPERU

such as Patricia Alcántara Larco.

Entrance to the museum is just more than \$5 and it has a good track record of temporary exhibits plus a permanent collection with Peruvian artists such as Claudia Coca and Kukuli Velarde as well as international artists.

Afterward, you can make your way to the Saenz Peña park and visit Museo Jade Rivera which gives you a behind-the-scenes look at the famous graffiti artist's career on your way to Isolina for lunch.

I made a reservation at Isolina, but I don't think it's necessary if you're not in a massive rush. Isolina's specialty is home-cooked staples that pay homage to the historic taverns of the area – all the dishes you'd be served at someone's home if you were invited for dinner. The handwritten

menu is full of favourites, specifically the *pan con pejerrey* (fried pejerrey fish sandwich), *seco de asado* (cilantro beef stew) and *aji de gallina* (chicken and yellow pepper stew)

In the afternoon, grab a seat on the patio of trendy café Demo and enjoy a mild iced Hierba Luisa (lemon grass tea) to soothe your stomach and the *pan de guayaba* (a French pastry filled with guava). Wherever you go in Barranco, the pastries are so, so good, thanks to the high-quality ingredients, incredible work ethic and a Le Cordon Bleu cooking school in Lima.

For dinner, head to Gran Chifa Chung Yion. It will be teeming with locals at large round tables sharing massive plates of Chinese-Peruvian food such as *pollo chijaukay* or *tallarín saltado* and

drinking the fusion food's signature side beverage: Inca Kola, a made-in-Peru yellow soft drink with a cream-soda-esque flavour.

Continue to bar La Noche de Barranco where wide open windows make it a good place to enjoy a drink. There's food here, too – or do as the locals do and stop on your way there at El Tío Mario for *anticuchos* (skewered and grilled marinated beef heart).

DAY 3

Start your day with coffee from hole-in-the-wall Inusual, and then walk to Pan Sal Aire for a big breakfast with fresh sourdough sandwiches. I tried their twist on a *mixto* – a simple staple sandwich you can find at gas stations and high-end restos made with ham, cheese and bread and was left stuffed.

From there, let the street art of Jade Rivera guide you to the Puente de los Suspiros – the Bridge of Sighs. Tradition states if you can make it across the bridge in a single breath, you'll be granted one wish.

For an afternoon at the beach, follow the Bajada de los Baños down to the public beaches that line much of Lima's coast. The Bajada spits you out at Playa Barranco and a bit further south is the sandier Playa Yuyos. For about \$7 an hour or \$8 for the entire afternoon, you can rent an umbrella to stake out your spot.

For dinner, head back to Domeyer Street's Siete Restaurante for a small menu of smallish plates perfect for sharing. By now you've gotten a sense of Peruvian food, and can appreciate how the restaurant's chef Ricardo Martins plays with tradition and new ideas.

IF YOU GO:

Barranco is easily explored on foot but if you want to venture further, the Cabify app provides the safest rides around the city. Most places accepted credit-card payments via tap from my phone, some needed a physical card and only a few needed cash.

Where to stay: Villa Barranco is a charming restored historic property. I stayed in a spacious room with private garden access and a great bathtub. Rooms start at \$364 a night, visit villabarranco.com. There are lots of affordable Airbnbs in the neighbourhood as well.

Accommodation, a meal and an entrance fee were provided by PromPeru. It did not review or approve the story.

Black Academy's new head aims to prioritize diversity

BARRY HERTZ

To go by the headlines coming out of Hollywood last year, the film industry has moved on from its promises to prioritize diversity both on and off the screen.

At least four of the film industry's top diversity, equity and inclusion executives – from Disney, Netflix, Warner Bros. Discovery, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences – left their jobs last summer, leading many observers to wonder what the difference is between action and lip service.

It is a struggle that extends into Canada, and one which Gail Case, the new executive director of the Black Academy, aims to face head-on. Appointed this week to lead the young Canadian cultural institution – which was founded by sibling actors Stephan James (*If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Beacon 23*) and Shamier Anderson (*John Wick: Chapter 4*) in 2020 to highlight Black Canadian talent – Case enters a cultural landscape that is both hopeful and tremulous.

In the midst of Canadian Screen Week, Case – who most recently served as the director of client services at FACTOR, a not-for-profit focused on Canada's music industry – spoke with *The Globe* about the path forward.

What do you think the Black Academy has achieved in its relatively short existence so far?



Gail Case, the new executive director of the Black Academy, says her main focus is getting the financial support for the academy to continue its operational goals and program. MARVIN MORGAN

I've been paying attention to them closely because the work that they've been doing has been the same work that I've been doing personally, which is creating opportunities within the Black community. To provide mentorship, network, and professional development. The academy's partnership with the CBC and Insight Productions for the Legacy

Awards – to put Black excellence on a national level – is thrilling for me.

How would you describe the Black Academy's main focus right now?

Our main goal is to break down barriers of discrimination and combat systemic racism in Canada. And we have our four pillars

that we work from: to celebrate, educate, connect and inspire. When we honoured filmmaker Director X last year, that showed the younger generation that, despite facing barriers, you can accomplish great things in this industry.

Where does the Black Academy need to go from here?

My main focus is getting the financial support that we need in order to continue our operational goals and programs. I'm trying to align with different areas of government that support culture and the arts, and the areas that are interested in creating more diversity and inclusion. Then it's looking at private donors and corporate sponsors who align with our goals.

It's of course a challenging time out there, both in terms of shoring up government support and convincing private corporations to sponsor arts organizations ...

I feel that through our skills-development programs, we're not only changing the lives of our participants but we're increasing the presence of Black Canadians in the screen sector. So we're contributing to the economy, which shows our value.

Despite however good the mission is, are corporations in the giving mood right now?

I believe they are. We're in several

conversations with a variety of corporate sponsors, as well as government funders. I'll be honest: what keeps the conversation going is the connection of our shared mission and goals, which is all about uplifting the Black community and creating more space for diversity.

What is the future of the Legacy Awards, the Black Academy's annual telecast on the CBC? It was initially set as a three-year deal with the broadcaster starting in 2022, so how are things looking beyond this fall's show?

Right now, the academy and the CBC and Insight are in the midst of ongoing discussions about the show and its future growth. One-hundred per cent we're broadcasting this year, and we'll be making an announcement soon on the exact date.

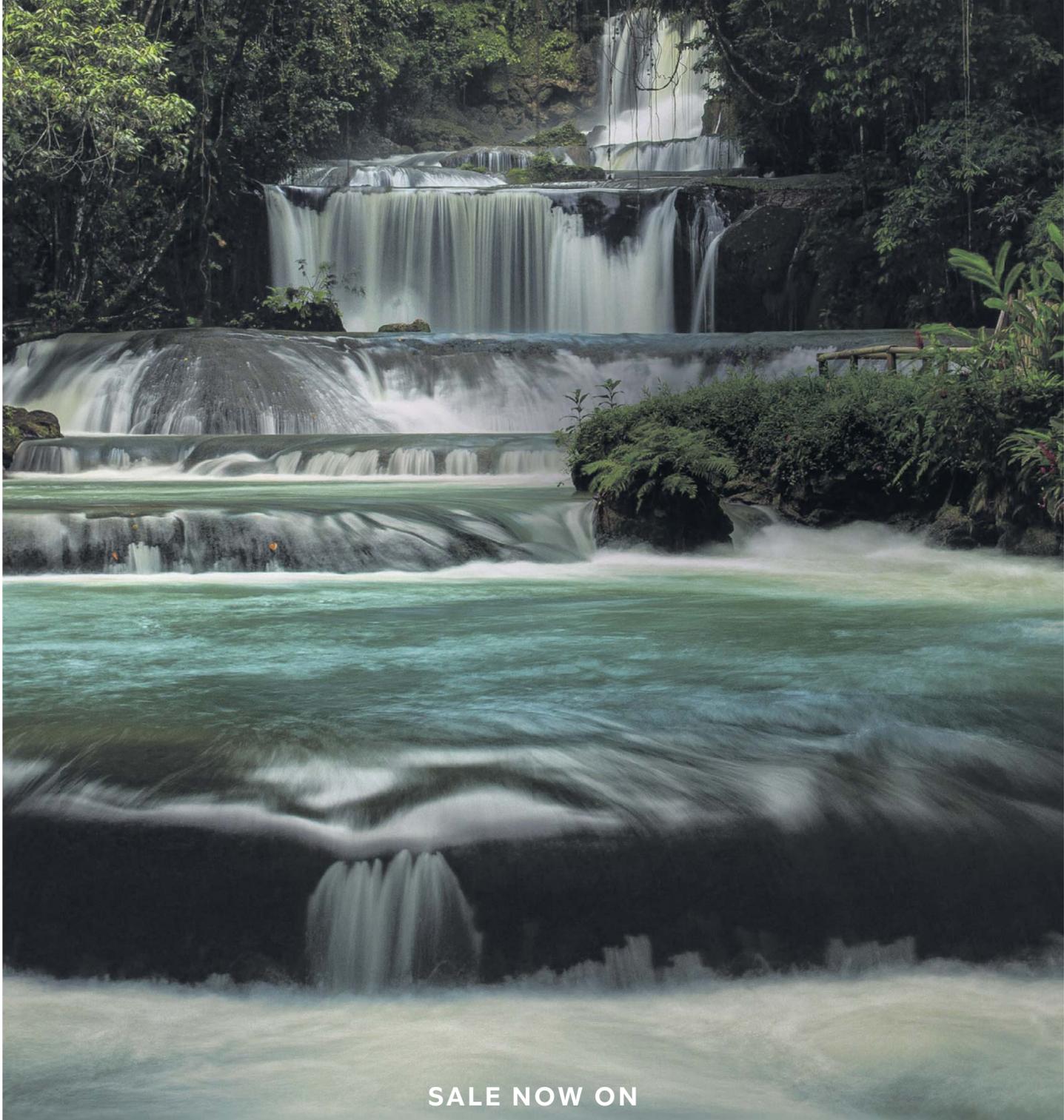
Your appointment was announced in the midst of Canadian Screen Week. How do you think our country is measuring up in terms of diversity since the Black Academy was launched?

We're making progress, but the conversation needs to continue. There are a lot of organizations that are now including diversity, equity and inclusion in their mandates. So I would say there's a little progress happening, and it needs to continue.

This interview has been condensed and edited.

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Travel seems easier with a Canadian passport

FIRST PERSON

It's a wonderful privilege to not have to prove myself every step of the way on my journeys, Caitlyn Moony writes

When I was 24, I was detained by the German police. When I say "detain," I really mean kept for eight hours in a small but comfortable lounge, offered endless cups of tea and plates of chocolate cookies and regularly patted on the knee by a sympathetic woman who couldn't understand a word I was saying. So, it was a gentle detainment, sure, but I was not allowed to leave. This point was made clear to me whenever the cups of tea did their work and I needed to be escorted – one of my handler's hands resting gently on my elbow and the other much more firmly on the gun holstered to her hip – to the ladies' room.

My crime was that I was 24, and an idiot. I hadn't thought through the logistical challenges of travel for someone with a passport that meant it really mattered when you didn't think through the logistical challenges of travel. It was the summer of 2009 and my sister and I had both been living abroad; she had been studying in the Netherlands, and I had been working in Ukraine.

Before I flew home to South Africa, we had agreed to meet up in the Netherlands and then to travel around Ireland. We spent a glorious couple of weeks making our way around. First, we visited distant relatives in Dublin who we found to be oddly posh and were surprised that we would rather spend our time trudging around Wicklow Mountains National Park than accompanying them to the tennis club. After hopping on a bus that only took an hour and a half to reach the centre of the country, we got off in the heaving metropolis of Doon, close to where our family's old estate still stood. Doon is the kind of village where you can see both ends of it at the same time, even if you're a smidge shortsighted. We had a brilliant time with our little cousin, many times removed, who was delighted by our foreignness.

When it was time to leave, we both flew back through Munich, where my sister hopped on her connecting flight to Amsterdam, and I would pop over to Frankfurt to make my international connection to Johannesburg.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX SIKLOS

This is where it all went wrong. What I should have been aware of, were I not a 24-year-old idiot, was that the Netherlands is part of the Schengen Zone, a geopolitical region of Europe that allows for travel and trade free of many restrictions. Germany is also Schengen. The Republic of Ireland, despite being part of the EU, is not. Because of this tiny detail, the single-entry visa that I had successfully acquired before travelling to the Netherlands, then Ireland, then catching my international flight home to South Africa from Frankfurt did not allow me to travel from Munich to Frankfurt. This was a domestic flight, and as I'd already entered the Schengen Zone once, I had to stay within international boundaries.

This has taken me a whole paragraph to explain, in English, without overwhelming panic and a depleted bank account hanging over me. You can imagine how long it took me to fully grasp the problem from the customs guard, who spoke to me almost entirely in German.

If this had happened now, it's possible I would only have been held for an hour or so. But it happened before smartphones and WiFi and Google Translate, so I waited in this small room and tried to make multiple calls to my parents back in South Africa so that they could help me with a new, eye-wateringly expensive ticket back home direct from Munich. Eventually, I was escorted through the airport by two armed German police officers who refused to let me touch my luggage until they had deposited me at the front of the check-in counter and delivered my ticket and passport directly to the agent. Of course, one could be mortified by all of this, or one could do as I did, which was to hold my chin high, don my largest sunglasses, and pretend I was a minor celebrity.

Now, more than a decade later, I'm Canadian as well as South African. Recently, my partner and I trotted around Europe, travelling through 22 countries over two months. It was a lot of moving around, but if we'd missed a connection or had to

reroute it really wouldn't have mattered all that much. We had Canadian passports and with those, we were granted the privilege of not having to prove ourselves every step of the way. It's a wonderful privilege – one I'm honoured to have, and one I worked hard to gain. But I'm not a different person. As a South African, I might have made one costly logistical error, but I never would have overstayed a visa. I was polite, considerate, respectful. I am now, too. The difference in how I'm perceived at the border is arbitrary, the blue cover of my new passport more powerful than the green of my old. But the assumptions made about me purely because of my nationality are meaningless. I love being a Canadian. I love being South African. Neither of them defines me.

Caitlyn Moony lives in Vancouver.

First Person is a daily personal piece submitted by readers. Have a story to tell? See our guidelines at [tgam.ca/essayguide](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/first-person/).

Dora Mavor Moore nominations include Souleppper, Crow's Theatre

CLAIRE MCFARLANE

This year's list of Dora Mavor Moore Award nominees is crowded with shows from Crow's Theatre and Souleppper Theatre Company, including two from each company nominated for outstanding production in the general theatre division.

Shows by Mirvish Productions were not submitted for consideration for the awards for the first time ever after the producer withdrew from the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) earlier in the season. The move meant that the popular *Six The Musical* – about the six wives of Henry VIII – was ineligible to receive nominations.

Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812 dominated the musical theatre division with 10 nominations, including outstanding production. The musical by Dave Malloy is a contemporary retelling of Leo Tolstoy's 1869 novel *War and Peace* and made its Canadian debut at Crow's Theatre late last year in Toronto's east end.

Also leading in nominations was Souleppper's production of *Sizwe Banzi Is Dead*, with seven nods, including outstanding production in the general theatre division.

The show set in apartheid-era South Africa and tells the story of a man named Styles. He debates stealing a dead man's identity in order to take his worker's permit, a document Styles had previously been denied.

The Master Plan, Michael Healey's adaptation of Globe and Mail journalist Josh O'Kane's 2022 book *Sideways: The City Google Couldn't Buy*, made the nomination list six times.

Also nominated for outstanding production was Canadian Stage's *The Inheritance Part 1*, which explores the experience of the generation of gay men whose elders were decimated by the AIDS crisis.

Crow's Theatre's *Bad Roads* is about the Russian invasion of Ukraine beginning in 2014 and features testimonies from the conflict. The play, which had its North American debut in the fall, was also nominated for outstanding production.

Souleppper and Obsidian Theatre Company's *Three Sisters* secured outstanding production nominations as well. The play

is about three sisters grappling with the death of their father as Nigeria's Biafran Civil War is about to break out.

In addition to *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, outstanding production nominations in the musical theatre division included Bad Dog Theatre Company's *Holiday! An Improvised Musical*. The show is inspired by Stephen Sondheim's *Company* and features performances from names familiar to Toronto's comedy scene such as Ashley Botting (*This Hour Has 22 Minutes*) and Aurora Browne (*Baroness Von Sketch Show*).

In February, Souleppper produced the world premiere of *De Profundis: Oscar Wilde in Jail*, which earned six nominations. The play is based on a letter that Wilde wrote while serving two years in prison for gross indecency.

Kelly vs. Kelly, from the Musical Stage Company in association with Canadian Stage, received a nomination for outstanding production. The musical tells the story of a mother-daughter dispute that erupts when daughter Eugenia Kelly finds herself in a love affair with a tango dancer.

The category also saw a nomination for

Quote Unquote Collective's *Universal Child Care*, about growing social inequities, the need for affordable child care and different approaches to child care around the world.

Leading in the opera division were *Medea* with six nominations, *Don Giovanni* with seven nominations and *Don Pasquale* with three nominations.

Highlights from the dance division included *Nomada*, *Deciphers* and *Young, Gifted & Jazz*, each receiving three nominations.

The independent theatre division included nominations for *Bremen Town*, *Appropriate*, *Prophecy Fog*, *Tyson's Song* and (*Everyone I love has*) a *Terrible Fate* (*Befall Them*).

And in the young audiences division *Storybook Search*, *Sweeter*, *Les Zinspiré.e.s* : *Onze calme et on continue*, *The Fixing Girl* and *Truth* all got nominations.

In total, TAPA announced 228 nominations for the 44th edition of the Dora Mavor Awards, which will be presented on June 24 at Toronto's Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre.

Special to The Globe and Mail

The scary popularity of New York's Thrillerfest

BRAD WHEELER

ThrillerFest, the annual conference of the International Thriller Writers (ITW), is happening this week at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, in Manhattan. Why is the event, this year celebrating its 19th year, so popular? It is no mystery, says Canada's Kimberley Howe, ITW executive director.

Who comes to Thrillerfest?

It's a great opportunity for someone to come and network and learn. Books, of course, have blurbs – Lee Child blurbs this or Michael Connelly blurbs that. A lot of that networking and opportunities for author endorsements come from meeting people at Thrillerfest. But even if you don't want to write a book, you can still come as a fan and meet your favourite author.

The first Thrillerfest took place in Scottsdale, Ariz., in 2006. Why has it been in New York ever since?

We can ask some of the top edi-

tors and publishers in the industry to walk down the street and join us for lectures and sessions. It is hard to replace that. It would be impossible to fund flying them all out to other locations. We also have something we call Pitchfest, which is a kind of speed dating for aspiring authors to meet literary agents. A lot of agents are based New York, and we have more than 60 agents attending. It's not easy get to them in one place.

Is that why you have the cocktail parties?

How did you know our secret? Yes, the cocktails parties are definitely a highlight – we have one every night. It's about sharing the love of the genre. We've had actors who come. Eriq La Salle, from the television series *ER*, has written two thrillers now. Jon Lindstrom, from *General Hospital*, is coming this year with his debut thriller. You meet fascinating people at the parties.

Am I wrong or does the thriller genre seem to draw authors who come to fiction writing late?

A lot of the people in our crowd are accomplished in different careers. Most people you meet will tell you that they've always wanted to write a book. But it takes a lot of energy and time. So, we have dedicated craft sessions for aspiring writers. And we have masterclasses where 10 people sit in a room with a New York Times bestselling author and study the genre and the craft. They each get a 10-page critique on their writing.

Can you define what the thriller genre encompasses exactly?

It depends on what country you're speaking about. The U.K. can be different than Canada and the United States. But, really, it's mysteries and thrillers. Mysteries are the who-done-its. There's a dead body at the beginning of the novel, but you don't find out who did it until the end. The thrillers are more about a ticking time clock of some sort. Something is going to happen and the protagonist is going to try to stop it. So, they're a little different, but I see it all as crime fiction.

The genre is booming. What accounts for the popularity?

When you read novels, you experience emotions. Perhaps when you read a romance novel, you have hope – hope for love, hope for happy endings. When you read science fiction, it's more about wonder and awe. With mysteries, it's more about logic and puzzle solving. People want to figure out who did this before the author reveals it. Thrillers attract adrenalin junkies – people who live vicariously through a

Jason Bourne, let's say, without getting off the couch and taking that real risk.

It's been said that crime novels put the balance back into life. That evil is punished, and the good guys usually win. Do you agree?

Yes, and it is justice in a very satisfying form. Like I said, without any risk to the reader. What could be better, really?

This interview has been edited and condensed.

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

5 ⁻	11 ⁺	5	6	24 ^x	3	2	4
6	7 ⁺	4	2 ⁺	1	2	5	3
5	20 ^x	3	7 ⁺	4	1	6	2
4	1	2	6	2 ⁻	3	5	
2	14 ⁺	6	3	5	4	1	
3	6 ^x	2	5	3 ⁻	4	1	6

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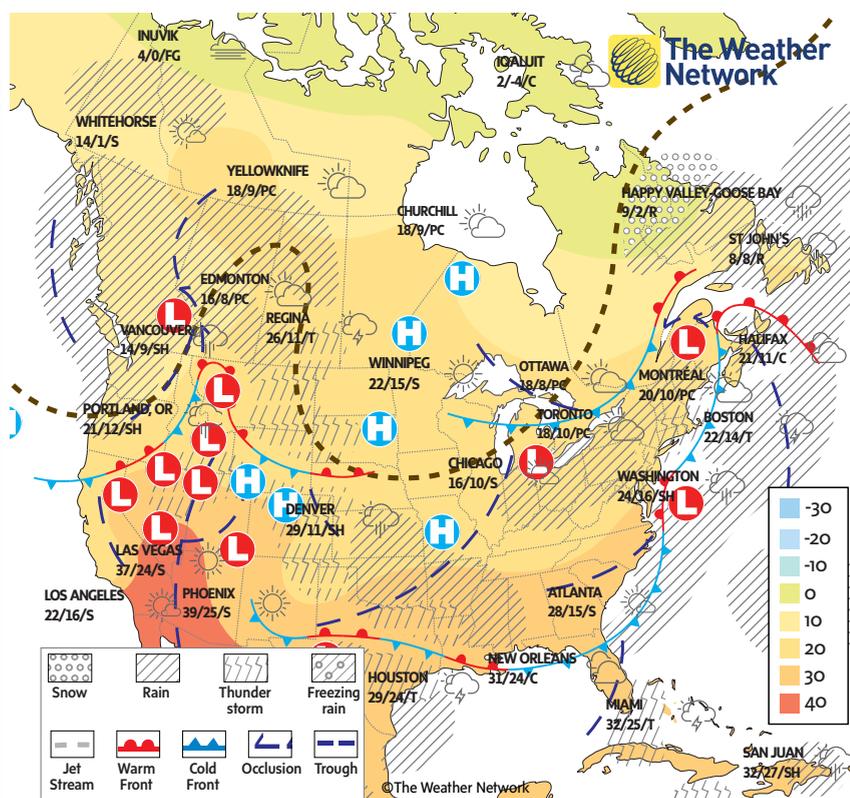
The Local Journalism Initiative (LJI) supports the creation of original civic journalism that covers the diverse needs of underserved communities across Canada. Funding is available to eligible Canadian media organizations to hire journalists or pay freelance journalists to produce civic journalism for underserved communities. The content produced will be made available to media organizations through a Creative Commons license so that Canadians can be better informed.

WORLD FORECAST

	TODAY	TOMORROW	FRIDAY
AMSTERDAM	18/11 SH	18/12 SH	18/14 SH
ATHENS	27/18 S	26/19 S	26/19 S
BANGKOK	34/28 T	33/28 T	32/28 T
BEIJING	32/22 PC	36/19 S	29/16 S
BERLIN	19/13 SH	19/11 R	23/14 SH
BRUSSELS	18/10 SH	16/12 SH	15/12 SH
COPENHAGEN	16/13 C	16/13 SH	18/14 SH
FRANKFURT	17/12 R	18/10 R	16/12 R
HONG KONG	25/25 SH	26/25 SH	28/26 R
JERUSALEM	25/14 S	24/14 S	26/16 S
LAS VEGAS	37/24 S	38/25 S	39/24 S
LONDON	19/12 SH	17/11 SH	16/11 PC
LOS ANGELES	22/16 S	22/16 S	22/16 S
MADRID	32/20 S	33/17 S	29/15 S
MIAMI	32/25 T	31/24 S	31/26 S
MOSCOW	27/17 S	27/17 PC	27/16 PC
NEW DELHI	47/34 S	46/32 S	46/34 S
NEW YORK	24/15 T	21/13 T	22/13 S
NICE	23/17 PC	22/16 PC	22/16 SH
ORLANDO	35/23 S	34/23 S	33/23 SH
PARIS	17/11 R	18/10 SH	17/12 SH
PHOENIX	39/25 S	39/25 S	40/25 S
ROME	26/16 SH	25/18 PC	24/15 SH
SAN FRANCISCO	18/10 S	16/11 S	15/11 S
SEOUL	26/14 S	26/15 S	25/15 S
SINGAPORE	30/28 T	30/27 T	30/27 T
SYDNEY	21/11 S	22/14 S	20/13 R
TOKYO	24/18 PC	25/19 PC	20/18 R
WASHINGTON	24/16 SH	24/14 S	25/14 S

NATIONAL FORECAST

	TODAY	TOMORROW	FRIDAY
BANFF	10/1 PC	10/2 PC	11/2 PC
BARRIE	15/5 S	17/4 S	20/8 S
BRANDON	22/15 S	20/10 SH	20/10 S
CALGARY	16/6 T	15/4 PC	16/3 PC
CHARLOTTETOWN	22/10 PC	16/8 S	12/7 SH
CHICOUTIMI	16/5 C	17/5 S	19/6 PC
CHURCHILL	18/9 PC	14/7 PC	15/8 R
CORNER BROOK	20/10 SH	16/4 PC	14/5 R
CORNWALL	19/9 PC	20/8 S	22/10 S
EDMONTON	16/8 PC	15/9 SH	17/7 PC
HALIFAX	21/11 C	19/9 SH	15/8 PC
HAMILTON	18/7 PC	18/7 S	22/9 S
HUNTSVILLE	16/6 PC	18/5 S	22/8 S
IQALUIT	2/4 C	1/5 PC	2/5 C
JASPER	9/2 SH	10/1 PC	12/0 PC
KELOWNA	12/4 SH	16/4 PC	19/7 PC
KINGSTON	18/11 PC	19/9 S	20/11 S
LONDON	19/5 SH	18/5 S	21/10 S
MONTREAL	20/10 PC	20/10 S	22/10 S
NIAGARA FALLS	18/9 SH	18/8 S	21/11 S
NORTH BAY	14/5 PC	17/7 S	21/10 S
OTTAWA	18/8 PC	19/7 S	22/10 S
PETERBOROUGH	19/8 S	19/7 S	22/9 S
QUÉBEC	19/7 PC	20/6 S	21/8 PC
REGINA	26/11 T	15/9 T	18/8 SH
SASKATOON	23/11 SH	16/9 SH	16/9 SH
SAULT STE MARIE	14/4 S	18/6 S	21/10 S
SAINT JOHN	17/10 PC	19/9 S	16/9 S
SEPTÎLES	11/5 SH	10/5 PC	12/6 PC
ST. JOHN'S	8/8 R	15/9 SH	13/6 R
SUDBURY	17/5 PC	19/8 S	23/9 S
THUNDER BAY	17/5 S	18/7 S	18/11 SH
THOMPSON	19/11 S	22/12 S	16/9 SH
TORONTO	18/10 PC	18/10 S	21/11 S
VAL-D'OR	13/2 S	17/6 S	22/9 S
VANCOUVER	14/9 SH	15/8 SH	16/11 S
VICTORIA	14/8 SH	14/8 PC	16/11 S
WHISTLER	9/4 R	11/2 C	15/7 S
WHITEHORSE	14/1 S	13/1 S	15/5 S
WINNIPEG	22/15 S	20/11 SH	21/12 SH
YELLOWKNIFE	18/9 PC	11/5 R	8/4 R



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
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024

NORTH
♠ 4
♥ A K J 8
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ K J 10 5

WEST
♠ Q 9 7 6 3 2
♥ 10 4
♦ Q 5 4
♣ 8 3

EAST
♠ J 8 5
♥ Q 7 6 3 2
♦ A
♣ A 7 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10
♥ 9 5
♦ J 9 8 6 3
♣ Q 9 4

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 [H]	Pass	2 [D]	Pass
3 [C]	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 [D]	Pass	5 [D]	

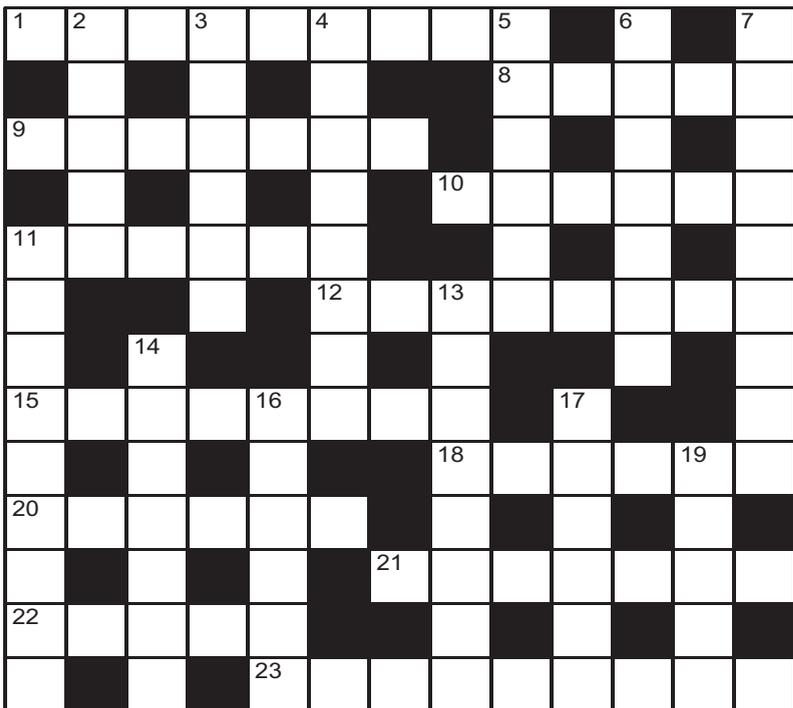
Opening Lead – 10 of hearts.

Most players would rather be the declarer than a defender – largely because they find the declarer's role more interesting. But a defender's role is crucial. Consider this case of ancient vintage where West led the 10 of hearts against five diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's king, played a spade to the ace, led the nine of diamonds and finessed. East took the nine with the ace and returned the queen of hearts! This was the killing play. Any other return would have allowed South to win in his hand, repeat the diamond finesse and so

make the contract. The only two tricks for the defence would have been East's two minor-suit aces. But the queen-of-hearts return left South without recourse. Forced to win the heart in dummy, he had no ready-made way of returning to his hand to take another trump finesse. If he played a club from dummy, East would rise with the ace and lead a third heart to convert West's queen of trump into the setting trick. And if declarer tried to ruff a heart instead, West would likewise score the trump queen. Granting that East's play was

spectacular, it was nevertheless based on sound reasoning. He knew that West had the queen of diamonds. It would not have made sense for South to lead a spade to his ace at trick two had he held the Q-J of trump. He would have led a diamond from dummy instead. When East took the ace of diamonds, he realized that his only hope was to play West for a singleton heart, or a doubleton heart and the Q-x-x of diamonds. Since in the latter case a low heart return would not do the job if South had the nine, East properly returned the queen.

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

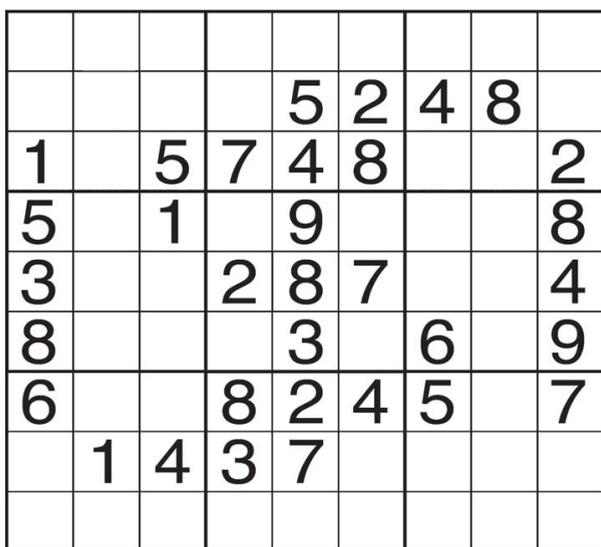
- ACROSS**
- Time for a waltz? (5-4)
 - What might be there to put you out? (5)
 - Young gangster's time of life (7)
 - Home brewing accessory (6)
 - Job is finished before these songs start (6)
 - Putting wild cattle on a ship is lacking sense (8)
 - Hardback produced by a printer (8)
 - A Verdi composition that's different (6)
 - The insecure should, when they lose heart (6)
 - Drunken coroner found singing (7)
 - A shade inexperienced? (5)
 - Make a smashing entrance (9)
- DOWN**
- Expression of disapproval by motorists or Scotsmen (5)
 - Get out of breath being no longer fit (6)
 - Twelve-inch pace? (8)
 - Modern note and coin (6)
 - Air transport for a lumberjack (7)
 - Rest opted out and objected (9)
 - First on the list of Christmas presents (9)
 - Remain silent? No, just the opposite (8)
 - Frustrated; that's what a mule is (7)
 - Display by top-class band (6)
 - Protection for king in love (6)
 - Vessels were wrecked on the point (5)

QUICK CLUES

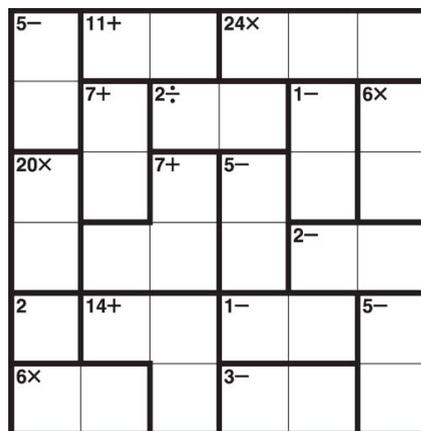
- ACROSS**
- Guiding principle (9)
 - Quickly (5)
 - Brief account (7)
 - On the way up (6)
 - Submit (6)
 - In unprepared state (3,5)
 - Aggressive salesmanship (4,4)
 - Capital of Portugal (6)
 - Kidnap (6)
 - Oscillate (7)
 - Afresh (5)
 - Manual dexterity (9)
- DOWN**
- Insulting language (5)
 - An amusing play (6)
 - Cupboard for clothes (8)
 - Audacious (6)
 - Sweeping (7)
 - Oppress (5,4)
 - Without hesitation (5,4)
 - At maximum speed (4,4)
 - Proceeding by degrees (7)
 - Formally endorse (6)
 - Moneylender at excessive rates (6)
 - Group of eight (5)

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.



KENKEN
INSTRUCTIONS

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating.
- 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 single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.

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YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Low-down, 4 Laden, 7 Cats, 8 Censured, 10 More or less, 12 Take in, 13 Peanut, 15 Antifreeze, 18 Relieved, 19 Asks, 20 Mates, 21 Soundly.
DOWN: 1 Locum, 2 Water-ski, 3 Needle, 4 Loses heart, 5 Dark, 6 No doubt, 9 Motionless, 11 Unversed, 12 Tantrum, 14 Divers, 16 Essay, 17 Plot.

YESTERDAY'S QUICK

ACROSS: 1 Pick off, 4 Timid, 7 Ugly, 8 Stunning, 10 Brute force, 12 Steady, 13 Sacred, 15 Field event, 18 Filigree, 19 Wisp, 20 Ember, 21 Trigger.
DOWN: 1 Plumb, 2 Cultured, 3 Fathom, 4 Tonic water, 5 Main, 6 Dogwood, 9 Dead ringer, 11 Briefing, 12 Souffle, 14 Fluent, 16 Taper, 17 Club.

Succession Planning for Business Owners: Striking the right balance

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FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 | 11:45 A.M. – 3:20 P.M. ET

It is often difficult for entrepreneurs to separate family from business when planning their legacy. This intertwined transition is often challenging, with no one-size-fits-all solution. With a generation entering retirement in droves and a changing business landscape, these conversations are increasingly top-of-mind for many families and enterprises alike.

Join The Globe and Mail for a hybrid event that will be looking at common questions that arise when building a succession plan, the psychology behind decision-making and the approaches people can take when considering these matters.



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MODERATOR
Personal Finance Reporter,
The Globe and Mail



CLARE O'HARA
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Reporter,
Wealth Management and
Globe Investor,
The Globe and Mail



SANDRA E. MARTIN
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Standards Editor,
The Globe and Mail



STEVE BEAUSCHENE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
CEO,
Family Enterprise
Canada; former CEO,
Beau's All Natural
Brewing Company



NAIM M. ALI
SPEAKER
CEO,
SM2 Capital Partners



FRANCESCO BARBERA
SPEAKER
Founding Academic Director
of the Family Business Institute
and an Associate Professor of
Entrepreneurship and Strategy
at the Ted Rogers School
of Management at Toronto
Metropolitan University



SHERNEE CHANDARIA
SPEAKER
President,
Conros Corporation,
and President,
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One-day clearance for stock trades launches in Canada

JAMESON BERKOW
CAPITAL MARKETS REPORTER

Investors might never notice, but the way Canadian capital markets function fundamentally changed this week after a process that began nearly 30 years ago was finally completed.

Settlements, the complex undertaking that ensures money and securities properly change hands every time stocks or bonds are bought or sold, previously had to be completed within two business days of the trade itself. As of Monday, however, settlements now have a single business day to be completed.

While the shift from what was known as T+2 to the new T+1 regime might seem insignificant or even irrelevant for retail investors, experts argue the opposite is true.

Sale proceeds will hit investment accounts faster as trades start settling more quickly and interest charges on any money borrowed to buy securities will kick in one business day earlier than before.

Ultimately, the move to T+1 will increase market efficiency and lower risks of trades failing to settle because of market volatility, which should allow for lower trading fees.

■ **MARKETS, B6**

Farm-gear manufacturer Ag Growth rebuffs takeover bid

ANDREW WILLIS

Ag Growth International Inc. recently rebuffed an unsolicited takeover offer made in the wake of a slide in the Winnipeg-based farm equipment manufacturer's share price, a sign of the challenges facing a mid-sized player in an agricultural sector dominated by far larger companies.

The board at Ag Growth International, branded as AGI, turned down a bid from an industry rival priced at a 35-per-cent-plus premium to where the company's stock is trading, according to a source familiar with the process. The source declined to name the potential buyer, and The Globe and Mail is not naming the source because they were not authorized to speak for the company.

An AGI spokesperson had no comment on reports of offers for the company, which sold \$1.5-billion worth of crop and fertilizer processing, handling and storage equipment last year.

AGI, which has an \$877-million market capitalization, is a target for deeper-pocketed rivals after a drop in its stock price left it valued at a significant discount to peers in the farm equipment industry, according to investment bankers and analysts.

AGI's stock price has fallen 25 per cent since the company announced weaker-than-expected financial results on April 29.

■ **AGI, B6**

COMPANIES

AYA GOLD & SILVER	B9
BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA	B2
CIBC	B2
CONSTELLATION	B9
DOLLARAMA	B9
MacDONALD MINES	B3
WEWORK	B7

[PERSONAL FINANCE]

GOLD STANDARD

For many south Asian women, owning the precious metal is more than just a tradition – it's an important source of financial security

■ B8



As a child, Adiba Ahmed's family came under financial stress and her mother sold gold to keep them afloat. A 2023 report said Indian households own roughly 12 per cent of all the gold that's been mined globally. LIPA ISLAM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

After a bruising, expensive five-month boardroom battle, Glenn Chamandy returns to Gildan's C-suite

NICOLAS VAN PRAET MONTREAL

Glenn Chamandy is back as chief executive of **Gildan Activewear Inc.**, supported by a new board eager to close the door on five months of turmoil that left employees shaken and the company holding the bag on tens of millions of dollars worth of expenses.

Shareholders of the Canadian T-shirt maker on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly to give Mr. Chamandy his board seat back, which followed his reappointment as CEO three days ago. He'll join seven other directors, all candidates put forward by activist investor Browning West, which has taken

control of the company after winning a feud with Gildan's previous board over Mr. Chamandy's leadership.

United Rentals Inc. CEO Michael Kneeland is now Gildan's chairman.

"Justice has prevailed," a smiling Mr. Chamandy told reporters during a news conference after Gildan's annual meeting in Montreal. "It was quite stressful for me, my family. It was very stressful, I think, for the employees of the company. ... We've got to turn the page and move on."

A raucous battle that engulfed the clothing maker for nearly half a year came to a sudden conclusion last week when Gildan's entire board of directors and former CEO Vince Tyra quit. The resignations hap-

pened after shareholder votes cast ahead of the annual meeting were counted and the board realized it had no path to victory – Browning West's slate of directors had amassed more than enough support.

The legacy board fired Mr. Chamandy in December over what it said was his refusal to comply with a succession plan to which he had agreed. Directors later blasted him for his work ethic and lack of ideas and said they tried to reach a compromise with him right up until the announcement of his termination.

But they failed to convince investors there was a good reason to show him the door.

■ **GILDAN, B6**

Industry groups, unions driving new effort to build a national EV supply chain

JEFFREY JONES
ESG AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCE REPORTER

The union representing Canada's auto workers sees the push to build up the supply chain for electric vehicles as key to a renaissance for its members, as car and truck assembly gets retooled for a new era.

Massive investments announced by automakers and their suppliers wagering on a future wave of electrification have breathed new life into manufacturing, says Angelo DiCaro, the director of research for Unifor, the country's largest private-sector union.

"So it means everything for 20,000 Unifor members and it's going to mean everything for 10,000-plus members at Toyota and Honda. It's very significant what's happening here," Mr. DiCaro said.

The transition to electric also brings big risks for the work force, however. One is the monumental task of retraining and re-deploying workers who have assembled parts for cars and trucks powered by tried-and-true internal-combustion engines.

"We've had well over a dozen auto parts plants in Unifor alone closed in the last couple of years," Mr. DiCaro said. Not all of that is because of the shift to EVs, but the change is quickening, he added.

Labour is key to the zero-emission ve-

hicle (ZEV) supply chain that several industries are trying to string together, and its voice is one that Accelerate, the ZEV industry association, is taking to heart as it kicks off an effort Wednesday to solicit ideas for turning the country into an EV force.

The group, made up of companies and organizations in mining, batteries, fuel cells, vehicle manufacturing, infrastructure, the public sector, research and labour, said it is looking for opinions from across the country on how to build up capacity for raw materials production and manufacturing in an integrated North American market.

■ **EV5, B6**



MARKETS

London looks to revive its reputation as one of world's leading financial centres ■ B7

TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Scotiabank CEO says high rates will put pressure on borrowers for the rest of the year ■ B2

ECONOMY

Trudeau says house prices need to remain stable because retirees depend on the equity ■ B3

Scotiabank CEO forecasts high rates will continue to weigh on borrowers

Cuts anticipated this summer could take a few quarters to start to support consumers: bank's chief risk officer

STEFANIE MAROTTA
BANKING REPORTER

Bank of Nova Scotia expects high interest rates to take multiple quarters to ease, leaving customers with little relief as risks mount for defaults in variable-rate mortgages and car loans. While the lender had expected the Bank of Canada to introduce multiple rate cuts in the latter half of 2024, that trajectory feels "less certain," Scotiabank chief executive officer Scott Thomson said during a conference call Tuesday to discuss the bank's second-quarter earnings results. The higher cost of borrowing has strained consumer wallets as payments spike on mortgages and other types of loans.

"The impact of higher rates is increasingly weighing on consumers and, to a lesser extent, our commercial and small business clients," Mr. Thomson told analysts. "The reality of a higher-for-longer rate scenario will naturally result in the continuation of elevated credit provisions in our retail portfolios."

Scotiabank reported second-quarter profit that beat analyst expectations but fell from the same period last year, as the lender set aside more money for loans that could default, offsetting a boost from its capital markets and wealth divisions.

The lender set aside \$1.01-billion in provisions for credit losses — the funds banks set aside to cover loans that may default. That was slightly lower than analysts expected, but higher than the \$621-million in provisions set aside in the same quarter last year.

Over the past year, the country's biggest banks have been ramping up provisions in anticipation of higher loan defaults as Canadians grapple with rising expenses and higher borrowing costs. Scotiabank's higher provisions were driven by souring automotive loans, as well as mounting delinquencies in variable-rate mortgages — which have seen monthly payments jump as interest rates have surged — concentrated in Toronto and Vancouver's heated real estate markets.

"There's some talk about rate decreases in June and July, but I'm of the opinion that, even with those decreases in June and July, it'll take a few quarters, maybe one, two or three quarters, for it to start to really support the Canadian consumer," chief risk officer Phil Thomas said during the conference call.

For variable-rate mortgages, a 25-basis-point cut in interest rates would lead to a monthly payment decrease of about \$100 on average, according to Mr. Thomas. (A basis point is one-tenth of a percentage point.)

In the meantime, customers are adjusting their expenses to manage higher mortgage payments. Discretionary spending has fallen about 10 per cent for variable-rate mortgage customers, and 5 per cent for those with fixed-rate mortgages.

Scotiabank is the second major Canadian bank to report earnings for the second quarter. Toronto-Dominion Bank posted second-quarter results last Thursday that beat analysts' estimates.

Bank of Montreal and National Bank of Canada release earnings Wednesday, and Royal Bank of Canada and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce report on Thursday.

Scotiabank earned \$2.09-billion, or \$1.57 per share, in the three months that ended April 30. That compared with \$2.15-billion, or \$1.68 per share, in the same quarter last year. Adjusted to exclude certain items, including expenses from the federal government's tax known as the Canada Recovery Dividend, Scotiabank earned \$1.58 per share, beating the \$1.55 per share analysts expected, according to S&P Capital IQ.

In December, Scotiabank launched its new strategic plan aimed at growing its deposit base to reduce its funding costs and target businesses in North America, where it believes it can boost growth.

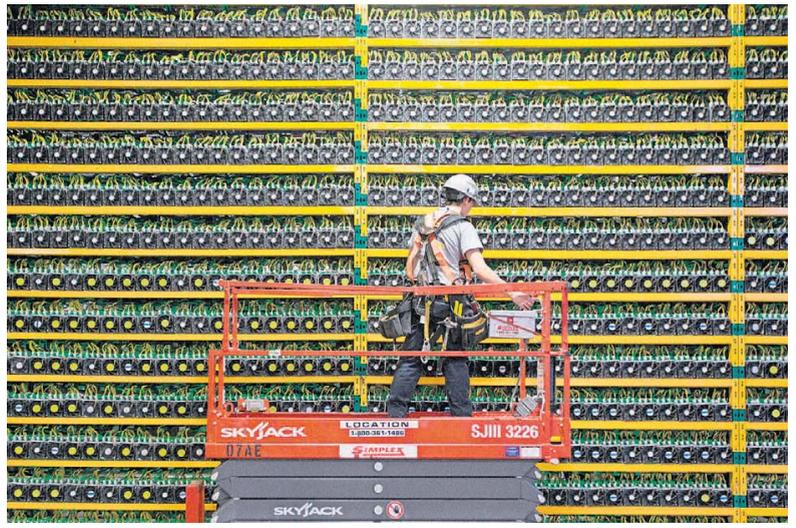
The bank grew its deposit base by 4 per cent compared with the same quarter last year, bolstered by increases in its Canadian and international banking divisions.

A large part of this strategy hinges on the bank's ability to cross-sell products to its customers. More than 45 per cent of the bank's retail clients now have three or more products with Scotiabank, an increase of 2.3 percentage points from the same quarter last year.

Scotiabank also bolstered its common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio — a key measure of a bank's ability to absorb losses — to 13.2 per cent in the quarter.

Since December, 2022, Canada's banking regulator, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, has hiked the domestic stability buffer — a capital reserve that banks build to soften the blow of an economic downturn — to 3.5 per cent of a bank's risk-weighted assets from 2.5 per cent. That has increased the minimum CET1 ratio to 11.5 per cent.

At the time, Scotiabank's CET1 ratio was among the lowest of its peers, hovering just above the minimum requirement.



Bitcoins are mined at a Bittfarms site in Quebec in 2018. Rival miner Riot says they want the company to be their international arm as they pursue global expansion. LARS HAGBERG/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Crypto miner Riot proposes hostile takeover of Toronto-based rival Bitfarms

YUMNA IFTIKHAR

U.S.-based crypto mining company Riot Platforms Inc. launched a hostile bid to acquire Toronto-based rival Bitfarms Ltd., revealing in a filing with securities regulators it had made a non-binding offer of US\$2.30 a share, or US\$950-million in total, in a letter to the board on April 22.

Riot owns North America's largest bitcoin facility, and if the acquisition goes through, it would become the largest publicly listed bitcoin miner globally.

Just days after the bitcoin halving event — which reduced the rate at which new coins are created — Riot made a private offer to buy Bitfarms that they say the company "swiftly" rejected.

In a second letter to Bitfarms on Tuesday, Riot revealed it owned 9.25 per cent of the target company's shares, making it the largest shareholder.

The company intends to request a special meeting after Bitfarms's annual general meeting on May 31 to add new independent directors to the board.

Bitfarms did not respond to a request for comment by late Tuesday afternoon.

Riot offered shareholders a mix of cash and Riot common stock, which would give Bitfarms's shareholders 17 per cent of the combined company's stock. The proposal also offered a 24-per-cent premium to Bitfarms's one-

month, volume-weighted average share price as of May 24.

Riot noted in its letter that it is concerned over the termination of Bitfarms's former chief executive officer, Geoffrey Morphy, in early May. Mr. Morphy filed a US\$27-million lawsuit against the company in the Ontario Superior Court for breaches of contract and wrongful dismissal.

Riot said they want Bitfarms to be their international arm as they pursue a global expansion. The company's statement noted the combined firm would have 15 facilities across the United States, Canada, Paraguay and Argentina.

"A combination of Bitfarms and Riot would create the premier and largest publicly listed bitcoin miner globally, with geographically diversified operations well-positioned for long-term growth," Benjamin Yi, executive chairman of Riot, said in a statement.

Riot added that the acquisition is also beneficial for the two companies because it provides geographical diversification, and Bitfarms would have access to Riot's strong balance sheets.

Bitfarms shares jumped 7.4 per cent Tuesday morning after Riot made its letters public before markets opened. The stock ended the day flat at US\$10.34.

On April 19, the reward for mining bitcoin was halved from 6.25 bitcoins per mined block to 3.125 bitcoins. This event takes place every four years to maintain scarcity of the coins in a bid to counter inflation.

Report finds rising number of credit-card holders only making minimum payments

RITIKA DUBEY

A new report suggests an increasing number of Canadians are seeing their credit-card balances balloon as the cost-of-living crisis and higher interest rates eat into household budgets.

A TransUnion report published Tuesday said the number of Canadians paying only the minimum monthly amount on their credit card rose eight basis points to 1.3 per cent in the first quarter compared with last year.

Matthew Fabian, director of financial services research at TransUnion Canada, said many household incomes are not keeping up with inflation and higher interest rates, leaving them to rely on credit.

"Consumers that have had significant increases in their mortgage payment have made that deliberate trade-off to pay less on their credit card and in some cases, they're missing their payment," Mr. Fabian said in an interview.

"We've seen a higher delinquency rate in credit cards for those consumers that have mortgages than traditional credit-card consumers."

Total consumer debt in Canada was \$2.38-trillion in the first quarter, compared with \$2.32-trillion in the same quarter last year, and down only slightly from a record \$2.4-trillion in the fourth quarter.

The report said 31.8 million Canadians had one or more credit products in the first quarter, up 3.75 per cent year-over-year. The jump was mainly driven by newcomers and Gen Z signing up for their first credit products.

The report showed there was a 30-per-cent surge in outstanding credit-card balances for the Gen Z cohort compared with the previous year.

“The younger generation [is] only getting access to credit for the very first time in their life,” Mr. Fabian said.

“They’re still learning how to use it, they’re still learning what it means to pay your monthly obligations.”

Meanwhile, millennials held the largest portion of debt in the country — about 38 per cent of all debt — likely owing to higher credit needs as they grow older, according to the report.

“They’re in the life stage where they’re probably having children, getting houses and have auto loans,” Mr. Fabian said. “The structure of the debt is shifted where 10 years ago, the majority of them would have had credit cards and car loans.”

Mr. Fabian said he isn't overly concerned about households falling behind on their mortgage payments because of the strict screening process established by the banking watchdog to qualify for a mortgage.

He also said cash-strapped consumers will typically pay their mortgage first at the expense of other credit products such as their auto loan or credit card.

Even though there are concerns about missed payments among the vulnerable population, Mr. Fabian said, “We’re still seeing pretty decent resiliency in the Canadian consumer base, especially when you look at how quickly it's grown with Gen Z and the volume of credit participation.”

He added interest-rate cuts, which are anticipated as early as June, can lessen the burden on households over time.

“Our expectation is that the market will start to correct back to normal,” Mr. Fabian said.

MATTHEW FABIAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL
SERVICES RESEARCH,
TRANSUNION CANADA

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CIBC HIRES BARCLAYS VETERAN TO EXPAND LEVERAGED FINANCE BUSINESS

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) has hired Brad Aston, a veteran of nearly two decades at Barclays, as the global head of leveraged finance in its capital markets unit, according to a memo seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

The appointment underscores the lender's focus on its leveraged finance business in the United States, it said, at a time when private investment firms are challenging the dominance of banks in the industry. Leveraged loans are targeted at companies

looking to do an acquisition, or those that have a high debt load. Private capital firms can be more aggressive in offering such loans, since they are not subjected to the degree of regulation that banks operate under.

Mr. Aston, previously the head of industrials and energy leveraged finance at Barclays, will join CIBC in August.

CIBC also said it has hired Goldman Sachs alum Vishal Bhalla as managing director of leveraged finance in capital markets.

REUTERS

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF
Eastern Meat Solutions Inc., Sierra Custom Foods
Inc., Sierra Supply Chain Services Inc., Sierra
Realty Corporation, RVB Holdings Inc., Vanden
Broek Holdings (2008) Inc., Sierra Realty Calgary
Corporation, and Eastern Meat Solutions (USA) Corp.**

NOTICE OF CCAA FILING

Notice is hereby given that on May 21, 2024, Eastern Meat Solutions Inc. ("EMS") or the "Company" and its affiliated companies set out above, initiated proceedings (the "CCAA Proceedings") under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (the "CCAA").

On the same day, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (the "Court") granted an Initial Order, which, among other things: (i) granted a stay of proceedings up to and including May 31, 2024 (the "Stay Period"); and (ii) appointed Deloitte Restructuring Inc. ("Deloitte") as Court-appointed monitor of the business and financial affairs of EMS and certain of its affiliates (in such capacity, the "Monitor").

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a copy of the Initial Order and other public information concerning these CCAA Proceedings can be found on the Monitor's website at <https://www.insolvencies.deloitte.ca/easternmeat> or may be obtained by contacting the Monitor at:

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'Housing needs to retain its value,' Trudeau says

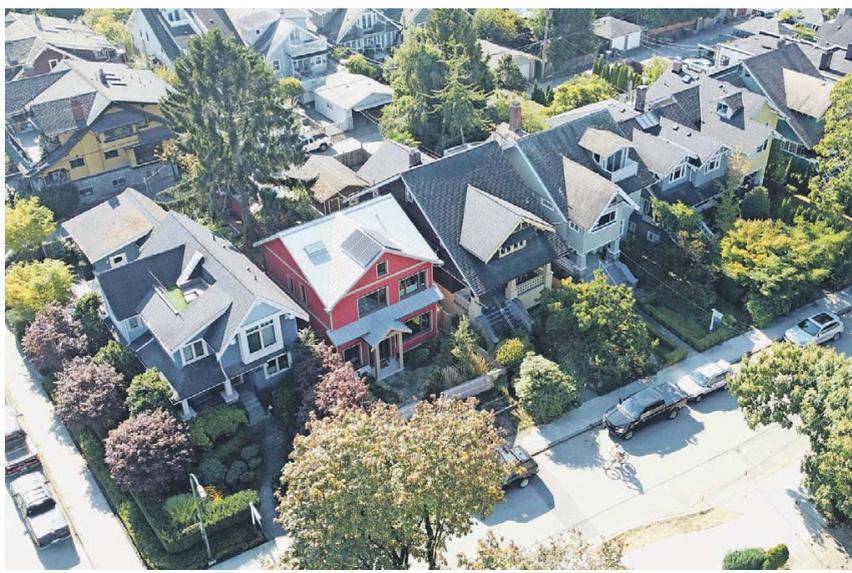
Prime Minister's plan is to see shelter costs cut while ensuring that homeowners' property values remain high

RACHELLE YOUNGLAI
REAL ESTATE REPORTER

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says his government aims to make housing more affordable for younger Canadians without bringing down home prices for existing homeowners.

Cutting shelter costs while ensuring that homeowners' property values remain high could be viewed as contradictory, but Mr. Trudeau was adamant that property owners would not lose out. "Housing needs to retain its value," Mr. Trudeau told The Globe and Mail's *City Space* podcast. "It's a huge part of people's potential for retirement and future nest egg."

Many residents have been priced out of Canada's housing market with typical home values topping \$735,000 across the country and exceeding \$1-million in Toronto. The cost of rent has also been climbing, increasing the frustration among younger voters that the Trudeau government is trying to appease. Ottawa has responded to the



Many Canadians have been priced out of the housing market with typical home values topping \$735,000 across the country and rental costs also climbing. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

spike in living costs by revising some of the programs for first-time homebuyers, such as allowing them to take out an insured mortgage with a 30-year amortization for a preconstruction home. It has also announced billions of dollars in incentives and tax breaks to create more rental housing.

Over the past two decades, the

value of residential real estate has tripled and has made homeowners more prosperous. Many Canadians view their homes as their single largest asset and as a way to support their retirement and pass on wealth to their children.

However, the significant rise in home prices has contributed to the widening wealth gap

between homeowners and renters, who do not have the same opportunity to amass equity in their home.

Mr. Trudeau acknowledged this disparity and said: "The difference between someone who's rented all their lives versus someone who is a homeowner in terms of the money they have for retirement is massive, and

that's not necessarily always fair," he told the podcast.

The federal government's latest round of housing policy announcements are not expected to immediately make much of difference to housing affordability, with the country's population growing at its fastest pace in decades and newcomers looking for a place to live.

Although all levels of government have been pushing developers to build housing faster, new home building has slowed in part because of high borrowing costs. And it takes years for new apartments and homes to be constructed.

"Supply can only change gradually, so realistically it's the demand side that will drive the market over the short haul," said Douglas Porter, chief economist with Bank of Montreal.

"There are only three things that could potentially improve affordability: stronger incomes, lower borrowing costs and/or lower home prices," he said.

The housing market has been slow for most of the past two years as the Bank of Canada raised interest rates in its bid to tame inflation. Although the typical home price is down about 10 per cent from the height of the pandemic's real estate boom in early 2022, values are still 37 per cent higher than in 2019, according to data from the Canadian Real Estate Association.

MacDonald Mines finds inconsistencies in its assay results

NIALL MCGEE
MINING REPORTER

Junior mining company **MacDonald Mines Exploration Ltd.** has withdrawn its assay results on its Scadding project in Ontario, citing inconsistencies.

The Toronto-based exploration company said in a news release that it is conducting a review "to identify and quantify the extent of any incongruities."

MacDonald Mines' gold and copper project is located 20 kilometres southeast of Sudbury. The property is in the very early drilling stage and the company has not proven its economics.

This is the second junior Canadian exploration company this month to blind-side investors with assay results problems.

Toronto-based Red Pine Exploration Inc. a few weeks ago said that it found inconsistencies in some of its drilling results at its Wawa gold project in Ontario, and accused its former chief executive, Quentin Yarie, of manipulating results of hundreds of gold assays. Red Pine stumbled upon the assay results inconsistencies by accident after one of its geologists discovered an anomaly in its drill results.

TSX Venture Exchange-listed MacDonald Mines has not disclosed how it discovered the problems with its assay results, or who it believes is responsible.

Red Pine's former CEO, Mr. Yarie, worked at MacDonald Mines for more than a decade. He joined as senior vice-president of exploration in 2010. He became president and chief operating

officer in 2013. He was later promoted to CEO, then chairman. He left the company in 2022.

Mia Boiridy succeeded Mr. Yarie as CEO, and previously worked at Red Pine alongside him for a few years. In an interview, she said she had "no inkling of any kind of manipulation" of gold assay results at Red Pine. Ms. Boiridy left MacDonald Mines in September, 2021.

Mike England, the interim CEO of MacDonald Mines, did not respond to requests for comments.

Mr. Yarie could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Yarie also served as CEO of Honey Badger Silver Inc. for about five years until the summer of 2020. The B.C. company said in a release on Tuesday that its current portfolio of silver properties was acquired after he left.

"The company does not rely on any opinion of Mr. Yarie respecting its properties and has no reason to do so in the future," Honey Badger Silver said.

Well-known gold investor Eric Sprott is the biggest shareholder in MacDonald Mines. He holds a 4.9-per-cent stake, according to Refinitiv.

Mr. Sprott in an interview said he'd not heard of the assay results problems at MacDonald Mines, and indicated he wasn't overly upset at the turn of events in large part because it is only a tiny part of his portfolio.

"I mean, these things happen, right?" he said. "I probably own 200 different stocks. Okay, so one's misreported the assays. Well, I guess if you'd asked ahead of time, what are the odds of one out of 200 misreporting their assays, eh? Pretty good."

Mr. Sprott is even hoping that the news could end up being a positive.

"Me being the optimist, I'm kind of hoping that maybe the assays were underreported," he said. "But the odds of that are probably 10 to one."

The junior Canadian gold sector has been rocked by several assay results scandals in the past.

In 2009, John Paterson, former CEO of Southwestern Resources Corp., admitted to fraud and illegal insider trading after manipulating the company's gold assay data. The B.C. Securities Commission banned Mr. Paterson for life from acting as a company officer or director.

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

MacDonald by comparison is a micro-cap company. Its market value on Tuesday was \$1.3-million.

MacDonald Mines' gold and copper project is located 20 kilometres southeast of Sudbury. The property is in the very early drilling stage and the company has not proven its economics.

OpenAI begins training a new flagship AI model

CADE METZ SAN FRANCISCO

OpenAI said Tuesday that it had begun training a new flagship artificial-intelligence model that would succeed the GPT-4 technology that drives its popular online chatbot, ChatGPT.

The San Francisco startup, which is one of the world's leading AI companies, said in a blog post that it expected the new model to bring "the next level of capabilities" as it strove to build "artificial general intelligence," or AGI, a machine that can do anything the human brain can do. The new model would be an engine for AI products including chatbots, digital assistants akin to Apple's Siri, search engines and image generators.

OpenAI also said it was creating a new Safety and Security Committee to explore how it should handle the risks posed by the new model and future technologies.

"While we are proud to build and release models that are industry-leading on both capabilities and safety, we welcome a robust debate at this important moment," the company said.

OpenAI is aiming to move AI technology forward faster than its rivals, while also appeasing critics who say the technology is becoming increasingly dangerous, helping to spread disinformation, replace jobs and even threaten humanity. Experts disagree on when tech companies will reach artificial general intelligence, but companies including OpenAI, Google, Meta and Microsoft have steadily increased the power of AI technologies for more than a decade, demonstrating a noticeable leap roughly every two to three years.

OpenAI's GPT-4, which was released in March, 2023, enables chatbots and other software apps to answer questions, write

e-mails, generate term papers and analyze data. An updated version of the technology, which was unveiled this month and is not yet widely available, can also generate images and respond to questions and commands in a highly conversational voice.

Days after OpenAI showed the updated version - called GPT-4o - actor Scarlett Johansson, she said it used a voice that sounded "eerily similar to mine." She said she had declined efforts by OpenAI's chief executive, Sam Altman, to license her voice for the product and that she had hired a lawyer and asked OpenAI to stop using the voice. The company said the voice was not Ms. Johansson's.

Technologies such as GPT-4o learn their skills by analyzing vast amounts of data digital, including sounds, photos, videos, Wikipedia articles, books and news articles. The New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft Corp. in December, claiming copyright infringement of news content related to AI systems.

Digital "training" of AI models can take months or even years. Once the training is completed, AI companies typically spend several more months testing the technology and fine-tuning it for public use.

That could mean OpenAI's next model will not arrive for another nine months to a year or more.

As OpenAI trains its new model, its new Safety and Security Committee will work to hone policies and processes for safeguarding the technology, the company said. The committee includes Mr. Altman, as well as OpenAI board members Bret Taylor, Adam D'Angelo and Nicole

Seligman. The company said the new policies could be in place in the late summer or fall.

This month, OpenAI said Ilya Sutskever, a co-founder and one of the leaders of its safety efforts, was leaving the company. This caused concern that OpenAI was not grappling enough with the dangers posed by AI.

Mr. Sutskever had joined three other board members in November to remove Mr. Altman from OpenAI, saying Mr. Altman could no longer be trusted with the company's plan to create artificial general intelligence for the good of humanity. After a lobbying campaign by Mr. Altman's allies, he was reinstated five days later and has since reasserted control over the company.

Mr. Sutskever led what OpenAI called its Superalignment team, which explored ways of ensuring that future AI models would not do harm. Like others in the field, he had grown increasingly concerned that AI posed a threat to humanity. Jan Leike, who ran the Superalignment team with Mr. Sutskever, resigned from the company this month, leaving the team's future in doubt.

OpenAI has folded its long-term safety research into its larger efforts to ensure that its technologies are safe. That work will be led by John Schulman, another co-founder, who previously headed the team that created ChatGPT. The new safety committee will oversee Mr. Schulman's research and provide guidance for how the company will address technological risks.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE



The University of Toronto is pleased to announce that Wesley J. Hall has been elected to serve as the university's 35th Chancellor, effective July 1, 2024.



WESLEY J. HALL

Dr. Hall is Executive Chairman and Founder of WeShall Investments, Kingsdale Advisors and the BlackNorth Initiative. Among his many honours, the University of Toronto conferred a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* on him in 2023 in recognition of his innovative corporate and entrepreneurial leadership and for his outstanding service as a champion for equity on behalf of the Black community. In 2021, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2022, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce recognized him as Canadian Business Leader of the Year. His board service includes SickKids Foundation, Pathways to Education Canada, TIFF and Huron University College. He also served on the Capital Markets Modernization Taskforce for the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

OPINION & ANALYSIS

Canada Post must be restructured

Less and less mail, year after year, to more and more addresses, for less and less revenue – the terrible business model needs to change

IAN LEE

OPINION

Associate professor in the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University, and author of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute report *Is the Cheque Still in the Mail?* From 1982 to 1984, he was employed by Canada Post in corporate finance and banking.

Canada Post is in an existential struggle for its very survival.

This month, the chief executive finally – after years of evidence – stated Canada Post “faces larger unsustainable losses in the future” without major reforms.

Canada Post recently released its 2023 annual report, showing a \$750-million loss for the year, taking its total losses over the past six years to \$3-billion. Although CPC has a mandate to be a self-sustaining government corporation, it has experienced increasing losses every year since 2018.

So how did we get here?

Canada Post is suffering from the combined effects of several costly inefficiencies. It has a universal service obligation to deliver collapsing letter-mail volumes to every urban, suburban, rural and remote address – 17.4 million in total – five days a week. It maintains an unsustainable corporate retail post office network of 3,500, where expenditures



Canada Post's letter volumes fell to 2.2 billion in 2023 from a peak of 5.5 billion letters in 2006 after the digitization of virtually everything informational. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

vastly exceed revenues in each outlet. At the same time it pays wages and benefits that are on average significantly higher than those of its competitors, including time-and-a-half on weekends. And it operates an inflexible mail route allocation system.

Letter volumes plummeted to 2.2 billion in 2023 from a peak of 5.5 billion letters in 2006, or a 60-per-cent decline, owing to the digitization of virtually everything informational. Yet, the number of delivery points has grown by three million addresses over the same period.

Less and less mail, year after year, to more and more addresses, for less and less revenue.

This is a terrible business model that is – and will be – producing ever-larger annual losses.

The parcels market driven by e-commerce was supposed to save Canada Post. Yet, in the past four years, Canada Post lost 50 per cent of its market share. Low-cost couriers made large gains in the package delivery business by focusing on the most lucrative suburban and urban locations with less expensive labour and an asset-light infrastructure, while leaving Canada Post with an asset-heavy, higher-labour-cost infrastructure to deliver to more costly areas.

For Canada Post to survive, the government of Canada must legislate changes to mandate urgent structural reforms. The Crown corporation must make major reductions in costs.

The fastest way to reduce the cost of delivery is delivering both

mail and packages to community mailboxes and package lockers. Delivery to the doorstep is 75 per cent more expensive than delivery to a community mailbox and is 118 per cent more expensive than delivery to an apartment building.

More than 70 per cent of Canadians already receive mail at a group mailbox. The government must revoke the unsustainable decision to continue home delivery to the 25 per cent of households in Canada who live in the most affluent urban neighbourhoods, saving more than \$500-million annually.

Canada Post must also adopt dynamic route scheduling. It must replace static, fixed letter-carrier routes across every community in Canada, that send em-

ployees to all 17.4 million addresses five days a week, 52 weeks a year, even when there is no mail to deliver – a “Potemkin Post Office.” Dynamic route scheduling ensures routes served are revised daily based on mail volumes.

Then there is the reduction of labour costs. While Canada Post mail volumes have declined 60 per cent since 2006, employee head count has only declined 5 per cent in that same period. Collective bargaining agreements and management compensation must use the number of pieces delivered per labour hour as a key metric for determining compensation. As volumes continuously decline, Canada Post must shed labour costs through attrition, retirements and buyouts.

Lastly, Canada Post needs to end its unsustainable moratorium on franchising. The 60-per-cent decline in letter volumes has led to collapsing use of post offices. Canada Post must convert the approximately 3,500 corporate-owned single-use postal facilities to franchises, saving more than \$1-billion annually, to provide postal services exclusively in drugstores, grocery stores and other convenient locations with much longer hours of service.

And Canada Post should sell off post office land for housing – which not only generates revenue but helps solve a growing crisis in this country.

Canada Post has less than five years to reform, restructure and transform from an analog business to a digital business in the digital economy, or it will disappear like Blockbuster Video. Taxpayers will not support annual multibillion-dollar losses for a Potemkin Post Office with fewer and fewer customers and less and less mail.

New laws may muddy the waters on eradicating forced and child labour

MIKE CHISHOLM

OPINION

Executive in the logistics and customs brokerage industries. He is president and CEO of A&A Customs Brokers.

On a global stage, Canada has a relatively clean reputation when it comes to ensuring fair wages and safe working conditions for its labour force. But as the first reports under the federal government's forced and child labour reporting act are being made this week, the cracks in our globally intertwined supply chains will likely expose some dirt.

Under the act, Canadian businesses that meet two of the following criteria for at least one of their two most recent financial years – \$20-million or more in assets, \$40-million or more in revenue or an average of 250 or more employees – are required to investigate their supply chains more thoroughly and report any potential links to forced or child labour. The reports are due each year on May 31.

While the call for transparency and corporate accountability in supply chains is justified, Canadian consumers should be aware the optics around a company's reported involvement in unethical labour practices may not be as they seem.

Importers and exporters that meet the new criteria will now be expected to report publicly on their websites if they've come across any potential link to forced labour in their supply chain. While this is necessary due diligence and not an admission of guilt, misunderstanding of this public reporting requirement may dissuade ethical consumers from buying from businesses that make such disclosures.

It's important to understand that as Canadian businesses engage in this new level of due diligence, we can expect many – even those striving to engage in ethical work operations – to come across a connection to forced or child labour in their supply chain. The reality is that the global supply chain is a vast and complex network made up of opaque layers of subcontractors.

Moreover, for many Canadian businesses, particularly smaller ones, tracing every link back to its source can be a near-impossible task. I've seen companies go as far as to visit the factories they intend to work with overseas to assess conditions on the ground only to later discover reports of child or forced labour, which were not visible on site visits.

It's important to note that under the new legislation companies may be fined

up to \$250,000, not for being found guilty of using forced or child labour, but for failing to file the right paperwork that reports on potential issues. While the intention of eradicating or even dissuading the practice of having children or anyone go to work against their will, particularly in dangerous situations, is noble, the reality is that the issue is incredibly hard to police on a global scale.

Just in March, the U.S. federal appeals court excused Apple, Tesla, Microsoft and Google from being liable for forced and child labour allegations in Africa where the cobalt mining industry is rife with child labour.

In a unanimous ruling, the court upheld a previous ruling, stating that while it might be true that if Apple, for example, stopped making products with cobalt, it would purchase less of the metal from Umicore, which in turn might purchase less from Glencore, which in turn might purchase less from CMKK and so on – ultimately, the long chain of contingencies in the tech giant's supply chain created speculation, not traceable harm.

While I believe it's important that Canada follows the lead of other countries such as the United States and European Union members in trying to create more transparency in supply chains, it's equally important for consumers to know how Canadian businesses – many of which are already striving to operate ethically – may be affected by the process.

Rather than burdening these businesses with investigating and reporting potential ties, we should support them in undertaking the due diligence and attempting to detangle a messy supply chain that is fraught with unethical practices.

Companies will need to invest in compliance departments, legal counsel and possibly third-party auditors to meet these new demands, which is a hefty investment. The government should allocate funds for such purposes.

It's crucial for consumers to differentiate between companies making honest efforts to be transparent and those willfully engaging in unethical practices.

As someone who's worked in global supply chains and logistics for decades, I'm acutely aware of the intricate and often-opaque systems business must navigate to move goods from one region to the next.

The introduction of Canada's Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act represents a significant step toward acknowledging the need for a more ethical global trade system. Still, the process of fixing the systemic issues is complex and we should not unfairly penalize businesses that are striving to do the right thing.

Uranium is booming, and Canada should seize the bull by the horns

DAVID MORRISON

OPINION

Chief executive of Eight Capital, one of the largest independent investment banks in Canada

Earlier this month, the U.S. Senate passed legislation to ban Russian uranium imports, and President Joe Biden signed off on it. The ban involves a phase-in period, until the end of 2027, to allow domestic production and supplies from allies to ramp up. Given that Russia supplied the United States with roughly a quarter of its uranium needs in 2022, this is no small task. According to U.S. officials, Washington is counting on Canada to step up and fill the gap. We have just three years to prepare – less if the Russians retaliate by pre-emptively restricting their exports. Our usual glacial pace will not cut it.

Even before this ban was considered, uranium had already been hurtling toward an inflection point. With the surge in demand for low-emission, reliable nuclear power, paired with a prolonged drought in the development of new mines, uranium catapulted into the investor spotlight over the past year. Prices have risen from US\$30 a pound in 2021 to almost US\$100 today. But investors would be mistaken to read the 75-per-cent price increase over the past year alone as a simple boom. It's becoming increasingly evident that uranium, much like oil in the 1970s and copper in the early 2000s, is setting a new floor price that will redefine its market. The days of cheap uranium are over.

Practically all of the world's current uranium supply is accounted for over the next few years. Yet even with prices nearly quadrupling in a three-year period, the world's largest producers have not begun to dramatically expand capacity. In fact, when Kazakhstan-based Kazatomprom, the world's largest uranium producer, updates the market in August with its quarterly report, it is widely expected to lower output yet again.

While there have been production shortfalls, construction delays and other uncertainties at mine sites contributing to the drought, the simple truth is their assets are depleting. Burgeoning demand will likely draw down inventories to dangerously low levels over the coming months. Utilities will rush to buy supply while they can and deplete remaining stocks. The scale of the shortage won't truly be understood until the

price of uranium rises dramatically, well above US\$100. The prices we have seen to date do not yet reflect that coming trend. There is so much pent-up demand from end-users that this is the new floor.

For Canada, this represents a golden opportunity – particularly given our abundant, high-grade uranium reserves, primarily in Saskatchewan and Nunavut. We should be positioned as a key global player, but this potential is shackled by regulatory red tape that slows down Canada's ability to capitalize on these changing market dynamics.

This is a great time to increase Canadian uranium production. But the length of the federal regulatory process for the licensing and construction of uranium mine and mill operations is a major barrier. It makes it nearly impossible for the industry to expand quickly to meet global demand.

In response to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling the Impact Assessment Act unconstitutional, some changes were included in the recent federal budget. But the best thing the federal government could do is scrap the act in its entirety. While robust environmental reviews must continue, this legislation is

Burgeoning demand will likely draw down inventories to dangerously low levels over the coming months.

inconsistent and has created uncertainty. Next, the government should expedite the development of uranium mine and mill projects by increasing support to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to reduce regulatory timelines.

Premier Scott Moe of Saskatchewan has offered some of the best lessons for eliminating the red tape holding Canada back while maintaining “best in class” environmental standards. His province's streamlined processes and reduced bureaucracy should serve as a model for the federal government. These changes won't just help Canada's uranium industry, they'll help Ontario's world-class nuclear-generating capabilities expand to attract even more manufacturers looking for low-emission, reliable energy jurisdictions.

The U.S. is counting on Canada to step it up. With the largest producers facing aging assets, and startups taking longer, Canada must speed up the permit process and ensure that policies support rather than hinder the growth of this strategically critical sector.

As uranium steps into the role once held by oil – a crucial commodity that can dictate national security and economic prosperity – Canada must not be left behind. We have the resources and expertise to lead. What remains is for our government to act swiftly to unleash this potential.



The secrets to Homes by Avi's success: Quality, honesty and years of experience

This is one of four profiles in partnership with CIBC, where leaders of Canada's Best Managed Companies share the key elements of their success.

In the 1970s in Alberta, a handful of big players dominated the housing construction industry. Avi Amir, a relative newcomer to Canada and civil engineer by trade, decided to jump in feet first.

He put a second mortgage on his house, built a fourplex, and leaned into customer service with his new home building company. "Without the customer you are nothing," says Mr. Amir, now chairman of his company, Homes by Avi. "I made sure to give customers the right home, the right product, and made sure they were happy."

Mr. Amir incorporated in 1978 and now, 46 years later, Homes by Avi employs 260 people and has three offices – Calgary, Edmonton and Austin, Texas. Specializing in building both single and multi-family homes, Homes by Avi caters to a diverse range of clients, from new home buyers and growing families to downsizers. Additionally, the company has expanded its offerings to include various services through its affiliated companies, such as condo management and leasing services via Blue Jean Management, as well as construction management and land development through Avi Construction and Avi Land, respectively.

Over the years, the company has become a dominant player in its industry and garnered many accolades, including being named as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies for 2024, a prestigious award that recognizes excellence in private Canadian-owned enterprises.

Charron Ungar, Amir's son, who became CEO in 2018, says part of their success stems from being willing to move with the markets.

"Since Avi founded the company, there have been a lot of changes in the markets we work in," says Mr. Ungar. "They've grown a lot, and we've grown with them."

It's a true family business: Mr. Amir's daughters Einat and Vered also work with the company, and one of the grandchildren recently joined as well. But Mr. Amir and Mr. Ungar emphasize the importance of taking the best aspects of a family enterprise while embracing wider business best practices.

Mr. Amir says key values are committing to quality, honesty, timely delivery and, of course, profitability. "Without a profit, we won't be able to stay around," he says.

Customers should be respected, delivered the products they want, and thanked, he adds. The same level of respect and gratitude is extended to trades, suppliers and employees, enabling them to build long-time positive

relationships with skilled tradespeople. Those relationships are an absolute must in the building business, says Mr. Amir.

"They really are the ambassadors of the company," he says. Staff turnover is minimal, with many people putting in decades, even the bulk of their careers, with the company.

Mr. Ungar brings creativity to his role – he studied Art History – but also emphasizes the value of organization and technological innovation. His recent focus has been creating systems to support operations, training and succession planning.

"We're spending a lot of time on process and consistency, and application of these processes across all our business units," says Mr. Ungar. "It really makes a difference around professionalism."

Michele Ward, chief financial officer at Homes by Avi, says this approach has benefits that go beyond the day-to-day.

"Transparency and the ability to translate financial information into operational metrics enables us to make informed decisions, optimize resource allocation and maintain strong financial health," says Ms. Ward, who joined the company 12 years ago. "It enhances trust and confidence among our stakeholders."

As well, going through the Canada's Best Managed Program – both the coaching component and the application process – has further supported Homes by Avi in becoming more systematic.

The biggest lesson, for Mr. Ungar, was about communication and perceptions. "We learned through the process of working with our coach that although we all believed we understood what and how we do things, each of us had a slightly different interpretation. By reviewing and better communicating our processes and programs, we were able to reset the team's perceptions and have the entire team come together."

The housing market is known for its inevitable ups and downs, but Mr. Ungar says the company's processes, a diversified portfolio of products and services and years of experience have enabled them to weather many storms.

"In the 46 years this company has experienced, we've been through every kind of market cycle there is," Mr. Ungar says. "What I hope more than anything is that we don't forget the lessons of the past. We got through tough years, now we're in years that afford us room for growth, [but] I don't want to lose sight of where we've been."

The company's staff has become increasingly diverse, especially with regards to gender, over the years. In an industry that can be male-dominated, Ms. Ward sees the company's greater gender balance as a core strength. "Diversity fosters innovative thinking and collaboration," she says.

Mr. Ungar says that Homes by Avi became diverse without that being the goal. "Women are as integral to our business as men; we hire the most qualified candidates for the job," he says. "We don't discriminate based on gender and have a long history of leading our industry in placing women in positions of power and influence."

The father and son at the helm of Homes by Avi are a formidable team – leveraging a combination of experience and creativity that continues to serve them well. Mr. Amir says that during the pandemic, when he was forced to stay home, he finally got into the habit of not coming into the office daily and truly embraced his more strategic role as chairman. He still wants to hear feedback from employees and customers, though.

"The reason I'm in this industry is seeing and hearing customers that are happy with the home they purchase from us," he says.

Mr. Ungar, meanwhile, is most passionate about problem-solving.

"The beauty of this industry is taking a problem like figuring out what to do with a piece of land and turning it into an opportunity by creating a product that people are willing to invest their hard-earned money in – often the largest purchase they'll make in their lifetime," he says. "It's a real privilege."

To take the next step in becoming a Best Managed company with the help of CIBC, go to cibc.com/bestmanaged.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Homes by Avi chairman Avi Amir (left) and CEO Charron Ungar meet in the company's Calgary headquarters; "The Lincoln," one of the new homes built by Homes by Avi in Calgary's Rockland Park community; Avi Amir, who incorporated Homes by Avi in 1978, relishes getting feedback from employees and customers; A meeting of the Homes by Avi finance team with (from left) controller Karlie van Schuur, property accountant Tiana Zhai, CFO Michele Ward, accountant Pravida Menon, controller Jessica Montague, senior accountant Brian Sun, accountant Suzette Hall and accounts payable specialist Robyn Kurulok.
ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID CHIDLEY



EVs: Industry and government urged to find ways to integrate with the U.S. market

■ FROM B1

Tens of billions of dollars are being spent on new plants to manufacture batteries and their components in Ontario and Quebec by General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., Stellantis NV, Honda Motor Co., Volkswagen AG, Northvolt AB and others, all with significant taxpayer subsidies. That all provides a foothold for the industry, said Matthew Fortier, the chief executive of Accelerate.

"But we have to figure out how we're really going to maximize the opportunity for Canada. That means developing approaches that benefit more segments of the supply chain and put more Canadians and Canadian firms in positions to succeed," Mr. Fortier said.

In addition to unions, the group is seeking input from companies, First Nations, think tanks, academics and the public, with the aim of making the industry more national in scope, it said.

It is looking for ideas on how to approach trade issues. That includes putting the industry front and centre as Canada, the U.S. and Mexico revisit the 2020 North American trade deal. Accelerate is seeking opinions on enacting a carbon border adjustment for Canada and the U.S.; the concept of applying sustainability standards for imports; ensuring more North American



Tens of billions of dollars are being spent by companies including Honda on new plants in Ontario and Quebec to manufacture batteries and their components. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

content in supply chains; and bolstering production of critical minerals.

The survey coincides with rising concern about China's dominance in the sector. Three weeks

ago, the Biden administration hiked tariffs on a number of EV-related items. It said it would quadruple duties on batteries to more than 100 per cent and double them on semi-conductors to

50 per cent.

"If we really want to be decoupling our supply chain from China, and clearly our U.S. friends want that, then we have to figure out how we're going to source

more North American materials throughout the supply chain," Mr. Fortier said.

The group has already surveyed top executives of automakers and suppliers, who urged industry and government to find ways to integrate with the U.S. market and fill gaps in the value chain, such as the midstream processing of critical minerals that go into cathodes and anodes for batteries. China is currently the major player in this area, and Canada has little capacity.

Chris Burns, the CEO of Bedford, N.S.-based Novonix Group, said it is crucial that policies can survive election cycles. The company makes battery-cell testing gear in Canada and produces synthetic graphite anode material in the U.S.

China has built up its battery industry over more than two decades, without having to deal with shifts in political winds, Mr. Burns said.

"It's because they've had a very consistent set of five-year plans where batteries and energy storage have always been a critical focus," he said.

"So we need a set of strategies now and we need to ensure that those strategies are not abandoned with any changes in potential power. We need to understand where we want the country to be, not in 2025 or 2026, but where we want it to be by 2030 or 2035."

Markets: Move will make international trading slightly more complicated

■ FROM B1

"Even though direct investors aren't directly involved in those processes, their agents are, and by making the ecosystem less risky and more efficient, where cash can be better utilized through settlement, that drives positive benefits downstream to the end investor," said Kevin Sampson, president of the Canadian Depository for Securities Ltd.

CDS, which is owned by Toronto Stock Exchange operator TMX Group Ltd., provides settlement and clearing services for all Canadian-listed equities, debt, fixed income and money market securities that trade on every marketplace in the country.

"Our systems were already T+1 compatible but, given our role in the market, we are all hands on deck to make sure it is a smooth transition," Mr. Sampson said.

Part of the reason T+1 leads to lower market risk is because the longer it takes for a trade to settle, the more likely that trade will result in what is known as a failure to deliver. That occurs in situations in which either the buyer lacks the funds to acquire the security or the seller does not actually own the correct number of securities.

Addressing failure to deliver risk has been a key part of the reason why experts have spent decades calling for a T+1 regime to be implemented.

"A longer settlement period may have a particularly adverse effect in times of a steep market decline," reads an excerpt from a 23-year-old Canadian Capital Markets Association report that advocated for a T+1 regime to be adopted. "Indeed, the earlier shortening of the settlement period from T+5 to T+3 was in part a response to the 1987 market decline."

After moving from a post-trade settlement deadline of five business days to three business days in 1995, the now-former T+2 regime was adopted in 2017. While the consequences of moving to T+1 are expected to be broadly positive, there are some potential drawbacks.

Settlement failure rates, which refer to the proportion of trades that are not completed before the settlement deadline and can therefore result in additional fees, are expected to spike. They are seen as much less detrimental than failures to deliver because those trades are usually still settled and cleared later, and might incur a fee related to the delay, whereas failures to deliver more often result in trades being cancelled outright.

According to a January, 2024, survey conducted by market research firm ValueExchange, the fail rate is expected to rise above 4 per cent shortly after T+1 is implemented from roughly 2 per cent before. Failure rates among small to mid-sized investment firms are expected to grow by 36 per cent, the survey found.

"The compressed time period to process those settlements, given it is a day less, we expected those fails to go higher," Mr. Sampson said. "We will be monitoring that extremely closely to see if that materializes, and then the question is for how long."

"It is a question of whether it is on a temporary basis until the market adjusts and optimizes the process around the new settlement regime, or whether that persists," he said.

International trading will also be made slightly more complicated by the move to T+1, as thus far only Canada, the United States, Mexico and Argentina have implemented the new regime. Markets in Europe, Asia and Britain will continue to settle on a T+2 basis, raising the potential for mismatched settlement dates and increased costs related to either money or securities not being delivered when expected.

Eventually, Mr. Sampson expects other markets to adopt a T+1 settlement regime.

"We know the U.K. has initiated a process to start examining a move to T+1 and a debate that has taken place at the EU level as well," he said.

"So I think there is still more to come in other markets."

AGI: Sales expected to pick up in the second half of the year, CEO says

■ FROM B1

In a report, analyst Tim Monachello at ATB Capital Markets said investors are concerned the industry is heading for a cyclical downturn, with U.S. farmers spending less than expected on equipment. He said the stock price also fell on concerns AGI could face delays on major commercial projects.

"AGI's stock performance opens a strong buying opportunity as the market has oversold the fundamental downside risk in 2024," Mr. Monachello said in a report aimed at investors and published Monday.

Founded in 1994 with a North American focus, AGI expanded through acquisitions and now sells to farmers in Asia, Europe and South America. The company runs 30 factories across Canada and in the U.S., Brazil, India, France and Italy.

In a report, analyst Andrew Wong at RBC Capital Markets said that while equipment sales may be slower than expected this year, "we do not believe the fundamental long-term growth thesis has changed."

In 2022, AGI named former chief operating officer Paul Householder as its chief executive officer, replacing Tim Close, who ran the company for six years. Mr. Householder's strategy includes expanding international sales of its core products, such as grain handling and storage equipment, while lowering debt levels. AGI's customers are evenly split between farmers and commercial clients such as port operators and food processing businesses.

In the first three months of the year, AGI's revenues were \$315-million, down 9 per cent from the same period in 2023. Debt levels had declined to 2.9 times earnings before interest, taxes, depre-

ciation and amortization (EBITDA), compared with 3.6 times EBITDA a year ago.

When the company announced its financial results on April 29, Mr. Householder said, "We are encouraged by our first-quarter results, which are largely on track with how we expected the year to begin." He said U.S. farmers and food processing companies were delaying equipment purchases but sales were expected to pick up in the second half of the year.

AGI shares are widely held, with no single investor owning more than 10 per cent of the company.

In a report, analyst Andrew Wong at RBC Capital Markets said that while equipment sales may be slower than expected this year, 'we do not believe the fundamental long-term growth thesis has changed.'

Its publicly traded peers include Duluth, Ga.-based AGCO Corp., with a US\$7.9-billion market capitalization; John Deere parent Deere & Company, which has a US\$103-billion capitalization; and Europe's CNH Industrial NV, which is controlled by the Agnelli family and valued at US\$13.4-billion.

Last September, AGCO spent US\$2-billion to take control of the farm technology division of Trimble

Inc., a software company. At the same time, it launched a strategic review of its grain and protein business, which competes with AGI. AGCO's review, run by investment bank Morgan Stanley, is expected to result in the sale of the business.

There are also a number of deep-pocketed private companies competing with AGI in the crop processing and handling industry, including Berkshire Hathaway Inc.-owned CTB Inc., which is headquartered in Milford, Ind., and Sheffield, Iowa-based Sukup Manufacturing Co., the world's largest family-owned grain storage company.

AG GROWTH INTERNATIONAL (AFN.T)
CLOSE: 46.02, DOWN 10¢

Gildan: No set time limit for Chamandy's rebooted leadership

■ FROM B1

A rebellion swelled up soon after, with nine dissident investors holding an estimated 35 per cent of Gildan's stock calling for Mr. Chamandy to be reinstated.

Gildan's new board has started to tally the expenses incurred in the proxy fight, including fees to pay lawyers and other advisers as well as severance for departed executives. That includes Mr. Tyra, who started as Mr. Chamandy's replacement in January, and Arun Bajaj, Gildan's former chief human resources officer.

Preliminary estimates put the total cost at US\$65-million or more, according to Mr. Chamandy.

By comparison, Walt Disney Co. last month won a high-profile proxy battle with activist investor Nelson Peltz and spent about US\$40-million on the effort, in which CEO Bob Iger rallied the support of Star Wars creator George Lucas. Disney, however, is several times the size of Gildan as measured by revenue and market capitalization.

Mr. Chamandy vowed Tuesday to buy back into Gildan after



'I'm going to be CEO until I think the time is right,' reinstated Gildan CEO Glenn Chamandy says. 'I would like to be part of the company as long as possible.' CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

selling his sizable stake. And he said he's proud to be in Quebec, saying Gildan's headquarters will "definitely" remain in the province for the foreseeable future.

He also extended an olive branch to the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. Gildan wants the pension fund giant as a long-term shareholder, he said.

The Caisse used to be one of Gildan's largest investors but sold its stake in 2022 over disagree-

ments about the company's tax strategy. The Caisse last month announced it would lend Gildan \$200-million – money that came with an endorsement of Mr. Tyra and the legacy board, but Mr. Chamandy seems ready to overlook that.

Meanwhile, a shareholder proposal asking Gildan to assess the effectiveness of its "human-rights risk infrastructure" in light of the closing of its San Miguel factory in Honduras last year was voted down at the annual meeting. But an exact tally of shareholder support wasn't immediately available. If a sizable proportion of investors backed the proposal, that would send a signal to Gildan that the issue needs to be addressed further.

The proposal comes after complaints from factory workers in Honduras, which were recently documented in The Globe and Mail. One worker, Rosa Dalila López Corea, described long workdays – 11½ hours curled over a sewing machine – and debilitating production quotas that she says have left her with chronic injuries in her shoulders, arms and hands.

Mr. Chamandy defended the company's record on working conditions and employee treatment.

"We're very comfortable" that Gildan is managing reputation risk on labour, he said. "We have 44,000 employees in the company. And trying to pick out an ex-employee that comes up and comes up front is not representative really of the truth, of the Gildan conditions. We've been very fortunate over time, I think, to have best-in-class working conditions in our facilities."

Asked whether he ever thought of just walking away from the proxy fight and doing something else, Mr. Chamandy said no because he didn't want to see the company his family founded "go into a tailspin."

Mr. Kneeland said there is no set time limit on Mr. Chamandy's rebooted leadership, though rough market guidelines would suggest a term of three to five years.

"Listen, I'm going to be CEO until I think the time is right," Mr. Chamandy said. "I would like to be part of the company as long as possible."

London aims to revive its reputation as a financial hub

British officials trying to make the city's stock market more attractive to modern industries, such as tech companies

ESHE NELSON
MICHAEL J. DE LA MERCED
LONDON

Shein, an online retail giant founded in China, had grand ambitions to go public in New York. But as relations between Washington and Beijing soured, the ultrafast fashion company began taking a closer look at a backup plan across the Atlantic.

The company is now focusing more on the London Stock Exchange for its initial public offering, according to two people with knowledge of the matter. That may not have been the company's initial choice – but it would be a big win for Britain, which has been wary of its capital city losing its status as a global financial hub.

Jeremy Hunt, Britain's top finance official, has reportedly courted Shein, anticipating that a major IPO would bolster London's standing as one of the world's leading financial centres. A spokesperson for Shein declined to comment; the British Treasury also declined to comment.

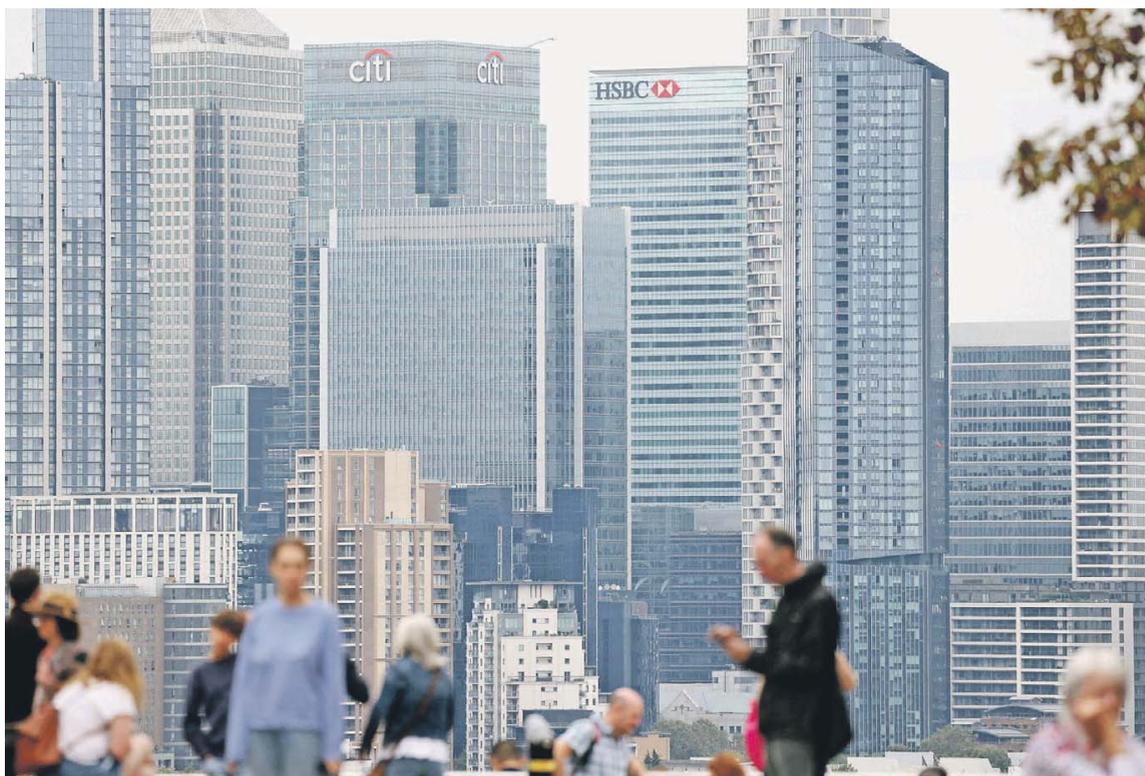
By many measures, London is still a crucial financial hub, where prices are fixed each day for precious metals, trillions of dollars of foreign currency are traded and global insurance contracts are written. But the global competition for investors – among cities such as New York; Hong Kong; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Singapore – is intense. Stock listing is a prominent business, and a big IPO like Shein's could be seen as a prize that bolsters the local financial market and sets the stage for other companies to follow.

In an effort to shore up London's position, British officials are trying to overhaul the financial sector to make the city's stock market more attractive to modern industries, particularly tech companies, rather than relying on the sectors, such as banking, that historically built London's financial sector.

London's reputation for financial services also took a hit after Britain's exit from the European Union, amid concerns that banks would move money and workers to the continent. Some of those fears were overblown, but Brexit has taken a toll. Amsterdam, for example, overtook London as Europe's largest share-trading centre about three years ago, according to Cboe Capital Markets.

The emphasis on attracting public listings to London is partly owing to pride, said Gbenga Ibi-kunle, a professor of finance at the University of Edinburgh Business School.

"London used to be recognized



London's financial district is seen in the distance from Greenwich Park. Fears that London is losing its attractiveness for publicly traded businesses have grown over the years as several companies shifted their primary listings to New York. KEVIN COOMBS/REUTERS

as the centre of the finance world," he said. "We know that is no longer the case, and that has been exacerbated by the fact that we've left the EU, and so there is a reduced number of trading, in terms of volumes, in London. And so that also reduces some of the clout the market has."

Aside from pride, analysts say, there are good economic reasons to have a healthy pipeline of listings. For one, they support a range of financial and professional service jobs, from bankers to lawyers. Public companies are also open to greater scrutiny, which can give more insight into the state of the economy.

Fears that London is losing its attractiveness for publicly traded businesses have grown over the years, as several companies, including construction materials company CRH and betting operator Flutter Entertainment, shifted their primary listings to New York from London. Others, like oil giant Shell, have acknowledged studying the idea.

Those departing have not been replaced by a wave of companies going public, either. Last year brought a significant blow as Arm, a British-born computer-chip company, listed its shares in New York. That offering, the largest in 2023, raised nearly US\$5-billion.

New York has been a long-running destination for IPOs. Many in the financial industry point to concerns that the London market, with less trading volume, leads to lower valuations than the New York exchanges can provide.

There is an advantage to being listed alongside similar compa-

nies on the same exchange because the rising tide pulls in more analysts and investors focused on those stocks, said Scott McCubbin, who leads EY's IPO team in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Part of the problem, analysts say, is that the London Stock Exchange is dominated by companies from older industries, such as banking, mining, and oil and gas. Britain has struggled to attract listings of tech companies, and prominent flops have compounded the problem. Deliveroo, a London-based food delivery company, went public in 2021 and was called "the worst IPO in London's history." (Its shares are down 63 per cent from their peak.)

"The rule change that's going on right now is saying we need to make ourselves much more attractive to tech businesses, particularly startups, particularly businesses that don't have a long track record of profitability," Mr. McCubbin said. It's about companies that build on "what does the next 10 years look like, not what did the last 10 years look like."

But advisers caution that companies considering an IPO in New York must have some natural link to the U.S. market to benefit from trading there. Flutter, for example, generates more than one-third of its revenue in the United States. Otherwise, investment fund managers would have little incentive to focus on smaller British companies over bigger ones more relevant to Americans.

The slowdown in London offerings is part of an industrywide paucity that has stretched on for more than a year amid high inter-

est rates, conflicts and geopolitical uncertainty. Just 16 companies went public in New York last year, down 84 per cent from 2022, according to the London Stock Exchange Group; by comparison, 10 companies went public in London, down 88 per cent.

That said, the companies that went public in New York last year raised a collective US\$9.5-billion, while those in London raised US\$442.7-million, according to London Stock Exchange Group data. Still, even though London struggles to compete with New York, it is a much more popular destination than its European neighbours, including Paris and Amsterdam.

The British government has announced a series of reforms in the past few years to entice companies, particularly tech startups, to raise capital through an IPO in London. For example, Britain reduced the number of shares a company is required to have in public hands to 10 per cent from 25 per cent and allowed certain dual-class listings on the premium segment of the market, changes that are intended to encourage tech founders who might want to retain greater control of their company after an IPO.

Other planned changes are expected to make it easier for companies to make big acquisitions or other transactions without getting shareholder approval.

"We've seen a couple of reforms already in place, but the vast bulk are either in flight at the moment or planned but yet to come," said Julie Shacklady, a director at UK Finance, a trade group. "So we are not really see-

ing yet the benefit of the totality of the reforms."

But she said she had "cautious optimism" about a rebound in the market later this year and did not expect that an election, even if it led to a new government, would derail the changes.

In the case of Shein, the company has said part of the reason to go public is to be more transparent in the face of accusations of poor labour and environmental practices. London is considered to have high standards for companies, with strict reporting requirements and new sustainability rules.

Beyond Shein, dealmakers and London market boosters point to other promising news for the British exchange. Raspberry Pi, a maker of low-cost computers, said it planned to go public on the London Stock Exchange.

One corporate adviser said an array of companies owned by private equity firms – which regularly take the businesses that they own public, providing a regular source of listings – might hit the London exchange starting next year.

As companies are debating whether to list in New York or London, Mr. Hunt and Bim Afolami, a Treasury minister, met with tech companies this month to promote Britain as a place to raise money.

"For a couple of years we've beat ourselves up, but actually this year we are very optimistic that we've really turned a corner," Mr. Afolami said at an event in London this month.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Adam Neumann gives up on buying back WeWork

Adam Neumann has ended his bid to reacquire WeWork Inc. as the co-working business he co-founded has chosen to emerge from bankruptcy with an "unrealistic" plan, he told The New York Times' DealBook on Tuesday.

Earlier this year, Mr. Neumann's new real estate venture, Flow Global, had submitted a bid of more than US\$500-million to take over WeWork and its assets, Reuters has reported.

"For several months, we tried

to work constructively with WeWork to create a strategy that would allow it to thrive," Mr. Neumann said in his statement to DealBook.

"Instead, the company looks to be emerging from bankruptcy with a plan that appears unrealistic and unlikely to succeed."

Mr. Neumann did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment, while WeWork, once privately valued at US\$47-billion, declined to provide a statement.

Mr. Neumann has previously said WeWork has refused to engage in talks, instead seeking to use its bankruptcy court case to "rubber-stamp" a deal that would turn over control of the company to "hand-picked buyers."

Founded in 2010, WeWork aimed to revolutionize the office market by leasing large properties on longer leases and then renting them to multiple smaller businesses seeking flexible workspaces for shorter arrangements.

Initially viewed as a disruptor, with a business model unhindered by property ownership, WeWork expanded rapidly, but the company's cash burn meant it could not keep up with debt payments.

With more than US\$13-billion in long-term leases, it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2023 to renegotiate these agreements.

Mr. Neumann was ousted in 2019 following a failed attempt to take the company public

amidst growing investor concerns about losses and his leadership.

WeWork has been on a spree to rationalize its real estate portfolio to cut down on rent obligations.

Last week, it said it has determined a path forward at over 97 per cent of its wholly owned lease portfolio and expects to reduce total rent commitments by more than US\$11-billion.

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GLOBE INVESTOR

In hard times, gold jewellery offers security

Precious ornaments are a form of financial independence in South Asian homes, expert says

YUMNA IFTIKHAR

COST OF LIVING

As a child, Adiba Ahmed didn't understand why her mother loved gold jewellery. But when her family came under financial stress and her mother sold the gold to keep them afloat, Ms. Ahmed realized that gold jewellery could be a reliable emergency fund.

Gifted gold jewellery on special occasions is a prominent tradition in many South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, from where Ms. Ahmed's family moved to Canada. Other countries where gold gifting is popular include Pakistan and India.

According to a 2023 report by the World Gold Council, Indian households own approximately 25,000 tonnes of gold, or roughly 12 per cent of all the gold that's been mined globally.

Women in India often receive gold jewellery during weddings, births and festivals. According to the World Gold Council, roughly 50 per cent of India's gold jewellery demand is at weddings.

These gold ornaments are a form of financial independence, says Satwinder Kaur Bains, director of the South Asian Studies Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley.

"It was something that was seen as sacred for the young bride as she left her family's home. She took with her an asset that could be converted into a different type of currency if she was in crisis," she said.

The metal's value as a financial asset has been underscored in recent weeks as a variety of factors – from the possibility of interest-rate cuts to concerns over geopolitical tensions – have driven gold prices to new heights. Bullion hit a record high of US\$2,449.89 an ounce on May 20, an encouraging sign for investors and resellers alike.

Indeed, Aaron McDermand, the owner of Aaron Buys Gold, two Edmonton-based gold stores, says he has seen a significant increase in the number of people selling their gold jewellery and a decrease in its purchase. He says he has purchased a lot of South Asian and Middle Eastern gold from his clients.

Ms. Ahmed was in high school when her grandmother in



For Adiba Ahmed, seen in Hamilton on Saturday, collecting and gifting gold jewellery is a family tradition that can also be used as a reliable emergency fund.

LIPA ISLAM/
THE GLOBE AND MAIL

“ [Gold] was something that was seen as sacred for the young bride as she left her family's home. She took with her an asset that could be converted into a different type of currency if she was in crisis.

SATWINDER KAUR BAINS
DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Bangladesh needed money for medical expenses. In Canada, her family was struggling financially as well; her mother was on disability benefits and could not work. Her mother sold the gold jewellery she had accumulated over the years to make ends meet.

"It helped pay for two months of rent," she said. "In my head, I [thought] it [was] just aesthetics. But it went from aesthetics to asset accumulation, which is a whole different life."

This experience taught her the importance of asset accumulation – building wealth over time through savings and investments – and became her reason to pursue a career as a financial activist and content creator. As an owner of Phoenix Consulting in Hamilton, she speaks at financial engagements and conducts workshops.

Members of the South Asian diaspora may prefer investing in gold jewellery over stocks because it is more common in their home country.

Ms. Ahmed says children may not realize the full value of their gold necklaces and bangles because parents do not have conversations on how to invest.

Parveen Mander is a Vancouver money coach who offers financial advice to clients but

does not manage investment portfolios.

She says her clients, especially first-generation Canadians, can feel guilty when they make financial decisions stemming from a lack of financial literacy.

"I think because our culture hasn't necessarily talked a lot about financial literacy," she said. "For us growing up, there's this perception of, 'Hey, I'm supposed to have it all together financially. But no one's taught me the steps on how to do that.'"

According to Prof. Bains, women saved the gold they received to pass it on to future generations. It was a way to create generational wealth and an heirloom from previous generations.

Women get attached to gold that is passed down from their parents or grandparents, she said, so it can be harder to part with it.

Ms. Mander says she sees it in her clients, "I find that typically if it's generational gold, there's a little more hesitancy to sell it off just because of the emotional value."

While the tradition of passing gold ornaments is still prevalent in older South Asian women in Canada, the younger generation is more likely to explore more profitable ways of wealth accu-

mulation, Prof. Bains says. Instead, they prefer to buy gold bars, stocks or real estate rather than gold.

As a young, first-generation Indian-Canadian, Ms. Mander says her relationship with gold jewellery is very different from her mother's. She prefers to diversify her investment portfolio and buy gold bullion.

Most of her gold jewellery was gifted to her as a child or at her wedding.

During her wedding in 2022, Ms. Mander wanted to buy gold bars instead of the traditional gold sets, but she said her mother was set on purchasing jewellery.

Similarly, Ms. Ahmed says gold jewellery is profitable mainly when gifted.

"If you are passing it on to like a family member, even like a 20-to-22-carat can do well," she said, "It's always 100-per-cent profit."

But for her, buying gold jewellery is less of an investment than bullion because it can be traded at Canadian banks. Jewellery must be sold to gold resellers.

Many things, including its purity, can affect its price. In South Asian countries, buying 22- or 24-carat gold is more accessible, but in Canada, 14- and 18-carat jewellery is more common.

How to make sure your fur babies are looked after in your estate

ANNA SHARRATT

GLOBE ADVISOR

Shelley Forsythe's black pug, Lilo, is 13. "He has been the love of our life," says Ms. Forsythe, director, family enterprise planning, at BMO Family Office in Vancouver.

As a result, she has left a comprehensive plan for her family should something happen to her and her husband and Lilo is left behind. "There are detailed instructions and a medication outline, and there are vet contact details for our adult kids who have cared for him in the past. It all needs to be thought about," she says.

Pets are increasingly making their way into estate planning conversations, says Leanne Kaufman, president and chief executive of RBC Royal Trust in Toronto. "It's a much more mainstream topic than it might have been five to 10 years ago."

Part of the reason, she notes, is a legislative change in British Columbia that recognizes pets as family members rather than property. The change to the province's Family Law Act earlier this year came after the high-profile case of Stella, a golden retriever caught in the middle of a nasty breakup.

Ms. Kaufman believes the case may set a legal precedent for other provinces about including pets in estate planning. Currently, most provinces, including Ontario, still consider pets as



Family pets are increasingly making their way into estate planning conversations, experts say. INA FASSBENDER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

property, meaning they can't receive gifts left in wills by their owners. Quebec and Alberta consider pets "sentient beings," which means their feelings matter, but legally, they're not considered to be family members.

Diana Tebby, a lawyer with Mann Lawyers LLP in Ottawa, says that although a handful of clients have asked about adding pets to their wills, most requests have been around certain rare breeds, pets with longer lifespans such as parrots, and high-value animals such as racehorses.

But Ms. Tebby's firm now prompts clients to make plans for their pets, ensuring they discuss how much money to leave, what financial vehicle to set up

for their care and who will care for them.

"We have started to ask as a firm: What happens if you have any pets?" she says.

SETTING UP A PET PLAN

Pet owners often spend thousands on food, toys, clothing, caregiving and vet bills. "People love their fur babies as much as they love their family," Ms. Forsythe says. And after they pass, these bills continue.

To ensure pets are looked after, she urges clients to work with financial advisers or lawyers to ensure their care continues after they pass away. That means including pets in a general estate

planning conversation.

The process is about clear and frequent communication between the adviser and client, Ms. Forsythe says, and between the client and future pet caregivers.

"Making the plans, whether they're informal or more formalized through documentation, is going to give people peace of mind," she says.

To that end, here are some critical considerations pet owners must make in the process of making these plans.

Communicate wishes. To provide for the pet in the will, Ms. Kaufman says clients should have an emergency plan in place for the period immediately after the client passes away.

"An estate settlement is not an overnight procedure," she says, noting that it can take weeks to months. As a result, a trusted person or multiple people should be appointed as immediate caregivers for the pet, with money set aside for its care.

Instructions on how to care for the animal should also be drawn up. These can be added to a letter of wishes, a document included alongside a trust that isn't legally binding but outlines exactly how the owner wants the pet cared for, Ms. Kaufman says.

Select a guardian. A more formal guardian of the pet can be outlined in the will, Ms. Kaufman says, noting this individual can be the same as the trusted person. They have to be amenable to caring for the pet, presum-

ably for a lengthy period of time, and be reliable with the funds they'll be managing.

"You're doing a candidate search, in a sense, and you might have two or three people that you're thinking about," Ms. Forsythe says.

As for compensation, Ms. Tebby says a portion of the amount can be left to compensate the pet's caregiver, with the remaining funds going directly to them when the pet passes away.

Determine how much they'll need. Ms. Tebby says owners need to consider a pet's projected life expectancy based on its health and age. She also says a financial adviser should discuss the amount of money in the estate vis à vis the amount being set aside for the pet's care to prevent an estate bankruptcy – resulting in no money remaining for the pet.

Consider a pet trust. While used infrequently, a pet trust is a legal structure in which an owner can leave money to a pet, who is the beneficiary. The trust must be managed by a trustee, who has to file an income tax return on behalf of the trust annually, Ms. Kaufman says.

The main advantages are that the money is managed carefully – rather than potentially pocketed – and the remaining funds can be donated to a charity. The downsides are the administrative hurdles of managing a trust along with compensation for the trustee.

Investors predict market outcomes as end to Indian election nears

ANKUR BANERJEE SINGAPORE
JAYSHREE P UPADHYAY MUMBAI
BHARATH RAJESWARAN BENGALURU

India's six-week-long national election, the world's largest, has entered its final stage with votes scheduled to be counted on June 4, and investors gearing up for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's widely expected third term in office.

But the margin of victory may be smaller than earlier expected, analysts and informal betting markets are speculating.

Reuters collected the main themes and comments from more than 10 fund managers regarding their expectations based on different scenarios.

Indian equities outperformed most major markets in 2023 and are trading at expensive valuations. Yet, they could see a short-term boost if the Modi administration comes back to power in a rare third consecutive term for any Indian government, fund managers said, as it would suggest policy continuity and political stability.

The benchmark BSE Sensex Index is up 4 per cent so far this year, with a Reuters poll of equity analysts indicating the index could double the gains by the end of the year.

Foreign investors poured in a net US\$20.74-billion into Indian equities last year, the most in emerging markets in Asia, but have pulled back this year ahead of the election.

A lower margin of victory for Mr. Modi could lead to short-term volatility, fund managers said, while a win for the opposition could lead to a sharper correction owing to policy uncertainty.

"The market is looking at continuity, so a coalition government or another party winning is not the expectation," said Mitul Kalawadia, senior equity fund manager at Mumbai-based ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund.

"There can be a knee-jerk reaction if the last scenario builds up," Mr. Kalawadia said.

A third term for a Modi-led government will allow for continuity of policies, including improved fiscal management and keeping the currency stable.

"In the last couple of years, India had a good amount of stability in terms of the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves toward supporters on Tuesday during an election event in Kolkata, India. Analysts are expecting Mr. Modi to clench a third term, though his margin of victory may be smaller than previously expected. SAHIBA CHAWDHARY/REUTERS

current account gap and fiscal discipline, and inflation has been in check," said Ashish Gupta, chief investment officer at Mumbai-based Axis Mutual Fund, who expects the focus on macroeconomic stability to continue.

"This has led to, both on debt as well as equity side, India's risk premium coming down," Mr. Gupta said.

Investors also expect the Modi government to continue focusing on turning the country into a manufacturing hub.

Mr. Modi's government has courted foreign companies, including Apple and Tesla, to set up in India as they diversify their supply chains beyond China.

A clear electoral mandate and a government perceived as pro-business and investor-friendly will likely attract foreign investment inflows, said Vivek Bhutoria, co-portfolio manager at Federated Hermes' Global Emerging Markets Equity Fund, based in London.

The election campaign has seen India's largest opposition party, the Congress, hint at policies aimed at addressing income inequalities in India but investors remain wary of such moves.

"We would like the BJP to stay away [from] overreliance on welfare schemes,"

said Gary Tan, portfolio manager at Allspring Global Investments in Singapore.

Overdependence on such schemes can stress public finances and disrupt India's macro stability narrative, Mr. Tan said.

Local media reports have also suggested the government may consider changes in capital-gains tax, which the current administration has denied.

Nilesh Shah, chief executive of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management, does not expect the government to go down that route and instead introduce policies to deepen capital markets.

With the current government focused on spending on infrastructure and pushing manufacturing, fund managers are leaning toward sectors that benefit from these policies.

Power, autos and infrastructure are some of the sectors that investors are positive on.

"We are constructive on beneficiaries from India's focus on manufacturing such as capital goods firms, automobiles and metals," said Sanjay Bambalkar, co-head of equities at Mumbai-based Union Asset Management Company.

REUTERS

Nasdaq closes above 17,000 for first time, boosted by Nvidia shares

The Nasdaq crossed 17,000 for the first time ever on Tuesday, boosted by gains in Nvidia, while the S&P 500 closed slightly higher and the Dow and TSX slightly lower as Treasury yields rose.

Nvidia jumped 7 per cent and boosted shares of other chip stocks as U.S. traders returned from a holiday-extended weekend. An index of semi-conductors rose 1.9 per cent.

Stocks lost ground in afternoon trading as U.S. Treasury yields climbed to multiweek highs after weak debt auctions.

"We had two disappointing results and we saw yields climb and the [stock] market respond negatively," said Quincy Krosby, chief global strategist, LPL Financial in Charlotte, N.C. "The market doesn't want to see yields edging up... to a level that perhaps threatens the economy and the consumer and thwarts the [Federal Reserve]'s time table for easing."

Investors are awaiting the U.S. core Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index report for April, due later this week. The Fed's preferred inflation barometer is expected to hold steady on a monthly basis.

Wall Street has been hitting records recently as investors bet the U.S. central bank could kick off interest-rate cuts this year.

Expectations for the timing of rate cuts have seen-sawed, with policy makers wary as data still reflects sticky inflation.

Odds of a rate reduction of at least 25 basis points stand above the 50-per-cent mark only for the months of November and December this year, according to the CME FedWatch Tool. The odds of a September rate cut fell to around 46 per cent from over 50 per cent a week ago.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.55 per cent, the S&P 500 gained 0.02 per cent, and the Nasdaq Composite gained 0.59 per cent.

The S&P/TSX Composite Index ended down 0.5 per cent. Since the start of May, the index has advanced 2.5 per cent.

The Toronto market's industrials sector fell 2.1 per cent as railroad stocks lost ground, while heavily weighed financials ended 1.1 per cent lower.

Bank of Nova Scotia reported better-than-expected quarterly earnings, boosted by gains in its capital market business, rises in brokerage revenue in Canada and mutual fund fees overseas. Still, its shares were down 0.8 per cent.

Energy shares were a bright spot, rising 1.4 per cent, as the price of oil settled 2.7 per cent higher at US\$79.83 a barrel on the expectation that OPEC+ will maintain crude supply curbs at its June 2 meeting.

The materials group also rose in Toronto. It was up 0.9 per cent as gold and copper prices climbed.

U.S. trading moved to a shorter settlement on Tuesday, which regulators hope will reduce risk and improve efficiency, but is expected to temporarily increase transaction failures for investors. Canada transitioned on Monday.

REUTERS, GLOBE STAFF

British lender Lloyds takes big swing with job cuts

BENJ GALLANDER
BEN STADELMANN

CONTRA GUYS

Co-editors of Contra the Heard Investment Letter

You want "BIG"? We'll give you BIG. Lloyds Banking Group (LYG - NYSE) is a huge bank with a sprawling range of businesses that is headquartered in London and has been around since 1695.

In many ways, this is a pretty typical financial institution. Besides retail and commercial banking, it is involved in insurance and pensions. Nothing very fancy, to be sure. To get a sense of its scale, note that it has more than 26 million customers and more than 63,000 employees. It also has 16 unique brands, including Lloyds, Bank of Scotland, Halifax, Black Horse and Scottish Widows. It's evidently been doing something right because it has been profitable for each of the past 10 years.

Alas, it was not always thus. There are three key strategies underpinning the bank: driving revenue growth and diversification, strengthening cost and capital efficiency, and maximizing the potential of

people, technology and data. It all sounds sensible but when the U.S. subprime mortgage crisis hit in 2007, things went badly wrong and the company needed a bailout. The government ultimately took a 43.4-per-cent stake in the business, at a cost of around £17-billion (\$29.6-billion). A few years later, the government injected more money to maintain the taxpayer's stake at 43 per cent.

And it worked out! In 2014, after four straight years of losses, the bank was back in profit and the black bottom line has increased virtually every year. The dividend that was eliminated in 2008 was restored. In 2017, the enterprise reverted to private ownership, with the government selling the shares for more than was paid - a happy ending to an exceedingly difficult story.

In the past quarter, profit fell 28 per cent to £1.6-billion (\$2.78-billion), down 28 per cent from the £2.3-billion (\$4-billion) the company made last year. Worth noting, though - and therefore skewing the comparison - is that last year was a record for Lloyds.

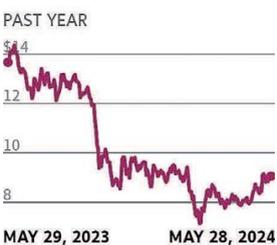
This enterprise, which is Britain's largest mortgage lender, took a hit from a very competitive marketplace and a drop in total deposits. Plus, Britain has been in recession, which hurt business and banking demand. Limited growth is expected by the pundits this year.

Group chief executive Charlie Nunn is keen on boosting Lloyds' growth. One way he is doing this is by slashing risk management jobs as he feels that the company has been overcautious. While on one level that sounds positive, on another that kind of move often leads to problems as there are not enough caretakers looking after the enterprise and too many risks are then taken.

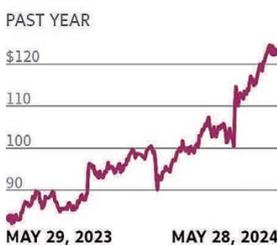
This move could blow up in the bank's face. It has been our experience that financial institutions seem to lose their way every decade or so as they pursue great growth and a fatter bottom line. Ultimately, that creates major problems not only for the banks but also in the economic system, with governments being forced into bailouts. That is when we taxpayers are ultimately forced to pony up. Very negative to be sure.

Benj jumped to buy his position in Lloyds in 2022 at US\$2.01. It has done reasonably well, now trading around US\$2.75, with the return buoyed by some dividends. The initial sell target is still far away at US\$5.54, so he is hopeful of about a double from this level. As usual, he has no time frame for when the company might reach that goal. Meanwhile, the payouts are being harvested. There is no expectation that the bank will rise above US\$45, where it traded in 2007.

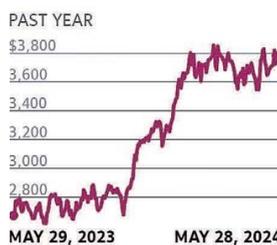
EYE ON EQUITIES DAVID LEEDER



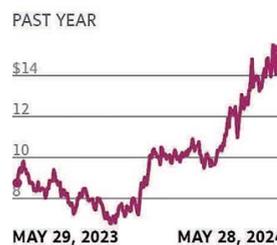
SOURCE: BARCHART
INNERGEX RENEWABLE (INE-TSX)
CLOSE \$9.05, UP 5¢



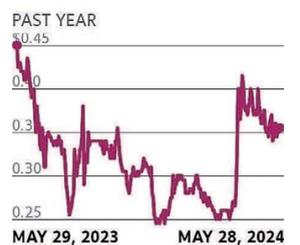
SOURCE: BARCHART
DOLLARAMA (DOL-TSX)
CLOSE \$122.80, DOWN \$1.33



SOURCE: BARCHART
CONSTELLATION SOFTWARE (CSU-TSX)
CLOSE \$3,780.01, UP \$56.98



SOURCE: BARCHART
AYA GOLD & SILVER (AYA-TSX)
CLOSE \$15.32, UP 17¢



SOURCE: BARCHART
QUISITIVE (QUIS-TSXVENTURE)
CLOSE 35¢, UNCHANGED

The demand for power has brought increased investor interest in renewables companies, according to National Bank Financial analyst Rupert Merer, who predicts "growth ahead in Canada and globally, with data centres, electrification and more." "Interest in the IPPs [independent power producers] is recovering, with an improving outlook for growth," he said. **Target:** Mr. Merer raised his Innergex Renewable Energy Inc. to a Street-high \$16 from \$15 with an "outperform" rating. Consensus is \$10.98.

Ahead of the June 12 release of its first-quarter fiscal 2025 financial results, "tailwinds for growth remain" for Dollarama Inc., according to National Bank Financial analyst Vishal Shreedhar. "Our forecast of solid same-store sales growth (on top of strong performance last year) is supported by our review of customer perception of Dollarama stores," he said. **Target:** Mr. Shreedhar hiked his target to \$130 from \$120, keeping an "outperform" recommendation. Consensus is \$116.58.

RBC Dominion Securities analyst Paul Treiber said he expects the performance of Canadian tech stocks will "strengthen" through 2024 after underperforming the broader market thus far (with the S&P/TSX info-tech index down 7 per cent year-to-date). **Target:** Seeing Constellation Software Inc. as one of the "most attractively positioned" companies moving forward, he reaffirmed with an "outperform" rating and a Street-high \$4,300 target. Consensus is \$4,153.75.

Desjardins Securities analyst John Sclochnik was "impressed" with recently announced resource estimate at Aya Gold & Silver Inc.'s Boumadine mine in western Morocco and "most excited by the continued resource growth potential." "As the only pure-play silver producer and with an unmatched growth profile, we expect Aya to trade at a premium valuation vs silver peers," he added. **Target:** Mr. Sclochnik increased his target to \$21 from \$18 with a "buy" rating. Consensus is \$18.86.

While Desjardins Securities analyst Jérôme Dubreuil's forecast for Qusitive Technology Solutions Inc. is now at the low end of its reduced guidance, he thinks its shares are "attractive at current levels given the quality of the business and low leverage." **Target:** Reiterating his "buy" rating, Mr. Dubreuil cut his target to 60 cents, matching the consensus on the Street, from 70 cents.

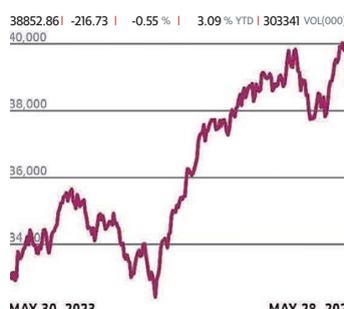
S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS



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	22265.05	-108.33	-0.48	231949	6.23
TSX 60 INDEX	1329.29	-7.71	-0.58	116031	5.10
TSX COMPLETION I	1363.04	-1.43	-0.10	115917	11.17
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	777.68	3.05	0.39	104024	10.78
TSX VENTURE COMPO	611.03	4.62	0.76	28169	10.51
TSX CONSUMER DISC	274.86	-3.50	-1.26	4436	0.59
TSX CONSUMER STAP	941.23	-10.80	-1.13	2941	8.74
TSX ENERGY CAPPD	300.65	4.05	1.37	55847	24.20
TSX FINANCIALS CA	399.60	-4.39	-1.09	40938	4.11
TSX HEALTH CARE C	23.32	-0.33	-1.40	1706	-1.69
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	442.90	-9.57	-2.12	10404	4.83
TSX INFORMATION T	208.51	0.73	0.35	15471	-1.99
TSX MATERIALS CAP	383.88	3.31	0.87	59064	21.11
TSX REAL ESTATE C	289.09	-4.69	-1.60	5275	-6.58
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	330.81	3.23	0.99	65767	16.50
TSX GLOBAL MINING	125.88	1.31	1.05	161298	11.36
TSX ENERGY TRNG	196.65	-4.33	-2.15	6377	-5.26
TSX PREFERRED SHA	603.50	-0.36	-0.06	3033	11.67
TSX COMMUNICATION	156.20	-0.19	-0.12	10387	-9.48
TSX UTILITIES CAP	281.07	-4.23	-1.48	13155	-0.50

TSX VOLUME
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	55.54	0.26	0.47	12108	30.84
MFC MANULIFE FIN	35.79	-0.73	-2.00	7952	22.23
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	49.33	-0.24	-0.48	7247	3.42
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	5.04	0.25	5.22	6400	15.07
BIF BIF FARMS LTD	3.01	0.15	5.24	5523	-21.82
K KINROSS GOLD CO	11.17	0.06	0.54	5450	39.28
NGD NEW GOLD INC	2.88	0.09	3.23	5057	50.00
PPL PEMBINA PIPEL	50.18	0.42	0.84	5015	10.00
HBM HUBBARD MINERA	13.66	0.23	1.71	4467	87.38
CVE CENOVUS ENER	28.62	0.80	2.88	4450	29.62
OGC OCEANAGOLD CO	3.24	0.05	1.57	4429	27.56
ATH ATHABASCA OIL	5.13	0.14	2.81	4394	23.02
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	75.78	-1.19	-1.55	4314	-11.49
LUN LUNDIN MINING	16.97	0.31	1.86	4194	56.55
SFL SUN LIFE FINA	68.96	-1.24	-1.77	3904	0.35
BCE BCE INC	23.80	0.16	0.68	3850	-0.58
BNS BANK OF NOVA	65.04	-0.55	-0.84	3763	0.84
BCE BCE INC	45.84	-0.18	-0.39	3563	-12.13
SDE SPARTAN DELTA	4.24	0.18	4.43	3549	42.28
CNQ CANADIAN NATU	105.67	0.88	0.84	3523	21.73

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
BBD-A BOMBARDIER	90.69	-0.15	-0.17	11	69.74
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	90.75	-0.23	-0.25	486	70.55
BN-PR-Z BROOKFIELD	21.64	0.00	0.00	2	16.85
BN-PF-B BROOKFIELD	20.27	-0.12	-0.59	5	14.97
BN-PF-F BROOKFIELD	20.74	-0.01	-0.05	97	17.91
BN-PF-J BROOKFIELD	23.15	0.09	0.39	2	18.84
BN-PF-J BROOKFIELD	23.07	0.27	1.18	3	15.12
CF-PR-C CANACCORD	20.00	0.35	1.78	20	48.89
CLU CELESTICA INC	21.39	0.42	2.00	3	14.57
CLS CELESTICA INC	81.07	0.47	0.58	714	108.89
CVE-PR-G CENOVUS	23.97	0.04	0.17	5	7.73
CLC-PR-C CO-OPERA	20.38	0.17	0.84	1	7.26
ELF-PR-F E-L FINA	21.21	0.05	0.24	3	8.77
EFN-PR-C ELEMENT	25.29	0.02	0.08	8	2.18
EMA-PR-H EMERA IN	23.05	0.27	1.19	8	5.25
EQB-PR-K ENBRIDGE	22.68	0.39	1.75	6	11.45
EQB-PR-C EQUITABL	25.05	0.10	0.40	2	6.78
FH-PR-K FAIRFAX	21.92	0.17	0.78	19	16.66
FH-PR-D FAIRFAX	22.85	0.10	0.44	4	13.40
GWO-PR-P GREAT WE	21.50	0.03	0.14	29	4.62

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ACD ACCORD FINANC	4.00	-0.10	-2.44		-13.23
AFN AG GROWTH INT	46.02	-0.10	-0.22	64	-8.91
BHC BAUSCH HEALTH	8.46	-0.05	-0.59	396	-20.41
DAY DAYFORCE INC	73.87	-3.13	-4.06	19	-16.88
FCEM FIDELITY EME	9.92	-0.09	-0.90		-0.40
FTH FIDELITY TAC	10.10	-0.03	-0.30		-0.69
AG FIRST MAJESTIC	10.38	0.22	2.17	385	
USLL GLOBAL X ENH	19.88	-0.27	-1.34		-0.40

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
GWO-PR-T GREAT WE	20.65	0.12	0.58	6	6.99
GWO-PR-L GREATWE	19.42	-0.01	-0.05	5	6.06
GWO-PR-L GREATWE	22.43	0.17	0.76	4	4.81
IFC-PR-C INTACT F	22.00	0.00	0.00	6	2.55
IFC-PR-A INTACT F	19.80	0.04	0.20	2	13.14
MFC-PR-J MANULIFE	24.49	0.50	2.08	14	6.62
MFC-PR-Q MANULIFE	24.05	0.05	0.21	7	8.33
MFC-PR-I MANULIFE	24.84	0.05	0.20	6	10.35
PAAS PAN AMERICAN	30.91	0.97	3.24	1131	42.90
PPL-PR-J PEMBINA	23.20	0.00	0.00	4	17.47
PWF-PR-R POWER FI	20.34	0.09	0.44	1	6.83
RY-PR-S RBC PREF	21.59	-0.06	-0.28	27	5.63
RY-PR-S RBC PREF	25.00	0.05	0.20	27	10.77
TD-PF-J TD BANK P	24.55	-0.11	-0.45	61	33.42
MNS ROYAL CDN MIN	24.75	0.40	1.64	11	47.76
RY-PR-H ROYAL BAN	24.86	0.18	0.73	15	9.71
TAP-PR-F TRANSALTA	19.16	0.08	0.42	93	7.34
TFPM TRIPLE FLAG	24.05	-0.23	-0.95	93	36.34
UNC-PR-B UNITED C	34.90	2.00	6.08		19.11
UNC-PR-A UNITED C	34.90	2.90	9.06		5.76

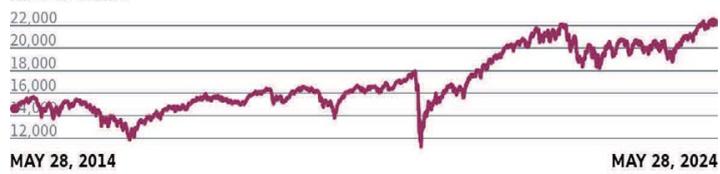
TSX GAINERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
UNC-PR-A UNITED C	34.90	2.90	9.06		5.76
PIF POLARIS INFRA	13.39	1.05	8.51	228	1.21
TSX TELESAT CORP	13.10	1.00	8.26	6	-5.21
GTE GRAN TIERRA E	12.58	0.85	7.25	130	69.09
SBN-PR-A S SPLIT	9.54	0.64	7.19	14	14.94
FYS FORTYSE METALS	1.09	0.07	6.86	151	43.42
DCA DUNDÉE CORP	1.30	0.08	6.56	21	41.30
PTM PLATINUM GROU	2.61	0.16	6.53	128	74.00
PYM PRIME MINING	2.22	0.13	6.22	364	48.00
UNC-PR-B UNITED C	34.90	2.00	6.08		19.11
GMIN G MINING VEN	2.18	0.12	5.83	887	54.61
QUIPT QUIPT HOME M	4.54	0.25	5.83	65	-32.74
TOT TOTAL ENERGY	9.80	0.53	5.72	152	29.63
PHX PHX ENERGY SE	9.25	0.50	5.71	287	14.20
SEA SEABRIDGE GOL	21.65	1.11	5.40	53	34.81
BIF BIF FARMS LTD	3.01	0.15	5.24	5523	-21.82
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	5.04	0.25	5.22	6400	15.07
GMX GLOBEX MINING	1.04	0.05	5.05	10	11.83
CNL COLLECTIVE MI	4.38	0.21	5.04	85	3.55
PPTA PERPETUA RES	8.52	0.40	4.93	10	103.34

TSX LOSERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ROOT ROOTS CORP	2.03	-0.28	-12.12	84	-18.80
TGO TERAGO INC	1.82	-0.19	-9.45	4	19.74
SGR-U SLATE GROCE	8.06	-0.82	-9.23		-11.82
AIDX HEALWELL AI	1.82	-0.17	-8.54	986	142.67
WEED CANOPY GROWT	11.55	-1.06	-8.41	1736	70.86
LGO LARGO RESOURC	2.65	-0.23	-7.99	60	-13.11
HPS-A HAMMOND POW	117.39	-9.27	-7.32	94	43.68
OPT OPTIVA INC	6.37	-0.48	-7.01		93.03
LAC LITHIUM AMERI	4.95	-0.31	-5.89	1325	-41.76
MDNA MEDICENNA TH	2.30	-0.14	-5.74	43	447.62
ACB AURORA CANNAB	8.60	-0.51	-5.60	1168	32.31
BBU-UN BROOKFIELD	25.00	-1.43	-5.41	64	-8.59
ACQ AUTOCANADA IN	20.12	-0.98	-4.64	34	-12.14
HOD BETAPRO CRUDE	6.63	-0.30	-4.33	795	-28.48
LFE CANADIAN LIFE	4.83	-0.21	-4.17	88	13.65
BEF-UN BROOKFIELD	37.83	-1.63	-4.13	397	8.68
RCH RICHELIEU HAR	37.84	-1.63	-4.13	61	-21.13
BOS AIRBOSS AMERI	5.66	-0.24	-4.07	19	15.75
DAY DAYFORCE INC	73.87	-3.13	-4.06	19	-16.88
WFS WORLD FINANCI	2.39	-0.10	-4.02	2	151.58

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX
PAST 10 YEARS



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	11.65	0.07	0.60	469	36.58	CSH-UN CHARTWELL	12.37	-0.07	-0.56	287	5.55	IVN IVANHOE MINES	20.59	0.88	4.46	2042	60.23
AOI AFRICA OIL CO	2.51	0.01	0.40	291	8.00	CHP-UN CHOICE PRO	12.69	-0.27	-2.08	441	-9.03	JWL JAMESON WEL	26.12	-0.03	-0.11	48	-17.68
AEM AGNICO EAGLE	94.07	0.24	0.26	854	29.48	CCA COGECO COMMUN	54.52	-1.25	-2.24	92	-8.14	KNT K92 MINING IN	7.90	0.16	2.07	819	21.35
AC AIR CANADA	18.14	-0.27	-1.47	1903	-2.94	CIG COLLIERIES INT	153.85	-1.12	-0.72	71	-8.20	KEY KEY EXPLORAT	6.16	0.21	3.53	507	7.69
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	23.34	0.38	1.66	469	30.98	DOL DOLLARAMA INC	122.80	-1.33	-1.07	546	28.60	KEY KEYERA CORP	35.88	-0.12	-0.33	1440	12.02
ASTL ALSTOM STEEL	10.81	1.18	16.69	29	-18.42	DIR-UN DREAM INDU	1										



SPORTS

Women's pro soccer league to move forward with six teams, writes **Simon Houpt** ■ B12

Oilers look to regroup after Stars' comeback win in Game 3, writes **Marty Klinkenberg** ■ B13

{ TENNIS }



Return in red

Novak Djokovic stretches to return a shot on Tuesday during his first-round match at the French Open in Paris against Pierre-Hugues Herbert. Djokovic prevailed with a 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-4 victory. Read the story on ■ B14

GONZALO FUENTES/REUTERS

Ángel Hernández missed everything in his career. Will baseball miss him too?

CATHAL KELLY

OPINION



It's impossible to pick the single worst call made by umpire Ángel Hernández – there are so many – but the most amusing was the ejection of Steve 'Mongo' McMichael. Hernández, who retired mid-baseball-season on Monday, ejected a million guys over the course of his career. His hair trigger had been pulled so many times that it was bald.

But McMichael was a special case because he wasn't a baseball manager or a baseball player or a baseball anything. He had played football for the Chicago Bears.

Years back, they invited him to lead Cubs fans in song during the seventh-inning stretch. Standing there with a beer in one hand and a mic in the other, McMichael shouted. "Don't worry, I'll have some speech with that home-plate umpire after the game."

Here's a couple of good rules about life – you don't pick fights with 350-pound men they call Mongo, and you don't get to tell the customers how they can feel. But Hernández was never bound to the norms of the entertainment business.

(Later, Hernández would say that the hadn't ejected McMichael, but had complained to the crew chief, who had security eject him. That explanation ought to be added to Hernández's greatest hits.)

Hernández did it all over the course of a 30-plus-year career in Major League Baseball. He missed tags, slides, touched bases, caught flies. You name it, he missed it. His spécialité de la stadium was the unswung-on ball just outside the zone.

The rule book says the strike zone is "the area over home plate from the midpoint between a batter's shoulders and the top of the uniform pants."

For Hernández, the strike zone sometimes extended from one dugout to the other. Or from a point one inch below the dirt to the highest point you can reach on tippy toes. Or the radius of a bottle cap. It was hard to tell on a given night.

Hernández practically invented that thing where batters stare blankly toward centre field for 10 long seconds after they have been called out on strikes because they can-NOT believe what has just happened. Or that one where the pitcher has a mound conniption because he's just walked another one with a pitch so directly down the middle that it could be campaigning.

For the first two decades of Hernández's career, instant replay was a blunt tool used sparingly by licensed broadcasters. Then the computer wonks turned it into a stiletto anybody could stab you with. At that point, Hernández became whatever the opposite of a folk hero is.

In one 2018 American League Divisional Series game, Hernández had three calls at first base overturned by replay in the first four innings. Later in the same series, Yankees pitcher C.C. Sabathia put the first of many shanks in him.

"I don't think Ángel Hernández should be ump'ing playoff games. He's absolutely terrible. Terrible behind the plate today. Terrible at first base."

■ KELLY, B14

My father's brush with Bill Walton became a tall tale worthy of the legend

PHILIP KING

Bill Walton had led UCLA to two U.S. college basketball titles – including a jaw-dropping performance of shooting 21-for-22 from the field in the 1973 championship game – and had already twice been chosen as the NCAA player of the year, but by that summer, my father only knew him as a hitchhiker.

It would have been hard to miss Walton – a 6-foot-11 redhead who would later describe himself as having a "big nose, freckles and goofy" – as he stood on the side of Highway 11, north of North Bay, Ont., sticking out a thumb. But my father, alone in his car, pulled his Pontiac Ventura onto the side of the road, rolled down the window and asked, "Where are you going?" The freakishly tall man leaned in and replied, "north."

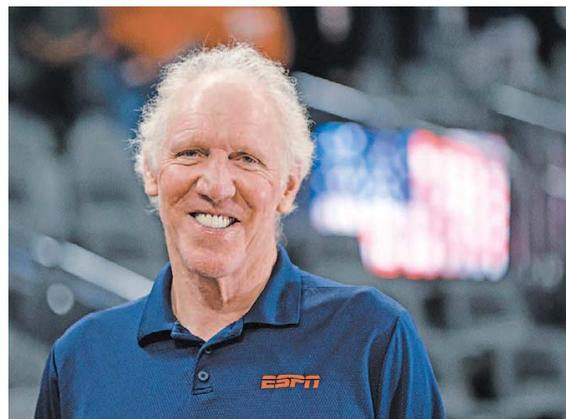
"Perhaps you know me," Walton, then 21, slowly told my father as they drove (Walton had a stammer in those days). "Perhaps you've heard of the UCLA Bruins basketball team?"

"I'm sorry," my father said, "but I've never heard of them." My father, who followed the CFL and NHL, was clueless about Walton and oblivious to other sporting events in the United States.

And so for the next several hours, the native of Bolton, Ont., listened in rapt attention – at first he didn't believe half of what he was being told – and learned about the foreign sport of U.S. college basketball and the tall American man who said he went to school in California. Player of the year, twice? Uh huh. Turned down a chance to play on the 1972 U.S. Olympic basketball team? Sure. Pull the other finger.

Eventually, my father came around and realized he was with a future star.

Before meeting Walton, my father's only near-brush with greatness was seeing boy scout founder Lord Baden-Powell – from a distance – in the Coliseum at Toronto's Exhibition Place



Sportscaster and former NBA player Bill Walton, who died of cancer this week, stands at the Las Vegas T-Mobile Arena before broadcasting the Pac-12 Coast-to-Coast Challenge in 2021. ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

during a jamboree in 1936. But this shaggy hippy character, who shared a long ride on the way to Cochrane, Ont., was much taller. And much closer.

Over the decades, as my father frequently retold this tale, the car became smaller, Walton became taller, and my father the hero in the story for picking him up. Why was Walton hitchhiking? Why, to go north. And that UCLA basketball team? Why, the best in the world.

Walton's fame only grew.

He ended up being a key component in the legendary teams of UCLA coach John Wooden, winning the NCAA player-of-the-year award one more time, being picked first in the 1974 NBA draft, winning numerous individual awards, the league championship twice and eventually becoming a hall-of-famer. Walton also enjoyed a stellar broadcasting career, which itself lasted almost 20

years. He died of cancer this week at the age of 71.

Over the decades, as my father frequently retold this tale, the car became smaller, Walton became taller, and my father the hero in the story for picking him up. Why was Walton hitchhiking? Why, to go north. And that UCLA basketball team? Why, the best in the world.

Eventually, my father grew to believe Walton would never forget that slow ride in a small Pontiac with no air conditioning and a driver who would steer with one hand and tamp his pipe with the other.

And it appears Walton had remembered it.

Sportsnet reporter Michael Grange, who previously worked for The Globe and Mail, mentioned my father's hitchhiking anecdote to Walton when he saw him in Toronto several years ago. Walton, Grange wrote on the social-media outlet X on Monday, "thought for a moment, shrugged and said, 'sounds about right.'"

As they departed, my father asked Walton what he thought about the Toronto Argonauts' chances in the CFL that season.

"I'm sorry," Walton said, "but I've never heard of them."

Northern Super League rides wave of women's sports

Set to launch with six teams, the startup is developing on the heels of the PWHL and news the WNBA will venture into Toronto market

SIMON HOUP

The new Canadian women's professional soccer league will kick off next April with just six teams, two fewer than the eight its founders originally envisioned, after the appetite for investment in the startup proved less than anticipated.

Diana Matheson acknowledged the shortcoming in an interview with The Globe and Mail ahead of an industry event on Tuesday afternoon in which she announced the new entity would be known as the Northern Super League.

When Matheson, a former national women's star and Olympic bronze medalist, announced the league's formation in December, 2022, she declared it would comprise four teams in the West and four in the East. In fact, the four teams previously announced — Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Halifax — will be joined only by Montreal and Ottawa, which were unveiled Tuesday at the ESPNW Summit, hosted by the U.S. sports broadcaster ESPN.

The decision to launch the league, originally known as Project 8, with only six "really came down to the investors, the ownership groups and the markets that were ready to go for 2025," said Matheson. "Sport is not the easiest investment. It's pretty cash and time and labour intensive. It's not as simple as, you write a cheque for a million dollars and



Diana Matheson, centre, stands with Montreal Northern Super League owners Isabèle Chevalier, right, and Jean-François Crevier on Monday in Montreal. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

you're done."

The Northern Super League's brand unveiling comes as women's pro sports are on an upswing, with a flood of sponsorship dollars and fan excitement for the new Professional Women's Hockey League as well as Toronto's newly announced WNBA team, which is slated to launch in 2026.

But not all women's pro sports ventures are built equally. The PWHL has the advantage of being a single-entity undertaking, backed by the billionaire investor and philanthropist Mark Walter, rather than a collection of team owners. The new Toronto WNBA team is owned by the local billionaire and chairman of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, Larry Tanenbaum, and comes with a reported price tag of US\$115-million, which includes the franchise fee and the cost of building a practice facility.

The owners of the Northern Super League, in contrast, include only one with experience

running a pro sports team: Greg Kerfoot, whose Vancouver Whitecaps of the MLS will own the local NSL team.

Matheson says she believes the NSL will be able to compete for talent with top-tier women's soccer leagues within a few years.

The Montreal NSL team owners include Jean-François Crevier, the president of a commercial lubricant distribution company, and Isabèle Chevalier, an entrepreneur and the former chief executive of probiotics company Bio-K+ as well as one of the "dragons" on the Radio-Canada's edition of *Dragon's Den*. The CEO of the Halifax team is Courtney Sherlock, a veterinarian and entrepreneur. The website of AFC Toronto currently offers a downloadable investor deck for those

looking to buy a piece of the team.

The NSL franchise fee is \$1-million, and Matheson has told owners they will need to invest \$8-million to \$10-million over the first five years, not including the costs of upgrading infrastructure.

"We're almost a bit small for the big guys," she said, noting that owners will need to invest time and expertise. While established sports holding companies may have cash to spare, they may not want to be distracted from their core businesses for a relatively minor financial concern. "I've heard many times, it's easier to raise \$10-million than \$1-million. And \$100-million more than \$10-million."

"It's only once we kick a ball and we're in front of fans and start to grow and build that we'll get some of those bigger folks, I think, that initially passed because it wasn't quite big enough."

Citing her former coach who helmed the Canadian women when they won bronze in 2012, Matheson also suggested that some people who are currently in the business of pro sport may not see what is possible.

"John Herdman used to say, when we were playing, to be very careful not to put yourself in a performance cage. If you think you're not good at hitting that 40-yard diagonal, guess what? You're not going to hit any 40-yard diagonals during the game. And a lot of what we had seen in women's pro soccer over the last decade has been the people that have been in charge of making the decisions have put women's sport in a performance cage."

Matheson is consciously aiming to avoid any such self-imposed limitation with the new name of the league, which doesn't include the word "Canadian," "women" or even "soccer."

(The NSL's U.S. counterpart, meanwhile, is known as the National Women's Soccer League, while the highest-ranking English women's league is known as the Women's Super League.)

"We had a lot of discussions — do we include 'women'?" Matheson said. "You can say that you want to say 'women's' loud and proud in the title, because that's a huge part of what we're doing." Still, "It felt like the right decision not to necessarily include it, and just be out there as a pro sport league name — because at the end of the day, that's what we are."

Matheson says she believes the NSL will be able to compete for talent with top-tier women's soccer leagues within a few years. It will have a salary cap of \$1.5-million in the first year, with a minimum salary of \$50,000. (The NWSL doubled its salary cap this year, to US\$2.75-million.) There will not be a maximum salary, but the league will have a marquee-player exemption that will enable each team to sign one player for an exceptional salary, only \$75,000 of which will count toward the cap.

Matheson believes there will be dozens of Canadian women currently abroad who will want to return to play at home for a variety of reasons, including greater potential to build and monetize their personal brand. "When you're playing in Norway, you're not being offered sponsorships by Norwegian companies. But when you move home, you have the opportunity to do that here." She noted that most of the player signings will not occur until this fall or winter, once the leagues they are in have concluded their current seasons.

NSL teams will each play 25 games, with playoffs and the first national championship scheduled for the fall of 2025.

NHL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7) — All Times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

N.Y. RANGERS (M1) VS. FLORIDA (A1)
(N.Y. Rangers leads series 2-1)

Tuesday
N.Y. Rangers at Florida

Sunday
N.Y. Rangers 5 Florida 4 (OT)

Thursday, May 30
Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 1
x-N.Y. Rangers at Florida, 8 p.m.

Monday, June 3
x-Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

DALLAS (C1) VS. EDMONTON (P2)
(Dallas leads series 2-1)

Monday
Dallas 5 Edmonton 3

Wednesday, May 29
Dallas at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 31
Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

Sunday, June 2
x-Dallas at Edmonton, TBA

Tuesday, June 4
x-Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

x — played only if necessary

PLAYOFF SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Leon Draisaitl, Edm	9	16	25
Connor McDavid, Edm	4	21	25
Evan Bouchard, Edm	5	17	22
Vincent Trocheck, NYR	7	11	18
Matthew Tkachuk, NYR	5	13	18
Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	4	13	17
Zach Hyman, Edm	13	3	16
Carter Verhaeghe, Fla	8	8	16
Jason Robertson, Dal	6	10	16
Miro Heiskanen, Dal	6	9	15
Aleksander Barkov, Fla	6	9	15
Cale Makar, Col	5	10	15
Wyatt Johnston, Dal	8	6	14

Not including Tuesday's games

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7) — All Times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

BOSTON (1) VS. INDIANA (6)
(Boston wins series 4-0)

Monday
Boston 105 Indiana 102

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MINNESOTA (3) VS. DALLAS (5)
(Boston wins series 4-0)

Tuesday
Minnesota at Dallas

Sunday
Dallas 116 Minnesota 107

Thursday
x-Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 1
x-Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, June 3
x-Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

x — played only if necessary

AHL CALDER CUP PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

HERSHEY (A1) VS. CLEVELAND (N1)
Thursday
Cleveland at Hershey, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Cleveland at Hershey, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4
Hershey at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

COACHELLA VALLEY (P1) VS. MILWAUKEE (C1)
Wednesday
Milwaukee at Coachella Valley, 10 p.m.

Friday
Milwaukee at Coachella Valley, 10 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4
Coachella Valley at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

2024 MEMORIAL CUP

CANADIAN MAJOR JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

At Saginaw, Mich.

	GP	W	L	GF	GA	Pt
London (OHL)	2	2	0	9	4	4
Saginaw (OHL/host)	2	0	9	7	4	0
Moose Jaw (WHL)	2	0	2	8	10	0
Drummondville (OHL)	2	0	2	3	8	0

Tuesday
Drummondville vs. Moose Jaw

Monday
London 5 Moose Jaw 4

Wednesday — All Times Eastern
Saginaw vs. London, 7:30 p.m.

END OF ROUND ROBIN

PWHL PLAYOFFS

THE WALTER CUP

(Best-of-5) — All Times Eastern

BOSTON (3) VS. MINNESOTA (4)
(Series tied 2-2)

Sunday
Boston 1 Minnesota 0 (2OT)

Wednesday
Minnesota at Boston, 7 p.m.

ATP/WTA TOUR

FRENCH OPEN

At Paris

Tuesday

MEN'S SINGLES — FIRST ROUND

Casper Ruud (7), Norway, def. Felipe Meligeni Alves, Brazil, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Tomas Martin Etcheverry (28), Argentina, def. Arthur Cazaux, France, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Alex de Minaur (11), Australia, def. Alex Michelsen, USA, 6-1, 6-0, 6-2.

Taylor Fritz (12), USA, def. Federico Coria, Argentina, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1.

Mariano Navone (31), Argentina, def. Pablo Carrero Busta, Spain, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3, 6-0.

Holger Rune (13), Denmark, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Giulio Zepieri, Italy, def. Adrian Mannarino (22), France, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2.

Tallon Griekspoor (26), Netherlands, def. Mackenzie McDonald, USA, 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Pierre-Hugues Herbert, France, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	37	18	.673	—
Baltimore	34	19	.642	2
Boston	28	27	.509	9
Tampa Bay	26	29	.473	11
Toronto	24	29	.453	12

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	36	18	.667	—
Kansas City	34	21	.618	2 1/2
Minnesota	29	24	.547	6 1/2
Detroit	26	27	.491	9 1/2
Chicago	15	40	.273	21 1/2

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	29	26	.527	—
Texas	25	29	.463	3 1/2
Houston	24	30	.444	4 1/2
Oakland	23	33	.411	6 1/2
Los Angeles	20	33	.377	8

Tuesday
Boston 8 Baltimore 3

Wednesday
Oakland 3, Tampa Bay 0

Thursday
Kansas City at Minnesota

Friday
Toronto at Chicago White Sox

Saturday
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels

Sunday
Houston at Seattle

Monday
Baltimore 11, Boston 3

Tuesday
Minnesota 6, Kansas City 5

Wednesday
Toronto 5, Chicago White Sox 1

Thursday
Seattle 3, Houston 2

WOMEN'S SINGLES — FIRST ROUND

Elena Rybakina (4), Kazakhstan, def. Greer Minnen, Belgium, 6-2, 6-3.

Zheng Qinwen (7), China, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-2, 6-1.

Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, def. Erika Andreeva, Russia, 6-1, 6-2.

Daria Kasatkina (10), Russia, def. Magdalena Frech, Poland, 7-5, 6-1.

Elise Mertens (25), Belgium, def. Maria Carle, Argentina, 6-3, 7-6 (8).

Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Sorana Cristea (28), Romania, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5).

Madison Keys (14), USA, def. Renata Zarazua, Mexico, 6-3, 6-2.

Emma Navarro (22), USA, def. Zeynep Sonmez, Turkiye, 6-2, 6-0.

Victoria Azarenka (19), Belarus, def. Nadia Podoroska, Argentina, 6-1, 6-0.

Paula Badosa, Spain, def. Katie Boulter (26), Britain, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

MLS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	38	17	.691	—
Atlanta	31	21	.596	5 1/2
Washington	24	29	.453	13
New York	22	31	.415	15
Miami	19	36	.345	19

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	31	22	.585	—
Chicago	27	27	.500	4 1/2
St. Louis	26	27	.491	5
Pittsburgh	25	29	.463	6 1/2
Cincinnati	24	31	.436	8

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	34	22	.607	—
San Diego	29	28	.509	5 1/2
San Francisco	28	27	.509	5 1/2
Arizona	25	28	.472	7 1/2
Colorado	19	34	.358	13 1/2

Tuesday
L.A. Dodgers 5, N.Y. Mets 2, 10 innings.

Wednesday
St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 1

Thursday
Atlanta 2, Washington 0

Friday
L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets, 2nd game

Saturday
Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee

Sunday
Miami at San Diego

Monday
Philadelphia at San Francisco

Monday
Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 1

Tuesday
Milwaukee 5, Chicago Cubs 1

Wednesday
Washington 8, Atlanta 4

Thursday
San Francisco 8, Philadelphia 4

Friday
San Diego 2, Miami 1

Saturday
L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets, p.p.d.

Wednesday
All Times Eastern

Boston (Crawford 2-3) at Baltimore (Burnes 4-2), 6:35 p.m.

Oakland (Estes 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Pepiot 3-2), 6:50 p.m.

Kansas City (Lugo 8-1) at Minnesota (Ober 5-2), 7:40 p.m.

Toronto (Manoah 1-2) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-4), 7:40 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Gil 6-1) at L.A. Angels (Anderson 5-4), 9:38 p.m.

Houston (Brown 1-5) at Seattle (Kirby 4-5), 9:40 p.m.

Alexander Bublik (19), Kazakhstan, def. Gregoire Barrere, France, 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pct	GB
Miami	16	10	2	4	38	21	.34	—
Cincinnati	15	10	2	3	23	14	.33	3
N.Y. City F.C.	15	8	5	2	19	16	.26	2
Columbus	14	6	2	6	21	13	.24	2
New York	14	6	3	5	25	21	.23	2
Toronto	15	7	7	1	24	22	.22	2
Charlotte	15	6	5	4	14	13	.22	2
Philadelphia	14	4	6	4	25	21	.18	2
D.C.	15	4	6	2	21	18	.18	2
Orlando	14	4	6	4	15	22	.16	2
Nashville	14	3	4	7	17	20	.16	2
Atlanta	14	3	7	4	17	13	.13	2
Montreal	14	3	7	4	17	13	.13	2
Chicago	15	2	8	5	14	27	.11	2
New England	13	2	10	1	9	26	.7	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pct	GB
Salt Lake	15	8	2	5	30	17	.29	—
Minnesota	13	7	2	4	24	17	.25	2
L.A. Galaxy	15	6	2	7	27	22	.25	2
Los Angeles F.C.	14	7	4	3	25	19	.24	2
Austin	15	6	4	5	20	18	.23	2
Colorado	15	6	5	4	27	22	.22	2
Vancouver	14	5	4	5	20	17	.19	2
Houston	14	5	6	3	13	18	.18	2
Seattle	15	4	6	5	18	17	.18	2
S.t. Louis	14	3	7	4	20	22	.16	2
Portland	15	4	7	4	28	30	.16	2
Dallas	13	3	6	4	16	20	.13	2
Kansas City	14	2	7	5	22	26	.11	2
San Jose	15	3	10	2	23	34	.11	2

Wednesday — All Times Eastern
Edmonton at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday
Brampton at Niagara, 7 p.m.

Friday
Edmonton at Montreal, 8 p.m.

Saturday
Vancouver at Saskatchewan, 9:30 p.m.

TELEVISION

WEDNESDAY (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

BASEBALL

MLB: Toronto at Chicago White Sox, 7:30 p.m., SN 1

BASKETBALL

WNBA: Las Vegas at Minnesota, 8 p.m., NBA TV

CEBL: Scarborough at Calgary, 9 p.m., TSN 3

GOLF

NCAA Championships: Team Match Play Championship, 6 p.m., GOLF

HOCKEY

PWHL: Minnesota at Boston, 7 p.m., TSN 4

CHL: Saginaw vs. London, 7:30 p.m., TSN 1

NHL: Dallas at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m., CBLT (CBC, SN, O, E, W, P)

SOCCER

UEFA Europa Conference League: Olympiacos vs. Fiorentina, 3 p.m., DAZN

MLS: D.C. United at CF Montreal, 7:30 p.m., TSN 5

MLS: Minnesota United at Los Angeles FC, 10:30 p.m. TSN 5

TENNIS

ATP/WTA: French Open, 5 a.m., TSN 2, 5; 6 a.m., TSN 3

CORNERED



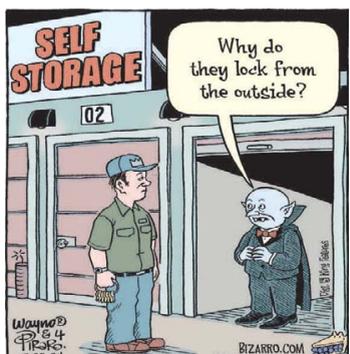
"You might find the procedure a little uncomfortable. Just last week, Amnesty International tried to shut us down."



BE HONEST... DO THINGS SOMETIMES GET HEATED?



I REGRET LETTING THE CAT TALK US INTO SIGNING THAT NDA.



Why do they look from the outside?

Oilers on verge of must-win territory after Game 3 loss to Dallas

Edmonton has struggled to finish off opponents, now trails 2-1 in Western Conference final vs. Stars

MARTY KLINKENBERG EDMONTON

The Oilers pretty much find themselves in a must-win situation on Wednesday to keep their hopes of winning the Stanley Cup alive.

They are in this predicament after a somewhat troubling 5-3 loss to the Stars on Monday. They now trail 2-1 in the best-of-seven series that will determine which club from the NHL's Western Conference advances to the final.

Edmonton jumped out to a 2-0 lead before it coughed up three goals in a span of 3 minutes 33 seconds in the second period. Although the Oilers battled back to tie it, Jason Robertson scored the winner for Dallas in the third. It was his third goal of the evening and one that was badly misplayed by goalie Stuart Skinner.

Very rarely does a team come back once it trails 3-1 in a playoff series so the Oilers must take advantage of getting to play Game 4 on their home ice. They bounced back after falling behind Vancouver 3-2 in the second round but the Stars present a much more difficult challenge.

They play an up-tempo game, roll four lines, block shots and have a significant advantage in the net with Jake Oettinger.

He has been quite good but still hasn't had a signature performance yet. If that takes place it becomes an even tougher slog for Edmonton.

Its power play has suddenly gone silent and the Oilers are now 0-4 in the postseason when a game is tied after 40 minutes. They have lacked when it comes to finishing off an opponent.

Dallas looked like it was dead in the water after the first period on Monday and then turned it up a few notches and left the Oilers in disarray.

"Every team is going to push at certain points in the game," Evander Kane, the Oilers forward, said Tuesday. "You want to make

those as short as possible when you are on the other side of it. I think last night it was a little too long and the Stars got a lot of momentum and poured it on.

"At the same time it was still a 20-minute game going to the third. They've found the timelier goal the last two games and it's something we are going to have to find."

Edmonton won Game 1 in Dallas but fell 3-1 in Game 2. Even with a 2-0 lead and a very boisterous crowd at Rogers Place it was unable to stop the Stars as they approached wave after wave.

"We did not push back quick enough," Zach Hyman said. The former Maple Leaf leads all scorers in the postseason with 13 goals. "The key to the playoffs is understanding that not every game is going to go to script. You have to be able to manage your emotions.

"After the first period we came into the locker room ecstatic how the period went and for them it was probably the opposite. But then halfway through the second they were ecstatic and we were wondering what just happened. That's just the way the playoffs go."

The Stars are 6-1 on the road at this point.

"Dallas is a great team but we are a great team, too," Hyman said.

"There were times in the game where we absolutely dominated and there were times when they were dominant. There is nothing to be upset about. We have a great opportunity with Game 4 at home and the ability to make the series a best of three and that is the mindset everybody should have."

Connor McDavid came out flying and had an assist on a goal by Hyman and then scored one of his own. Adam Henrique tied it at 3-3 near the end of the second period but Robertson then waited patiently before he jammed a puck past Skinner.

There were no more heroics and because of it, the Oilers are in a position now where they are forced to save their season.

"We all know dwelling on things in the playoffs is not the way to go," Leon Draisaitl said. "We have a great chance to tie up the series and that is the way we are looking at it. It's very simple. We just have to win one game."

Very rarely does a team come back once it trails 3-1 in a playoff series so the Oilers must take advantage of getting to play Game 4 on their home ice.

New Devils coach Keefe embraces Stanley Cup expectations

TOM CANAVAN NEWARK, N.J.

Driving past the Prudential Center for a news conference at which he would be introduced as the New Jersey Devils coach, Sheldon Keefe noticed a statue of Hall of Fame goaltender Martin Brodeur in front of the building.

It was an instant reminder that the expectations of coaching the Devils in the New York metropolitan area are no different than what was expected in Toronto for the Maple Leafs.

Winning a Stanley Cup is all that matters, and that's the goal Keefe will bring next season when he takes over another young and talented team that fell short of expectations this past season.

The Devils have won the Cup three times in 1995, 2000 and 2003, with Brodeur in goal all three times. They have only gotten back to the Cup final once (2012) and since then have made the playoffs twice in 2018 and 2023.

"I know what the expectations are here and what the potential is," said Keefe, who said several times that he viewed this job as a fresh start. "To challenge for playoff position in the playoffs and also win the Stanley Cup. Those are the expectations. That's why I've come."

Keefe led the Auston Matthews-led Maple Leafs to the playoffs in all five of his seasons but only got past the first round once. This past season ended with a first-round loss to Boston in overtime of Game 7.

Keefe was fired less than a week later. After that announcement, Keefe filmed a video for the fans, giving closure for his time in Toronto.

The good news for him was Devils general manager Tom Fitzgerald was waiting patiently in his coaching search and had Keefe in his sights if he became available.

After seeing Keefe's message, Fitzgerald called Maple Leafs general manager Brad Treliving to ask for permission to talk to his former coach.

It didn't take long and Fitzgerald and Keefe had a three-hour telephone conversation. Fitzgerald was convinced he had a coach who would hold his players accountable, be a good communicator and a teacher.

Keefe, who said this job was too good to pass over, will take over from interim coach Travis Green, who replaced the fired Lindy Ruff in March. The Brampton, Ont., native was 212-97-40 with Toronto, winning a playoff series in 2023 against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Fitzgerald said he interviewed 10 people for the job, although Green was not an option after taking the coaching job with the Ottawa Senators.

"I don't sit here and say I have all the answers and I have all the information, frankly," Keefe said at a 45-minute news conference. "But I am very excited to get to work. What I do know is the talent is there. The hunger is there and the commitment is there."

Keefe said he has spoken with returning players from last season and the common themes were they were all disappointed in missing the playoffs and they are ready to get back to work.

The Devils are loaded with fast, talented players led by Jack and Luke Hughes, Nico Hischier, Jesper Bratt, Dawson Mercer and Timo Meier. The defence struggled after losing Dougie Hamilton to a pectoral injury early in the season and the goaltending has been an issue for a while.

Keefe said he hopes the Devils revert to their form from the 2022-23 season when they had a franchise-record 112 points. They skated fast, put pressure on the puck at both ends of the ice and showed off their skills.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



[RANGERS VS. PANTHERS]

Two to tango

Alexis Lafrenière, left, of the New York Rangers battles for the puck with Oliver Ekman-Larsson of the Florida Panthers on Tuesday during Game 4 of the Eastern Conference Final at Amerant Bank Arena in Sunrise, Fla. Read the game story at

■ GLOBESPORTS.COM

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

After reaching NBA Finals, Celtics can start thinking about capturing the championship

MICHAEL MAROT INDIANAPOLIS

The Boston Celtics completed one quest Monday night by returning to the NBA Finals.

Now, they'll chase an even bigger goal, the one that's eluded this team for more than a decade — capturing the franchise's 18th championship.

Yes, despite playing for six conference titles in eight seasons, this marks only the second time Boston has advanced to The Finals during that span. And since winning their first NBA title in 1957, the Celtics' current 16-year drought is the second-longest in franchise history.

It would be the crowning achievement to what has already been a remarkable season.

"Boston has a great team. They led the league from wire to wire," Indiana Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said after his team was swept 4-0 in its first conference finals appearance since 2014. "They didn't want this thing to go on any long-

er. They blocked shots, they got offensive rebounds, they made key shots."

Boston has excelled in seemingly every possible way in this year's playoffs.

The Celtics have won seven straight games overall, they improved to 6-0 on the road with yet another comeback victory, 105-102 in Game 4 against Indiana, and they are 3-0 in elimination games. They beat Indiana three times down the stretch, rallying in the last two games with decisive 13-2 and 7-0 closing spurts to end the Pacers' perfect 2024 playoff run at home — and their season.

Next up will be the Dallas Mavericks or Minnesota Timberwolves. Dallas leads the Western Conference finals 3-0 and can clinch the series on its home court Tuesday night.

And Boston has been finding help in all corners.

While Jayson Tatum garnered the usual headlines for two 36-point outings and a near triple-double in Game 4, 37-year-old Al Horford defied the odds by mak-

ing seven three-pointers in Game 3, Jrue Holiday overcame an illness to deftly pick Andrew Nembhard's pocket, and Derrick White delivered the go-ahead 3-pointer in Game 4, everyone seemed genuinely happy it was Jaylen Brown who was chosen series MVP.

“

Boston has a great team. They led the league from wire to wire.

RICK CARLISLE INDIANA PACERS COACH

"I didn't expect that at all," Brown said before explaining the emotions of being left off the all-NBA teams. "But as time has gone by and I got to this point, I just stopped caring and I don't care who sees what as long as my team knows my value, my city knows my value, my family knows my value. That's all I really care about."

There's little doubt the Celtics understand where they would be — and where they wouldn't be —

without Brown.

He scored 29 points and grabbed six rebounds to help Boston erase an eight-point deficit in the final six minutes Monday night. And after the defence forced two late turnovers, Brown helped close it out with a brilliant block of Nembhard just before White's big shot.

The reaction was telling for Holiday, who won an NBA title with the 2020-21 Milwaukee Bucks.

"I think it's even better that he didn't expect it. That really means that didn't matter to him," Holiday said. "It was about winning and whatever it took, however long it took. That's what was important to him and I think when you have that mentality and that mindset, you see great people rewarded for the things they do."

Holiday understands.

When the Bucks traded him to Portland in September to acquire Damian Lillard, he wasn't sure what would happen next. Four days later, the Celtics made another deal with the Trail Blazers to get the two-time all-star and defensive whiz, hoping he could

help them complete their championship quest.

So far, the Celtics' investment in Holiday has delivered big dividends. And now everyone's about to find out if the addition of Holiday and the possible return of starting centre Kristaps Porzingis from a strained right calf that has kept him out since April 29 just might help Boston earn another crowning achievement.

"Obviously, we fell short of our ultimate goal last year, lost in the conference finals," Tatum said. "So I think we've just applied everything we learned to this season and this postseason and it's been working really well."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ON OUR WEBSITE

Timberwolves vs. Mavericks
The Minnesota Timberwolves were in Dallas for Game 4 of the NBA Western Conference finals on Tuesday night against Luka Dončić's Mavericks, who were on the cusp of the NBA Finals with a 3-0 series lead going into the matchup. Read the game story at globesports.com

Thompson to retire from full-time competition at end of LPGA Tour season

DOUG FERGUSON LANCASTER, PA.

Golf is all Lexi Thompson has ever known, and one of the more popular players on the LPGA Tour decided Tuesday this will be her last year playing a full schedule.

Thompson chose the U.S. Women's Open – the major she first played when she was 12 – to announce that she will step away at the end of the year. The 29-year-old American became emotional while talking about the amount of work no one sees and the loneliness she has faced.

Thompson said she has contemplated semi-retirement the past few years and cited mental health as one of the factors that contributed to her decision.

"I think we all have our struggles, especially out here," she said. "Unfortunately in golf you lose more than you win, so it's an ongoing battle to continue to put yourself out there in front of the cameras and continuing to work hard and maybe not seeing the results you want and getting criticized for it. So it's hard."

"I will stay, yes, I've struggled with it – I don't think there's somebody out here that hasn't," she said. "It's just a matter of how well you hide it, which is very sad."

Thompson is playing her 18th U.S. Women's Open before turning 30. She won the first of her 15 LPGA title at the age of 16. She is known as much for the majors she lost as the one she captured at the Kraft Nabisco Championship in 2014 when she was 19.

She made a vague reference to Grayson Murray, who spoke openly about alcoholism and his struggles with depression and anxiety from life as a tour professional. Murray, who won the Sony Open in January, died by suicide on Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kelly: Umpire profession was being put in jeopardy

■ FROM B11

At that point, Hernández was already in the middle of a racial-discrimination lawsuit against MLB because he hadn't officiated a World Series game in over a decade. He lost. Including on replay.

Under this sort of pressure to change, most people would bend a little. Not Hernández. If anything, his calls were getting more out there.

He missed most of 2023 through injury, but was back with a cock-eyed vengeance this year.

In April, he called Texas Ranger Wyatt Langford out on three taken strikes. All three were well outside what anyone would consider the zone. The third of them was seven inches wide – apparently the worst missed-strike call since they began measuring such things.

That game and the resultant conversation was some sort of tipping point. By early May, Hernández was AWOL. On Monday, he quit. His lawyer told The Athletic via text that Hernández "was NOT forced out."

Sure. The reason they still employ human referees is not so they can get it right every time. It's so they can occasionally get it wrong, and then the rest of us have something to yell at each other about.

The key word there is "occasionally." Someone who regularly blows easy decisions is putting the operation in peril.

No sport is more vulnerable to the call for robot officiating than baseball. So little of it is subjective, while all of it is incredibly difficult to get right in real time.

Did the ball enter the fielder's glove before the runner's cleat grazed the bag? Define "enter the glove." Then tell me exactly what constitutes "touched the bag." And then tell me how you can be looking at two spots six feet apart at the same time.

On very close calls, a human umpire is guessing. An AI umpire won't have to.

Hernández, only the age of 62 and still pretty spry, was putting an entire profession in jeopardy. He was a nightly reminder of how flawed human perception is. With the advent of the manager's challenge, he was single-handedly combatting baseball's institutional push to shorten games.

Most importantly, he was generating the sort of discussion that is not fun anger, but real anger.

At a guess, the people who really wanted Hernández gone were his colleagues. MLB employs about 70 umpires. It pays the most experienced of them a half-million bucks a year.

Currently, there is no fan- or owner-led groundswell to replace them, but as long as Hernández was at work, that was a constant low-grade risk. Why take any risk at all?

Personally, I will miss Ángel Hernández. Whenever you saw his name on the scorecard, the potential that the game you were about to cover could go from one-of-162 to one people won't forget shot up. He made news more reliably than the vast majority of players he oversaw.

And however bad he was, he spread the pain around evenly. You could say worse things about a man once he's gone.

Sports in brief

CANADIAN BOXER DELGADO MOVES ON IN PARIS QUALIFIER IN BANGKOK

BANGKOK Canadian boxer Scarlett Delgado advanced at a last-ditch Olympic qualifier Tuesday, earning a 5-0 decision over Kenya's Amina Faki in round-of-16 action in the women's 54-kilogram class. The 28-year-old bantamweight from Brampton, Ont., meets Enkhjargal Munguntsetseg on Wednesday in a round-of-eight bout at Huumark Stadium. The 25-year-old Mongolian was a bronze medalist at the 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships. Competitors need to crack the top four in Bangkok to punch their ticket to Paris. That measuring stick can change, however, given host France is guaranteed a maximum of six quota places (three for women and three for men) so a country can claim a spot in a weight class even if it doesn't qualify a fighter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ARGONAUTS SIGN TWO-TIME GREY CUP CHAMPION GRANT

TORONTO The Toronto Argonauts have signed returner Janarion Grant, who won two Grey Cup titles with Winnipeg. The 30-year-old from Trilby, Fla., spent the past four seasons with the Blue Bombers, helping them to four Grey Cup appearances and championships in 2019 and 2021. He was named a CFL all-star in 2022 when he led the league with 817 punt return yards, taking two punts back for touchdowns. He also had 782 yards and a touchdown on kick returns that season. Grant returned a punt 102 yards for a touchdown in the 2022 Grey Cup, which the Blue Bombers lost 24-23 to Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GIBSON BECOMES MLB CAREER, SEASON BATTING LEADER AS NEGRO LEAGUES STATS INCORPORATED

NEW YORK Josh Gibson became Major League Baseball's career leader with a .372 batting aver-

age, surpassing Ty Cobb's .367, when Negro Leagues records for more than 2,300 players were incorporated Tuesday after a three-year research project. Gibson's .466 average for the 1943 Homestead Grays became the season standard, followed by Charlie (Chino) Smith's .451 for the 1929 New York Lincoln Giants. They overtook the .440 by Hugh Duffy for the National League's Boston team in 1894. Gibson also became the career leader in slugging percentage (.718) and OPS (1.177), moving ahead of Babe Ruth (.690 and 1.164). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLUE JACKETS HIRE WADDELL AS PRESIDENT OF HOCKEY OPS AND GM

The Columbus Blue Jackets named Don Waddell as their general manager and president of hockey operations on Tuesday, bringing in an experienced NHL executive to try to help turn around the franchise. Waddell joins the club days after stepping down as GM of the Carolina

Hurricanes with his contract set to expire. His move to Columbus also coincides with John Davidson shifting into an advisory role after running the front office for 10 of the past 12 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JESSICA CAMPBELL POSSIBLE KRAKEN ASSISTANT COACH CANDIDATE, BYLSMA SAYS

SEATTLE New Seattle Kraken coach Dan Bylsma said current Coachella Valley assistant coach Jessica Campbell could be a candidate for a similar position with the NHL club. Bylsma has been the head coach at Coachella Valley for the past two seasons with Campbell, a former Canadian national team player, as one of his assistants. Bylsma said Campbell and fellow Coachella Valley assistant Stu Bickell will be among a group in consideration for a role with the Kraken. Bylsma said Tuesday he intends to speak with current Seattle assistants Jay Leach and Dave Lowery about their possible futures with the team, but

there are also talks about coaches that could be brought in from the outside.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DI STASIO, DHESI TO LEAD CANADA'S OLYMPIC WRESTLING TEAM

TORONTO World champion Justina Di Stasio and veteran Amar Dhesi will lead Canada's wrestling team into the Olympic Games in Paris. Ana Godinez Gonzalez of Burnaby, B.C., Montreal's Alex Moore, Linda Morais of Tecumseh, Ont., and Hannah Taylor of Summerside, P.E.I., join Dhesi of Surrey, B.C., and Di Stasio of Coquitlam, B.C., on the team announced Tuesday by the Canadian Olympic Committee. Di Stasio captured a world title in the women's 72-kilogram division in 2018, as well as Pan American Games gold in 2019 and Commonwealth Games gold in 2022. Dhesi, 28, is the only Canadian wrestler with previous Olympic experience after placing 13th in Tokyo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

[BLUE JAYS VS. WHITE SOX]



Safely home

Toronto Blue Jays outfielder George Springer slides across home plate for a run during the second inning against the White Sox on Tuesday at Guaranteed Rate Field in Chicago.

Read the game story at ■ GLOBESPORTS.COM

JAMIE SABAU/USA TODAY SPORTS

Djokovic moves on in Paris without his best

Serbian star says he sees room for improvement after topping Herbert in French Open first round

HOWARD FENDRICH PARIS

Ignore the straight-set score: Novak Djokovic was not quite at his impervious best in the first round of the French Open on Tuesday night, and his 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-4 win over Pierre-Hugues Herbert was not enough to alter the defending champion's "low expectations" at this tournament.

"I don't want to get too excited," Djokovic said. "I thought it was a good performance for me. Solid. Of course, I could have done better, I think, on return games, but also credit to him for serving very well, for changing things up."

It's been a rougher-than-usual season so far for Djokovic, and while there were some signs of breaking out of his 2024 funk during the course of the contest at Court Philippe Chatrier, he still has room for improvement as he attempts to become the first player in tennis history to claim 25 Grand Slam singles trophies. There's no doubt he cares about such things.

"Grand Slams are the ones that are basically getting me up from the bed every day. Knowing that I have to hit the practice courts, I always think about what I can do in Grand Slams," he said. "So here I am. Hopefully I can have another deep run."

That's what Herbert expected to see.

"I knew, from the beginning," Herbert said, "that I'm going to have in front of me the 'Novak of

the Grand Slams.' ... It's just the intensity of concentration."

Djokovic is a three-time title winner at Roland Garros who needs to return to the final to retain his No. 1 ranking. But he arrived in Paris without having done that at any tournament this year. He is 0-3 in semi-finals – including a loss last week at the lower-tier Geneva Open on red clay – and this victory across 2½ hours only served to make his overall record 15-6.

So when he spoke at a news conference on Sunday, Djokovic described his mindset heading into the French Open this way: "Low expectations and high hopes." Then he pointed out, "Anything but a title, for me, is not satisfactory," which is understandable given his remarkable résumé.

"In the moments when it mattered, I think I delivered. Played a great tiebreak. Stayed focused," Djokovic said about Tuesday's performance. "I'm glad that I started the way I started, the way I felt on the court. Comparing to the previous weeks of tournaments I played, I felt good. Better. So I'm moving in a positive direction. Yeah, it's just the beginning."

He seemed a bit edgy at moments against Herbert, a 33-year-old Frenchman who owns a career Grand Slam in doubles but never has been past the third round at any major in singles and is currently ranked 142nd.

Although Herbert's game did not demand a maximum expenditure of energy from Djokovic, there certainly was enough to keep things interesting. And by the end, the winner totals were 37 for Herbert, 29 for Djokovic.

There were some strokes of brilliance from Djokovic, to be sure, and he covered the court

well when sprinting after the drop shots Herbert kept trying. The highlight for Djokovic was probably the closed-stance sliding backhand winner that earned him a match point – which was converted when Herbert double-faulted to end it.

Djokovic's second-round opponent will be 63rd-ranked Roberto Carballés Baena of Spain.

The first round closed on a day during which rain delayed play for several hours early in the day on all but the two principal courts, which are outfitted with retractable roofs.

Other winners Tuesday included the man Djokovic beat in last year's French Open final, Casper Ruud, and past major champions Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina.

Ruud, who also was the runner-up to Nadal in Paris in 2022 and leads the ATP with 36 wins in 2024, beat Felipe Meligeni Alves 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

The two-time Australian Open champion Sabalenka overpowered Erika Andreeva 6-1, 6-2, and 2022 Wimbledon winner Rybakina beat Greet Minnen 6-2, 6-3.

Sabalenka is trying to become the first woman since Serena Williams in 2015 to win the Australian Open and Roland Garros in the same season and get halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam.

"I'm just trying to separate myself from all those facts," said Sabalenka, who is No. 2 in the rankings behind Iga Swiatek. "I mean, I know that if I'll be able to focus on myself and I'll be able to fight for every point and try to find a solution in each game, I will be able to win these big tournaments. But I just try to take it step-by-step."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

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DEATHS

GERALD GOODMAN (Jerry)

On Monday, May 27, 2024 peacefully surrounded by family. Beloved husband of the late Sheila. Loving father and father-in-law of Laura and Ian, Jeff and Wendy, and Adrienne and Lou. Dear brother of the late Cynthia, and Gloria. Devoted Papa of Nathan, and Derek. He was warm, kind, always hopeful and enjoyed life. His friends and family always came first. A graveside service will take place on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Section of Pardes Shalom Cemetery.

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DEATHS

RICHARD MORRIS MATHIEU

He loved the beach.
He loved Italy.
He loved the opera.
He loved to cook.
He loved good food.
He loved young people – their energy, their enthusiasm, which mirrored his own.
He loved politics and a good political discussion. He loved to argue and to win.
He was passionate about everything.
He loved a challenge and testing his own edges.
He loved his dogs, especially the wonderful Frenchie, Maxwell Smart.
But most of all, he loved his family.
He will be missed forever.

Surrounded by his family, Richard Morris Mathieu died peacefully at Mount Sinai Hospital on May 25, 2024. Born in Oakland, California in 1938 he was the son of the late Armand Mathieu and the late Elizabeth Mathieu (nee Jackson). Predeceased by his brother Armand (Pete) Mathieu of New York. He is survived by his loving wife Colleen (nee Haynes); his daughter Michaela Mathieu; his son Christian Mathieu (Christie Smythe); and adored grandchildren, Oscar Mathieu Link and Coco Alice Smythe Mathieu. Also survived by his brother Jackson Mathieu (Joan) of Guelph.

Survived also by his loved sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Cherry and Michael Richards of Montreal, and their daughters Shaun and Tamara.

Many thanks to the amazing and caring staff on floor 14 south of Mount Sinai Hospital. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the YMCA, Toronto.

A celebration of life will take place at The Toronto Lawn and Tennis Club, 44 Price Street, Toronto, ON on Friday, May 31st from 2 – 5 p.m.



ELIZABETH MARY VICTORIA NOVAK (née Kos) November 03, 1935 – May 27, 2024

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Elizabeth "Betty" Novak, at Deer Park Villa, Grimsby after a four year illness. The story of her life in the hands of a talented author, would be an international best seller and an Oscar worthy movie.

Betty was born in Budapest, Hungary; the fourth of nine children, lovingly welcomed by her parents, Mary (née Sheehan) and Hubert Kós. She enjoyed a privileged and blissful childhood, in the bosom of a family teeming with love. Stories of their adventures and antics have become legendary for the next generations to enjoy.

Like many who lived through the atrocities of WWII, the family's life was upended and threatened. After losing her beloved father at the age of 12, Betty and her siblings escaped war-torn Budapest with their loyal governess Piri, and their mother to the safe shores of Ireland, and their maternal relatives. Grieving the loss of her father, Betty had to learn a new language, settle in a new country, negotiate the challenges of boarding school, and the separation from her siblings. Upon graduation, Betty headed off to Vienna, to perfect her German and reunite with her father's side of the family. During these blissful months, Betty enjoyed a fairy tale existence where days were spent working in her uncle's insurance office and evenings being charmed by all sorts of eligible young gentlemen, at one fancy dress ball after another.

At 19, having received an invitation to visit Toronto, Canada, Betty set sail on the adventure of her lifetime. She was quickly embraced by a group of colourful European émigrés, who came to Canada with their titles, good manners, Joie De Vivre and empty pockets. It was here that she met the love of her life, Karel Novak. They married in October, 1957 and welcomed their daughter Nicolette, the following October. Betty and Karel settled in Beamsville, part of an exotic group of displaced Europeans, who added colour and intrigue to this sleepy little town. While Karel farmed, Betty worked in Hamilton, for Olivetti Underwood. She also spent many happy years as a teacher at St. Martin School, in Smithville. She finally retired in 1972 to dedicate herself to Karel and the needs of the family business. She spent many years hosting family and friends from all over the world and several weeks each winter travelling through Europe, with Karel.

Betty often joked that she had no identity of her own. She felt she was only known as the wife, of Karel Novak or the mother of Nicolette Novak. Who was she kidding? She was stylish and elegant, charming and entertaining, and above all loving and kind. She was a force to be reckoned with and the secret to the Novak family success. She adored Karel and he adored her. They enjoyed a dynamic, colourful and loving marriage that only few can hope for. All of this came to a tragic end with the sudden death of Karel in 1987. Together with her daughter Nicolette, Betty carried on the family farm and started The Good Earth Cooking School, which grew into the popular and successful Good Earth Food & Wine Co. The "widow Novak" and her "maiden daughter" became an inseparable and dynamic team.

Betty's gift to this world, was her ability to make people feel special and to love with purpose. Her house was always open to both young and old. Her kindness and generosity of spirit knew no limits. She had friends and fans of all ages, scattered far and wide. Her love for her siblings and family was the foundation on which she built her life.

Betty is survived by her daughter Nicolette; sisters Kitty, Zsuzsi; and her brother Miklós as well as many nieces, nephews and close friends. She is predeceased by her parents, Mary and Hubert Kós, and siblings, Peggy, Hubert, Moya, Dorin, and Béla and her beloved husband Karel Novak.

At the request of the deceased, there will be no visitation. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, May 30 at 2 p.m., at St. Helen Roman Catholic Church, 4106 Mountain Rd. Beamsville. Cremation to follow. A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity of your choice.

Nicolette wishes to thank the incredible care team at Deer Park Villa, who looked after Betty with love and respect to the very end. These total strangers, opened their hearts to create a family for us in our darkest days. Your unselfish kindness and compassion will not be forgotten. A special thank you is also extended to those dear friends and family who remained constant visitors through to the very end of Betty's life. She loved you all!

Online condolences at tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

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DEATHS



HARRY WINSOR MACDONELL July 19, 1929 May 22, 2024

Harry Winsor Macdonell died in Toronto, on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. He is survived by his daughter, Nicole (Tim Wright); his sons, Ian (Brenda) and Winsor (Erin). He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Cody Wright (Jillian), Madeleine Wright (Hank Kauffman), Kyle Wright, Brighid, Aidan, Ross, and Claire. Harry married twice; first to Marie (1932 – 2003), and subsequently to Barbara Mackenzie, who survives him.

Harry was born in Toronto, and spent his childhood in various parts of Ontario, graduating from Lakefield College School, Carlton University, and Osgoode Hall Law School. He joined Fasken and Calvin (now Fasken), becoming a partner in 1962. He left Fasken in 1970 for Rio Tinto, in Montreal to serve in various positions including Chief Executive Officer of both Brinco Limited, and Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation. In 1975, he joined McCarthy & McCarthy (now McCarthy Tétrault), as a partner and served as Managing Partner of the firm from 1985 to 1989, and played a key role in its transformation into a national law firm.

Over his career, he worked on energy projects with companies around the world and served as chair of Canadian Niagara Power Company Limited and Opnac Energy Corporation. He also served as a director of public and private companies including Woodbridge Foam Corporation from its inception, Canadian Tire Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, Standard Life Assurance Company of Edinburgh, SNC Lavalin Group Inc., Caldwell Partners International Inc., Wajax Limited, ICI Canada Inc. and 3M Canada Inc.

Harry had a deep love of life, family, and good food. He had a strong passion for skiing, sailing, Christmas, and travel, which he instilled in all his children and grandchildren. We will miss the joy he felt whenever any of us spoke of a ski adventure, a great trip, a newly discovered Christmas gizmo or a geography question that resulted in consulting the family atlas for resolution (he was almost always right).

The family would like to thank Janet Bastistin, for her tireless and kind care of Harry in his final years. A private celebration of life will be held by the family. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution in his memory to Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (520 Sutherland Dr. Toronto, ON M4G 3V9), a cause that he supported for many years.

BERNARD PIKE (Bunny)

On Monday, May 27, 2024 at Baycrest Centre, peacefully in his 98th year. Beloved husband of Elaine Goldenberg-Pike. Father and father-in-law of Robert and Ellen, Stephen and Lori, Jeffrey and Alyson. Brother of the late Sylvia. Grandfather of Brandon and Emily, Harrison and Ron, Matthew, Jonathan, Benjamin, Jordan, and Daniel. Great-grandfather of Jayla, and Rory. Stepfather to Randy, Michael, Elizabeth, step-grandfather to Rebecca and Shaun, Erik, Aaron, and Jacob, step great-grandfather to Max. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Blossom Memorial Park, 66 Brimley Road. Shiva 146 Strathearn Road. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Harry and Esther Pike Memorial Fund c/o The Baycrest Foundation, 416-785-2875.

National News

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DEATHS



PETER ROSENTHAL

On the 25th, of May 2024, Peter died at home, surrounded by the love of his family. Left to mourn are his wife Carol, his children Alan (Ellen), Jeffrey (Margaret), Michael, Daniel, and Esther (Matthew), grandchildren Jeremy, Aaron (Julie), Julian, and Sophie, and great-grandchild Peter. He is predeceased by his first wife, Helen, the mother of Alan, Jeffrey, and Michael.

Peter was an esteemed mathematician, lawyer, and political activist with an unwavering passion for helping others. He was a "red diaper baby," whose social activism was inspired by his mother, Esther, and whose love of mathematics came from his father, Harold. In 1969, already a mathematics professor at the University of Toronto, he was arrested at an anti-Vietnam War demonstration. At his subsequent trial, he successfully defended himself. This inspired him to continue his social activism through the legal system. He worked tirelessly to fight injustice, and give a voice to the underprivileged and marginalized members of society, taking cases as far as the Supreme Court of Canada. Peter possessed an innate ability to relate to people from all walks of life, making a huge impact on his math students, legal clients, family, and friends. Although his work garnered a great deal of attention, he always remained humble, treating everyone with respect and honesty. His convictions never got in the way of his friendships. His devotion to teaching and assisting those in need was an inspiration to the many lives he touched. He was a very loving and caring person. Peter will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure to know him.

Thank you to Marites, Tata, Dr. Brad Lichtblau, and Dr. Melissa Melnitzer, for their wonderful care.

To honour Peter's life, please take a moment to delight in the beauty of mathematics, and speak out against injustice wherever you find it.

A graveside funeral will be held on Wednesday, 29 May, at 11:30 a.m. at Beth Tzedek Memorial Park, 5822 Bathurst Street. The family will welcome visitors from 1-6 p.m. on Wednesday and 3-6 p.m. on Thursday, at Peter's home (367 Palmerston Blvd.), to share food and stories.



AILEEN RUTH SCOTT (née Fyvie)

On May 2, 2024 Aileen Ruth Scott (nee Fyvie) of Nanaimo, BC passed away at the age of 88. She will be lovingly remembered by her surviving children, Wallace J. Scott and Karen Ruth Davies, and her grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Wallace W. Scott; and her daughter, Colleen Lylia Scott.

Aileen was a fiercely independent feminist intellectual. She loved reading, travel, laughing and debating complex issues. People were important to her. She participated in many groups, CFUW, Red Hats, golf, bridge, book group, but the friends meant more than the activities.

As a social worker Aileen advocated for troubled youth and disadvantaged people. Her compassion was a key part of her life, helping others and making significant contributions to people through her volunteer work. Aileen's own children were exceptionally blessed with her ardent care and attention. She ensured her children knew how much they were loved. She taught them to find the humour in life, and to distinguish between what was important in life, and what was "mere trivia."

A celebration of life will be held at the Nanaimo Golf Course on June 22nd at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Loaves and Fishes food bank via donate@vilvoavesandfishes.org.

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SHAMAKAH ALI

MUSICIAN, 61

DRUMMER BROUGHT MEMPHIS RHYTHMS TO TORONTO'S MUSIC SCENE

He drew on his Tennessee roots to create a signature groove that helped famous artists such as Al Green, Lionel Richie and Isaac Hayes sound their best

SUSAN FERRIER MACKAY

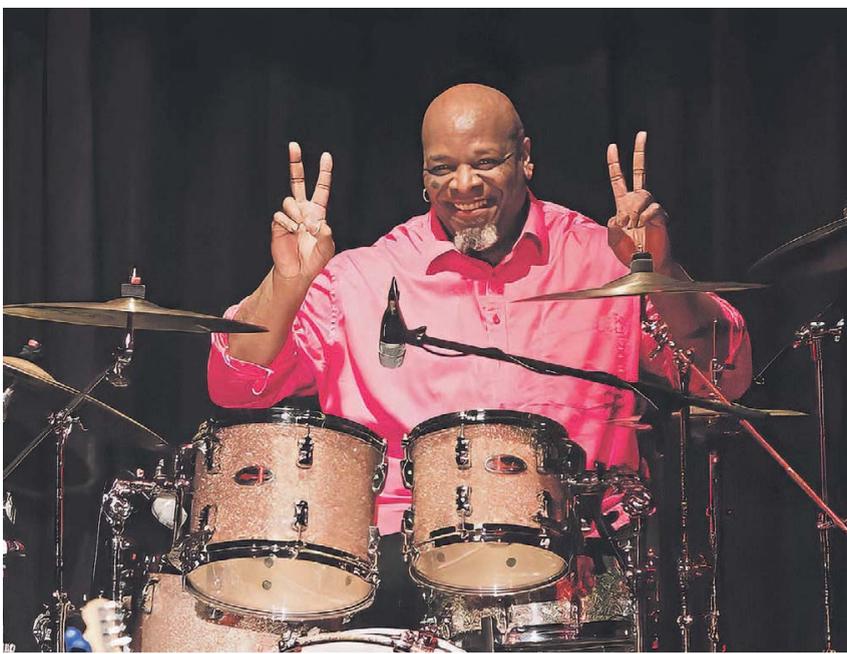
During the 25 years he lived in Canada, while still touring internationally, drummer Shamakah Ali regularly drew on the deep soul and funk of his Memphis roots to create a signature groove that made even the creakiest of legs want to dance. Famous artists such as Al Green, Lionel Richie and Isaac Hayes all called upon him because his laid-back, feel-good groove made them sound better. He was much in demand as a session player, whether for live concerts or recording sessions, where his solid backbeat sweetened the sound and inspired the musicians around him.

When Mr. Ali wasn't playing big stages on the road, he drummed at smaller venues in his adoptive city of Toronto, where love enticed him to move in 1997. Mr. Ali and his family eventually returned to the U.S. in 2022 to look after remaining family. His own death from cancer happened on May 1 in a Houston hospital. He was 61.

Growing up in the music mecca of Memphis, Tenn., the boy inhaled the rhythm of the city's iconic Beale Street, said to be birthplace of the blues and where the civil-rights movement took shape. An early memory was accompanying his mother on a march with Martin Luther King Jr. down Beale Street to city hall in support of striking garbage workers.

Life in the sweltering city, steeped in economic struggle, segregation and music, awoke in him dreams of escape. With his innate sense of rhythm, he saw drumming as a way out. Never having taken a lesson, the preteen would listen to songs until he knew them by heart. The first time he played publicly was as a volunteer outside W.C. Handy Park collecting money to help support the formation of the Blues Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, supporting and celebrating the blues. The organization now has its own music awards that are the blues equivalent of the Grammys.

By age 15, he ventured into Beale Street clubs, where he gained invaluable experience by sitting in with Albert King and



Drummer Shamakah Ali inhaled the rhythm of Tennessee's iconic Beale Street while he grew up, venturing into its clubs by age 15. He was versatile and skilled in a range of genres, making him an in-demand collaborator for a variety of artists. GLENN RODGER

Rufus Thomas, two great musical entertainers of the era. At that time, he had not yet taken the name Shamakah.

Born on Sept. 2, 1962 in Memphis, he was the youngest and only biological addition to six children adopted by Mattie Mae (née Murphy) Polk, a school pastry chef, and William Edward Polk Sr., a construction worker. He was named after his father.

However, when he learned that two generations earlier, freed slaves often took the name of their owner, and that William Edward Polk had been a white politician and slave owner, he would have no further part of it. In his mid-20s he chose the name Shamakah Khalid Ali after consulting with a friend, Rochelle Danquah, professor of American History at Michigan's Oakland University.

"He told me he wanted to adopt an African-American name that had a special meaning to it. We settled on Shamakah because it means a person of determination who spreads goodness, and he always brought goodness to all the spaces he occupied," Ms.

Danquah said.

After his name change, Mr. Ali intended to convert to Islam but he decided against it for fear of upsetting his strict Baptist mother.

Not only did Mr. Ali memorize his own parts, he memorized those of fellow musicians. No slip or error escaped unnoticed. It might be remarked upon afterward with a gentle dig softened by a megawatt marquee smile that could light up a room.

Mr. Ali's first big musical break came in the form of an actual break in the arm of a friend who happened to be the drummer for Al Green. Mr. Ali stepped in as a replacement and shortly afterward found himself accompany-

ing the artist on Oprah Winfrey's television show, the beginning of many gigs with the soul legend. Another well-known group he joined was the Barkays, the backup band for the late singer Otis Redding. The success of the Barkays' two albums resulted in a major tour across the U.S. and Japan, a country that reveres American jazz and blues. In a long and storied career, one highlight Mr. Ali cherished was his invitation to perform at singer-songwriter Isaac Hayes's birthday bash at the Copacabana in New York in 2000. His driving beats propelled the band to new heights for songstress Chaka Khan, the Queen of Funk.

Owing to his versatility and prowess in a range of genres – including funk, country, gospel, disco, soul, hip-hop, house and rock – he was in demand to work with a variety of artists.

"The list of headliners that he played and toured with is impressive," said esteemed Toronto composer and producer Lance Anderson, who hired Mr. Ali for several musical productions and

festivals across Canada.

"He also had a drumming credit on the soundtrack of *Ruby's Bucket of Blood*, starring Angela Bassett. He was much more than a regular 'gigging' or 'jobbing' musician," Mr. Anderson said.

Not only did Mr. Ali memorize his own parts, he memorized those of fellow musicians. No slip or error escaped unnoticed. It might be remarked upon afterward with a gentle dig softened by a megawatt marquee smile that could light up a room. At 6 foot 2, he had an unmistakable presence. Quisha Wint, a vocalist and owner of QW Productions, a booking agency in Toronto, referred to her "go-to" drummer as "[a] great big teddy bear who gave bear hugs. He was a gentle giant."

With four children from a first marriage, Mr. Ali found love for the second time with Cindy Wilson, a seventh-generation African-Canadian, with whom he had a son. When they met, Ms. Wilson was an entrepreneur and divorcee with two children of her own. Their large blended family made for hectic times. "One time we decided to take three of his kids and two of mine on the road with us. I just remember the kids fighting and tussling. Shamakah and I locked ourselves in the hotel bathroom. We looked at each other and said 'What are we doing?' That's all history now as the kids get along great."

The couple met in 1997 at a concert where she was wandering backstage looking for a bathroom. "I didn't know who he was," Ms. Wilson said. "But we ended up talking and my girlfriends and I gave him a ride back to his hotel." After a whirlwind romance, Ms. Wilson convinced Mr. Ali to settle in Canada. She said one deciding factor was seeing Caribana (now called the Toronto Caribbean Carnival), a colourful celebration of Caribbean culture.

"He loved the freedom of Canada and its multiethnicity. He fully intended to take out Canadian citizenship but never got around to it," Ms. Wilson said. "But in the end that didn't matter. He loved it here. Canada was his heartbeat."

Mr. Ali leaves his wife, Ms. Wilson; daughters, Akia and Ebony; sons, Terrell, Davion, Evan and Trimani; and 11 grandchildren.

Special to The Globe and Mail

MORGAN SPURLOCK

DOCUMENTARIAN, 53

Super Size Me filmmaker recognized need to tell the truth

Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, an Oscar nominee whose most famous works skewered America's food industry and who notably ate only at McDonald's for a month to illustrate the dangers of a fast-food diet, has died. He was 53.

Mr. Spurlock died Thursday in New York from complications of cancer, according to a statement issued Friday by his family.

"It was a sad day, as we said goodbye to my brother Morgan," Craig Spurlock, who worked with him on several projects, said in the statement. "Morgan gave so much through his art, ideas, and generosity. The world has lost a true creative genius and a special man. I am so proud to have worked together with him."

Mr. Spurlock made a splash in 2004 with his groundbreaking film *Super Size Me*, which was nominated for an Academy Award. The film chronicled the detrimental physical and psychological effects of Mr. Spurlock eating only McDonald's food for 30 days. He gained about 25 pounds, saw a spike in his cholesterol and lost his sex drive.

"Everything's bigger in America," he said in the film. "We've got the biggest cars, the biggest houses, the biggest companies, the biggest food, and finally: the biggest people."

In one scene, Mr. Spurlock showed kids a photo of George



Morgan Spurlock, seen at the 2017 Turner Upfront event in New York, exposed fast-food and chicken industries. During the #MeToo era, he detailed his own history of misconduct. ANGELA WEISS/GETTY IMAGES

Washington and none recognized the Founding Father. But they all instantly knew the mascots for Wendy's and McDonald's.

The film grossed more than US\$22-million on a US\$65,000 budget and preceded the release of Eric Schlosser's influential *Fast Food Nation*, which accused the industry of being bad for the environment and rife with labour issues.

Mr. Spurlock returned in 2019 with *Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken!* – a sober look at an industry that processes nine billion animals a year in America. He focused on two issues: chicken farmers stuck in a peculiar financial system and

the attempt by fast-food chains to deceive customers into thinking they're eating healthier.

"We're at an amazing moment in history from a consumer standpoint where consumers are starting to have more and more power," he told the Associated Press in 2019. "It's not about return for the shareholders. It's about return for the consumers."

Mr. Spurlock was a gonzo-like filmmaker who leaned into the bizarre and ridiculous. His stylistic touches included zippy graphics and amusing music, blending a Michael Moore-ish camera-in-your-face style with his own sense of humour and pathos.

"I wanted to be able to lean into the serious moments. I wanted to be able to breathe in the moments of levity. We want to give you permission to laugh in the places where it's really hard to laugh," he told the AP.

After he exposed the fast-food and chicken industries, there was an explosion in restaurants stressing freshness, artisanal methods, farm-to-table goodness and ethically sourced ingredients. But nutritionally not much had changed.

"There has been this massive shift and people say to me, 'So has the food gotten healthier?' And I say, 'Well, the marketing sure has,'" he said.

Not all his work dealt with food. Mr. Spurlock made documentaries about the boy band One Direction and the geeks and fanboys at Comic-Con. One of his films looked at life behind bars at the Henrico County Jail in Virginia.

With 2008's *Where in the World is Osama bin Laden?*, Mr. Spurlock went on a global search to find the al-Qaeda leader, who was killed in 2011. In *POM Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold*, Mr. Spurlock tackled questions of product placement, marketing and advertising.

"Being aware is half the battle, I think. Literally knowing all the time when you're being marketed to is a great thing," Mr. Spurlock told AP at the time. "A lot of

people don't realize it. They can't see the forest for the trees."

Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken! was to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in 2017, but it was shelved at the height of the #MeToo movement when Mr. Spurlock came forward to detail his own history of sexual misconduct.

He confessed that he had been accused of rape while in college and had settled a sexual-harassment case with a female assistant. He also admitted to cheating on numerous partners. "I am part of the problem," he wrote.

"For me, there was a moment of kind of realization – as somebody who is a truth teller and somebody who has made it a point of trying to do what's right – of recognizing that I could do better in my own life. We should be able to admit we were wrong," he told the AP.

Mr. Spurlock grew up in Beckley, W.Va. His mother was an English teacher who he remembered would correct his work with a red pen. He graduated with a BFA in film from New York University in 1993.

He leaves two sons – Laken and Kallen; his mother Phyllis Spurlock; father Ben; brothers Craig and Barry; and former spouses Alexandra Jamieson and Sara Bernstein, the mothers of his children.

ASSOCIATED PRESS*