

Freeland sidesteps questions on her future

Finance Minister acknowledges meetings with Trudeau, says he is 'capable of speaking for himself' on whether she'll remain in post

MARIEKE WALSH OTTAWA
MARK RENDELL MARKHAM, ONT.
ROBERT FIFE TORONTO

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland declined to say Tuesday whether she has received assurances from the Prime Minister that she will be staying in her cabinet post but acknowledged having had a series of in-depth meetings with Justin Trudeau over the last four days.

In her first news conference

since The Globe and Mail reported last week that senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office had concerns about Ms. Freeland, she was careful not to say what would happen next.

"I just consider it a real privilege every day to do my best to serve Canada and Canadians," Ms. Freeland said.

The Finance Minister, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said she had a long conversation with Mr. Trudeau on Friday, spent much of Saturday with him at

events in the Greater Toronto Area and also travelled to Ottawa to meet with him again on Monday.

She twice avoided answering whether she had received assurances from Mr. Trudeau about continuing as Finance Minister, saying "he is really capable of speaking for himself."

"To serve as minister in a cabinet, you do need the support and confidence of the Prime Minister; that is especially true for the deputy prime minister and finance

minister," Ms. Freeland said.

"What I will say to everyone here, speaking for myself, is I do have the confidence that I need to do my job effectively."

The Prime Minister's Office declined Tuesday to share what message Mr. Trudeau gave Ms. Freeland in their private meetings. Instead it re-sent a statement that it first issued last week, which said the assertions reported by The Globe are "not accurate" and "the Prime Minister, and his office have full confidence in Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland."

Ms. Freeland has been a constant beside Mr. Trudeau since the pandemic and often serves as his back-up at government and Liberal Party events.

However, on Thursday, The Globe and Mail reported that senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) are concerned by her effectiveness in the role, and the relationship between the two offices has become tense.

■ FREELAND, A6

Alberta ends wine war with B.C., lifts ban on direct sales

MIKE HAGER VANCOUVER

British Columbia vintners can now sell directly to Albertans and also get their products into liquor stores and restaurants across the province after the resolution of an interprovincial wine war that was further damaging a sector battered by climate change in recent years.

The dispute began at the start of this year and, though it is about recouping tax revenue, has had echoes of the 2018 spat whereby Alberta banned B.C.'s grapes in retaliation for B.C. opposing the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline.

Albertans, with their long history of vacationing across the Rockies, represent one of the largest target markets of B.C.'s billion-dollar wine industry.

Premiers David Eby of B.C. and Danielle Smith of Alberta announced the agreement ending the trade dispute Tuesday at a news conference on the sidelines of the Council of Federation meetings of Canada's premiers in Halifax.

In January, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis, which regulates the sale of alcohol in the province, sent cease-and-desist letters to 106 wineries in B.C. saying it had been investigating the practice of consumers in Alberta ordering wine directly instead of buying it in Alberta stores.

The letters, which made headlines in both provinces, warned the vintners the provincial wholesaler would not accept any further shipments bound for Alberta's alcohol retailers as long as the wine producers refused to agree to stop their direct-to-consumer sales in Alberta. The direct sales meant producers were not paying Alberta's taxes or fees to access the provincial market.

Brandon Aboultaif, press secretary for Dale Nally, the United Conservative cabinet minister responsible for the agency, said Tuesday that 61 wineries ignored the letter and 45 did sign and agree to stop shipping directly to clients.

■ WINE, A7

[WEATHER]



Severe flooding swamps a stretch of the Don Valley Parkway under the Gerrard Street bridge in Toronto on Tuesday. The city's fire department said crews had rescued 14 people from the highway flooding. MELISSA TAIT/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

TORRENTIAL RAIN SOAKS TORONTO

City's fifth-wettest day on record leaves roads, basements and subway stations submerged and cuts power to thousands ■ A3

Why a onetime crusader for decriminalization changed his view

MARCUS GEE

Larry Campbell has seen Canada's drug crisis up close. As an RCMP drug-squad cop in the 1970s, he watched heroin flood the streets of Vancouver. As a city coroner in the 1980s, he saw overdose victims lying dead with needles still in their arms.

By the time he became Vancouver's mayor in 2002, he had concluded that tougher laws and more policing were not the answer. He supported the opening of North America's first supervised drug-consumption site in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. He called for the full legal-

ization of marijuana years before it happened. Sitting in Ottawa as a member of the Senate, he said that the government should legalize opioids, too.

Now, he is having second thoughts.

Mr. Campbell, 76, says that British Columbia's NDP government made a mistake when it decriminalized the possession of small amounts of illicit drugs without thinking through the impact on communities. He says the government made an even worse mistake when it started dispensing prescription opioids to drug users, through the practice known as safe supply.

The government, he says, has put too much stress on reducing the harms that

come with using drugs and not enough on helping people quit using them altogether.

"I've been a big harm-reduction guy forever and, after decriminalization, I just came to the realization that we were going down the wrong path and nobody was standing up," he said in an interview.

He recently went to Alberta to look at its recovery model for addressing the overdose crisis and was impressed by what he saw. Alberta's United Conservative Party government has been de-emphasizing harm reduction and investing heavily in creating an effective system of addiction treatment.

■ DRUGS, A15



ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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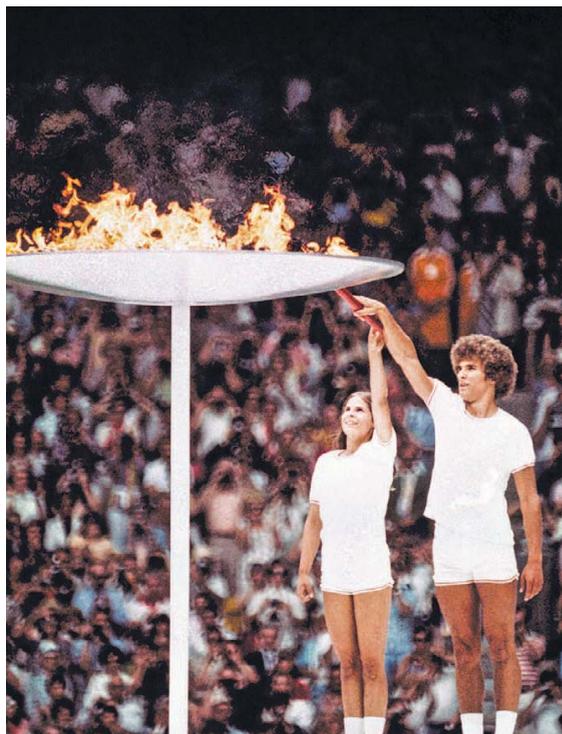
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MOMENT IN TIME

JULY 17, 1976 | FROM THE ARCHIVES



Gymnast Sandra Henderson, left, and track-and-field athlete Stéphane Prévost light the Olympic flame on July 17, 1976. ASSOCIATED PRESS

OLYMPICS OPEN IN MONTREAL

The first Olympics held on Canadian soil opened with appropriate pomp and fanfare. Some 73,000 spectators and millions of TV viewers turned their gaze to Montreal as athletes from 93 countries paraded in and two torchbearers lit the flame. The Games went on to be largely glitch-free, defined for many by Nadia Comaneci's perfect scores in gymnastics and Greg Joy's exploits in the high jump. Yet the dazzle of

those moments couldn't obscure some unpleasant facts. The parade unfurled in an unfinished stadium, the result of mismanagement, work stoppages and design snafus. By the time the competitions were over, a "modest" Games promised by mayor Jean Drapeau cost more than \$1.5-billion and took three decades to pay off. The Games were a success, perhaps, but their contentious legacy endured long after the flame went out. INGRID PERITZ (2013)

COLUMNISTS

GARY MASON

OPINION



FIRST PERSON

HEATHER EXNER-PIROT

OPINION

Right-wingers should look in the mirror before accusing the left of violent rhetoric ■ A11

Alison West Armstrong's train ride across Canada shared parallels with her own life's journey ■ A13

Nuclear sector's efforts to steward its waste in Canada are its strength, not its weakness ■ B4

CORRECTION

A Friday column in Opinion on Justin Trudeau's continued leadership of the Liberal Party incorrectly said that after Mr. Trudeau became leader, his forces rewrote the party's leadership review rules. Those changes were made under Paul Martin, one of Mr. Trudeau's predecessors.

Trail of AI-driven wildfire detection system impresses local officials in B.C. Interior city

CHUCK CHIANG VANCOUVER

Vernon Fire Chief David Lind likens the Interior B.C. city's new artificial-intelligence-driven wildfire detection system to a fire alarm in the forest.

The system involves cameras and scores of air sensors scattered among trees and other high points, collecting data that are fed into an AI system for analysis.

Its creator, Vancouver-based tech firm SenseNet, says it warns firefighters when it detects a pattern indicative of ignition and allows for a response within minutes instead of an hour or more when using traditional visual detection.

"It's an exciting technology in that it's really applying almost that fire-alarm system that we see in large buildings, where you've got every section of the building covered by some type of a monitor feeding back into a system that provides early notification to everyone ... and almost taking that and applying it in an outdoors setting," Mr. Lind said.

Fire Rescue Services in Vernon, about 400 kilometres northeast of Vancouver, has been testing the system for the past two years.

Mr. Lind said the city will take over care and control of about 150 sensors as the research trial period ends on Aug. 1. The nearby Predator Ridge Resort has also paid to install 100 more SenseNet sensors to feed into the AI detection system.

SenseNet says the sensors



Wildfire smoke fills the sky as guests play golf at Predator Ridge Resort in Vernon, B.C., in August, 2021. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

monitor the air for volatile organic compounds – or chemicals commonly found in the air – particulate matter, carbon monoxide, methane and nitrogen oxides along with thermal imaging, which can pick up smouldering fires not visible to the naked eye.

A SenseNet video shows devices about the size of cereal boxes being strapped to trees. It says the sensors detect the invisible gases from an ignition, before the AI algorithm finds the location. The video says it can do so less than a minute after ignition of a fire more than a kilometre from the sensors.

Mr. Lind said the early detection has been a valuable tool for firefighters during testing, with the need for crews to get to wildfires faster as drought conditions prompt rapid growth of undetect-

ed blazes.

Last year's wildfire season was the most destructive in B.C. history, burning more than 28,000 square kilometres of land and forcing thousands of people to evacuate communities in the Okanagan and the Shuswap.

Drought persisted through winter for several parts of the province, and a heat wave and lightning storms in Western Canada saw the number of active wildfires in B.C. increase sharply to about 150 over the past week.

Mr. Lind said the new system was not meant to replace any existing detection systems but to provide "another layer" of protection while work continues on reducing fire fuel and other initiatives.

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Toronto rains cause floods, power outages

City sees 98 millimetres of precipitation in a few hours, its fifth-wettest day in recorded history

FATIMA RAZA

A record-setting downpour in Toronto on Tuesday caused flooding that submerged highways and streets, knocked out power to large swaths of the city, flooded subway stations and damaged homes.

The storm dumped 98 millimetres of rain in just a few hours and was the fifth-rainiest day in Toronto's recorded history, according to Environment Canada. The flooding brought back memories of the city's wettest day in 2013, when an intense thunderstorm caused one of Canada's most expensive natural disasters.

Rainwater poured into Union Station, the city's main rail hub downtown that serves the local subway as well as Via Rail passenger service and GO Transit commuter trains, all of which had service disrupted.

Nearly 170,000 customers were without power at the height of the outages, according to Toronto Hydro, while social-media users documented their flooded streets and basements.

Parts of the Don Valley Parkway, which snakes through a river valley from downtown Toronto to Highway 401 in the city's north end, were shut down in the early afternoon. The Toronto Police Service said on X shortly before 1 p.m. that a portion of the southbound parkway, also known as the DVP, between Bayview Avenue and the Gardiner Expressway, was fully closed.

Toronto's fire department said crews rescued 14 people from the highway flooding as stranded motorists were forced to wait hours before they could be redirected north.

People began playing volleyball in the middle of the closed



This vehicle was unable to make it through the deep water pooling in an underpass after a torrential downpour flooded parts of Toronto on Tuesday. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

northbound lanes to pass time while they waited.

Kathy Stiliadis, who was stuck on the DVP, said she was en route to pick up her 92-year-old mother for a doctor's appointment when her Mercedes-Benz B 250 was submerged to the windows.

"I saw there was some water but I didn't think it would pose that significant of a risk," she said. "As I progressed, the water was halfway up my wheel. Then, my car stalled."

As the water level increased, Ms. Stiliadis frantically began making calls for help, she said, which is when someone else on the highway called 911 on her behalf.

During that time, she said her car was practically floating and waves formed by other cars driving by were moving her car. At one point, she said her car was inches away from colliding with another vehicle.

"It was crazy. It's nothing I've ever experienced before," she

said. "For this to be happening in Toronto is bizarre."

She was rescued by emergency services after being stuck for what seemed like 20 minutes, she said.

Videos on social media show water pooling on the floor of a main concourse at Union Station. Parts of the underground PATH network, which has retail and restaurants and connects to Union, were also closed because of flooding.

Subway trains were not stopping at Union and bypassing other stations because of power outages, Toronto Transit Commission spokesperson Adrian Grundy said. Several transit buses and streetcars were also making detours on their regular routes across the city because of localized flooding and there were other delays owing to traffic congestion, the agency said.

GO Transit, which operates regional trains and buses across the Greater Toronto Area, reported

several cancellations.

Toronto Hydro reported 167,000 customers without power by midday on Tuesday, which was reduced to 109,000 by early evening.

An outage map on the Toronto Hydro website showed power down in several areas of the city, including Parkdale, East York and Liberty Village. As power was restored, most of the remaining outages were on the west side of the city.

Daniel McNeil, spokesperson for Toronto Hydro, said the power utility was responding to the scattered outages, which were believed to have been caused by flooding at a Hydro One transmission station.

"We are working closely with Hydro One to resolve the issue and restore power as quickly and safely as possible," Mr. McNeil said.

Ian Sandler, who lives near Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue, said a portion of the base-

ment in his house was flooded Tuesday morning. His power went out around noon.

"These extended power outages are becoming more frequent," he said. "We've had some pretty extended power outages in our area for several hours in the past."

Mr. Sandler blamed the power outages and instances of flash flooding in recent years on a combination of climate change and poor infrastructure.

Environment Canada had issued a rainfall warning for Toronto on Tuesday morning ahead of the storm, predicting that it could dump up to 125 millimetres of rain by the afternoon.

Trudy Kidd, a warning preparedness meteorologist at Environment Canada, said Tuesday's rain broke records. A weather station at Toronto Pearson International Airport recorded 98 mm of rain, beating the previous record for July 16 of 29.5 mm set in 1941.

Mayor Olivia Chow said Toronto was working to deal with the fallout from the massive downpour, noting that emergency services had not been affected.

Long-term work is needed to deal with such weather events in the future, she said.

"We really seriously have to deal with climate change because these kinds of days are going to be a lot more frequent," she told reporters, adding that there would be a review of preventative measures for flooding in light of Tuesday's storm.

In Peel Region, west of Toronto, Mississauga Fire said a creek beside a nursing home had overflowed, causing extensive flooding. Fire crews and paramedics were on scene to help patients.

Even Canadian rap star Drake was dealing with flooding. The musician, who owns a mansion in Toronto's Bridle Path neighbourhood, posted a video on Instagram that showed water pouring into a room with the caption: "This better be Espresso Martini!"

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Immigration major focus at GOP gathering

Republicans take aim at Biden administration's policies on second night of national convention

MICHELLE L. PRICE
ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
ALI SWENSON
CHRISTINE FERNANDO
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Immigration took centre stage as the Republican National Convention resumed Tuesday, with speakers spotlighting a key element of former president Donald Trump's political brand that helped endear him to the GOP base when he began his first campaign in 2015.

Among speakers slated for Tuesday night were families who've been affected by violent crime — part of a GOP strategy to link crime to border policies. They include the family of Rachel Mo-

rin, a Maryland woman whom prosecutors say was killed and raped by a fugitive from El Salvador and whose story has been frequently highlighted by Mr. Trump on the campaign trail.

Immigration has long been one of Mr. Trump's banner issues, as he has criticized the unprecedented number of migrants entering the country illegally through the U.S. border with Mexico. The numbers of unauthorized crossings have fallen abruptly after President Joe Biden issued a rule suspending many asylum claims at the border.

At rallies and other campaign events, Mr. Trump has pointed to examples of migrants who committed heinous crimes and has blamed migration for the trafficking of drugs such as fentanyl, even though federal data suggest many people smuggling fentanyl across the border are U.S. citizens. He has vowed to carry out the largest deportation operation in U.S. history.

His anti-immigrant rhetoric has also strayed into talking points not backed by evidence, including unfounded claims that migrants are entering the U.S. to vote in the 2024 election.

Senate candidates who were addressing the convention Tuesday not only blamed Mr. Biden for the number of migrants crossing the border, but just as often faulted Vice-President Kamala Harris, whom Republicans have increasingly focused on amid speculation that she could replace Mr. Biden as the Democratic nominee after the President's poor debate performance.

The GOP candidates, mindful of their own races, sought to blame their Democratic opponents as well. Pennsylvania candidate David McCormick, for example, tied in his challenger, Senator Bob Casey, with the term "Biden-Harris-Casey wide open borders."

Bernie Moreno, who is running for the Senate in Ohio, spoke about how his parents immigrat-

ed from Colombia, emphasizing that they immigrated legally and alleging that Democrats have "encouraged millions" of people crossing the border illegally "to invade America."

Meanwhile, delegates at the Milwaukee convention expressed joy and gratitude at Mr. Trump's presence after he survived an attempted assassination Saturday at a rally in Pennsylvania. His ear bandaged, Mr. Trump appeared at Monday night's session to rousing cheers, his expression often seeming subdued.

Mr. Trump and Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, his vice-presidential choice, are scheduled to appear in the convention hall every night, according to two people familiar with the schedule who were not authorized to speak publicly.

The nominee and his running mate sat together Monday night in Mr. Trump's first public appearance after the assassination attempt. Mr. Vance is expected to give his own speech Wednesday

night, with Mr. Trump to headline Thursday night's closing evening.

Pennsylvania Republican Party chairman Lawrence Tabas said he hoped the assassination attempt on Mr. Trump would reset the tone nationally.

"After a brush with death, I do believe — going through that — that his message will be better, and I think will appeal to our better emotions," Mr. Tabas said in an interview after the Pennsylvania GOP's delegation breakfast in suburban Milwaukee.

At the convention, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, who fell out with Mr. Trump over his refusal to go along with the former president's election falsehoods, called the moment "a great opportunity and the country and the media need to say regardless of the side of the political aisle we're on, we need to get back to the side of civil discourse and not try to demonize people."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli strikes kill more than 60 Palestinians in southern, central Gaza, including in 'safe zone'

WAFAA SHURAF DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

Israeli air strikes killed more than 60 Palestinians in southern and central Gaza overnight and into Tuesday, including one that struck an Israeli-declared "safe zone" crowded with thousands of displaced people.

Air strikes in recent days have brought a constant drumbeat of deaths of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, even as Israel has pulled back or scaled down major ground offensives in the north and south. Almost daily strikes have hit the "safe zone" covering some 60 square kilometres along the Mediterranean coast, where Israel told fleeing Palestinians to take refuge to escape ground assaults. Israel has said it is pursuing Hamas militants who are hiding among civilians after offensives uprooted underground tunnel networks.

Tuesday's deadliest strike hit a main street lined with market stalls outside the southern city of Khan Younis in Muwasi, at the heart of the zone that is packed with tent camps. Officials at Khan Younis's Nasser Hospital said 17 people were killed.

The attack hit about a kilometre from a compound that Israel struck on Saturday, saying it was targeting Hamas's top military commander, Mohammed Deif. That blast, in an area also surrounded by tents, killed more than 90 Palestinians, including children, according to Gaza health officials. It is still not known if Mr. Deif was killed in the strike.

The new air strikes came as Israel and Hamas continued to weigh the latest ceasefire proposal. Hamas has said talks meant to wind down the nine-month-long war would continue, even after Israel targeted Mr. Deif. International mediators are working to push Israel and Hamas toward a deal that would halt the fighting and free about 120 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza.

Strikes late Monday and on Tuesday hit the Nuseirat and Zawaida refugee camps in central Gaza. Strikes on four houses killed at least 24 people, including 10 women and four children, according to officials at Al-Aqsa hospital in the nearby town of Deir al-Balah.

Another hit a UN school in Nuseirat where families were sheltering, killing at least nine people. AP footage showed the school's yard covered in rubble and twisted metal from a structure that was hit.

Other strikes in Khan Younis and Rafah killed 12 people, according to medical officials and AP journalists.

The military said air force planes struck some 40 targets in Gaza over the past day, among them observation posts, Hamas military structures and explosives-rigged buildings. Israel blames Hamas for civilian casualties because the militants operate in densely populated areas.

The Israeli military said Tuesday that it would begin sending draft notices to ultra-orthodox Jewish men next week — a step that could destabilize Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and trigger more large protests in the community. Under long-standing political arrangements, ultra-orthodox men had been exempt from the draft, which is compulsory for most Jewish men.

The war in Gaza, which was sparked by Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, has killed more than 38,600 people, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. The war has created a humanitarian catastrophe in the coastal Palestinian territory, displaced most of its 2.3 million population and triggered widespread hunger.

Hamas's October attack killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and militants took about 250 hostage. About 120 remain in captivity, with about a third of them believed to be dead, according to Israeli authorities.

Violence has also surged in the West Bank. On Tuesday a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli policeman, wounding him lightly, before another officer opened fire, killing the assailant, who was identified as a 19-year-old from Gaza.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Palestinians survey the remains of Al-Razi School in Nuseirat, Gaza, on Tuesday. An Israeli air strike hit the school being used as a shelter, killing at least 9. EYAD BABA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Attendees of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wis., cheer for their party's presidential nominee, Donald Trump, and his running mate, J.D. Vance, on Tuesday. ANGELA WEISS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Donald Trump looks different from the floor of the Republican National Convention

SHANNON
PROUDFOOT

OPINION

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

There's often a difference between what people tell you are their biggest concerns at the Republican National Convention — the economy, the border and the gnawing feeling that good, ordinary people have been forgotten — and where their emotional energy lives.

On Monday, one of the procedural tasks before the circus really got under way was the adoption of the Republican platform. Watching Tennessee Senator Marsha Blackburn rhyme off the broad planks on the packed Milwaukee convention floor was a real-time applause meter.

Securing the border, getting inflation under control, restoring energy dominance and boosting military strength all got polite applause that landed somewhere around a five out of 10. "Protecting our Second Amendment rights" clocked a solid eight. But it was when Ms. Blackburn belted "keeping boys out of girls' sports" and "protecting life for the born and unborn" that she buried the needle.

There's also a strange temporal quality to the laments at the convention, which will continue until Thursday evening, when Donald Trump is expected to formally accept the party's nomination for president.

People constantly contrast the bucolic days of the first Trump administration — when you couldn't walk down the street without someone just handing you a great job, when gas was cheap as water and when water tasted better than it does now — with what they see as the current Biden-Harris hellscape.

"The Democrats say instead of owning a home, you'll rent a 400-square-foot studio apartment. Instead of owning a car, you'll rent a scooter using some app," Charlie Kirk, founder of campus conservative powerhouse Turning Point USA, said from the convention stage.

"Their vision is this: Limit your dreams. Give up. Aim lower. Be content with less."

Mr. Trump's supposedly halcyon first presidential term

ended 42 months ago, and even the most industriously terrible leader could drive the nation only so far into the ditch in that time. But that's beside the point.

There is this figure who pops up over and over in conversations and imagery at the convention. He's benevolent, humble, restrained, kind, self-sacrificing and always concerned for the lesser people around him. In photos, he always looks to be in dignified repose rather than perpetual motion.

I've come to think of him as Papa Trump. Because he looks like Donald Trump, and he appears doing things Donald Trump has done, but he is otherwise unrecognizable to non-Republican eyes. This Papa Trump seems to fulfill simultaneously the role of a father and Santa Claus, a bringer of wonderful things who wants nothing in return except your happiness.

Tuesday's theme was "Making America safe again," and the evening program opened with whatever is the terrifying opposite of a sizzle reel: a pounding drumbeat over video clips of horrifying crimes allegedly committed by border crossers, tales of fentanyl pouring into the country and statistics about how many people no longer feel safe in their own neighbourhoods.

The video finished with a spotlight arcing through a night sky to project an urgent help signal on the clouds: "TRUMP."

One answer to why Papa Trump and the bat signal exist was on the vast concourse in front of the arena on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Kirk was there broadcasting his show live. His guest was House Representative Cory Mills of Florida.

The two of them cheerfully lobbed deep-fried conspiracies back and forth about Saturday's attempt to assassinate Mr. Trump at a Pennsylvania rally — maybe it was "DEI morons" who'd screwed up, maybe the law-enforcement officials on the scene were suspect — before sagely agreeing that what they really wanted was to put to rest any notion that some dark scheme was at work.

Not far away, a little while later, alternate delegate Don Pollock and his wife, Carmen, from Galveston County, Tex., were wandering the concourse in search of a bathroom. The two big problems they want addressed are the

economy and the border.

But that is far from all that worries them. They feel like elites have built a world that benefits only them and leaves everyone else screwed over — it's something Mr. Pollock's father warned him about 50 years ago, and now it's right out in the open, they said.

They don't think of Mr. Trump as an elite because he made his own money — with a boost from his dad, Ms. Pollock allows — and because money isn't really the point: "Elite is when you think you're better than everybody else," Mr. Pollock said.

When they heard about the shooting in Pennsylvania, well, Ms. Pollock doesn't want to say what her first thought was. Then, with a nudge, she does, laughing a little: "Hillary is at it again. Which is not a very nice thought."

Since all the government workers tend to be Democrats, Mr. Pollock said, he wasn't sure he would want the Secret Service protecting him.

Ms. Pollock has her doubts about the FBI, too: "You do not know if they're going to knock on your door. I mean, it's that bad."

But why? Why would the FBI bang down the door of some random citizens who hadn't done anything wrong?

"First of all, I'm a Republican," she said. "It looks like that's enough."

This was a common sentiment on the convention floor: First they came for my president, maybe next time it will be me. And Mr. Trump — or maybe it's Papa Trump in that case — tells his followers exactly that, constantly.

Even in a giant convention hall full of other people who think like you, it must be so exhausting to think you're one of a select group burdened with the knowledge of how bad it is. Threats around every corner, with the very people and entities who are supposed to provide protection or ferret out the bad things the most suspect of all.

And the thing is, they're right. They're all right, every last one of them who thinks they're seen as a mark; that someone is telling them one thing and doing another; that some dark, greasy scheme has made them the unwitting prize tumbling out of the gumball machine.

They're completely right about all of it. They're just wrong about who's doing it to them.

U.S. senator found guilty in corruption trial

Prosecutors accused Menendez and his wife of accepting bribes from three businessmen

LUC COHEN NEW YORK

U.S. Senator Bob Menendez was convicted on Tuesday on all 16 criminal counts he faced including bribery at his corruption trial, completing the once-powerful New Jersey Democrat's dramatic downfall.

The jury in Manhattan federal court deliberated for more than 12 hours over three days before reaching a verdict in a trial that had taken nine weeks. Mr. Menendez, 70, had pleaded not guilty to the charges, which also included acting as a foreign agent and obstructing justice.

U.S. District Justice Sidney Stein set Mr. Menendez's sentencing for Oct. 29, a week before the Nov. 5 election in which he is running as an Independent in a bid for another six-year term in the Senate, but is considered a long shot to win.

After the jury's foreperson read the verdict, Mr. Menendez rested his elbows on the table, clasped his hands together and stared straight ahead. Mr. Menendez said after the verdict that he will appeal.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, immediately called on Mr. Menendez to resign in order to "do what is right for his constituents, the Senate and our country."



U.S. Senator Bob Menendez leaves Manhattan federal court in New York on Tuesday following his corruption trial. He stepped down as chair of the U.S. Senate foreign relations committee when he was charged in September but has resisted calls from fellow Democrats to resign. ADAM GRAY/GETTY IMAGES

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, a Democrat, said that if Mr. Menendez declines to resign, the Senate should vote to expel him.

The trial centred on what federal prosecutors called several overlapping bribery schemes in which the senator and his wife, Nadine Menendez, accepted

hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, gold bars and car and mortgage payments from three businessmen who wanted his help.

In exchange for bribes, Mr. Menendez helped steer billions of dollars in American aid to Egypt, where one of the businessmen, Wael Hana, had ties to government officials, according to prosecutors.

Mr. Menendez also was accused of seeking to influence criminal probes involving two other businessmen, Fred Daibes and José Uribe.

Mr. Hana and Mr. Daibes were co-defendants in the senator's trial and were also convicted on each of the counts they faced. Mr. Uribe pleaded guilty and testified as a prosecution witness against Mr. Menendez.

Mr. Menendez stepped down as chair of the influential U.S. Senate foreign relations committee upon being charged last September, but has resisted calls from fellow Democrats to resign.

During the trial, jurors were handed some of the gold bars that federal agents seized from the New Jersey home the senator shared with his wife. Agents also found more than US\$480,000 of cash, including some stuffed in envelopes inside a jacket bearing the senator's name.

Defence lawyers argued that Mr. Menendez's advocacy for businessmen in his state was normal activity for a senator, and sought to blame his wife, who prosecutors described as a go-between for bribes. Defence lawyers noted that the gold bars were found in her closet. They contended that the two lived largely separate lives and she kept her husband in the dark about her finances.

The defence also said that the senator for decades regularly withdrew cash from banks and stored it at his home. His older sister testified that he picked up the habit from their parents, who fled from Cuba with cash that their father had stored in a clock.

Nadine Menendez is set to be tried separately at a later date. She has not attended her husband's trial after being diagnosed with breast cancer.

REUTERS

To the Republicans, party unity is more important than national unity

DAVID SHRIBMAN

ANALYSIS

It depends on what the meaning of the word "unity" is.

In the wake of the assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump and during the proceedings of the Republican National Convention this week, the term appears everywhere, tossed into speeches, employed in commentary, inserted into campaign themes. Even divisive leaders are talking about unity.

It's the word of the week. But just because it is prominent in the American conversation doesn't mean it is very noticeable in American civic life – not now, not in the past several years.

And while there is broad agreement among Americans on some highly visible issues (large margins of support for abortion rights and limits on the sale of firearms, for example), there are vast differences among those in the political class – a measure of the chasm between Americans, who deplore incendiary politics and long for a sense of national unity, and their leaders, who stoke division.

Now, with the country's eyes on the Republican convention under way in Milwaukee, the talk of unity is particularly conspicuous.

But while on the surface the calls for unity are going out to the whole country, the real emphasis is on creating GOP unity for the campaign ahead, not forging unity among all Americans. In short, the unity the Republicans are seeking is unity among their own supporters.

That's because political leaders know the danger of disunity. When parties have fractious presidential primaries or conventions, their general election prospects are weakened.

When the Democrats were so divided that they required 103 ballots to select John W. Davis as their 1924 nominee, they were easily defeated by president Calvin Coolidge. When former governor Ronald Reagan of California challenged Gerald Ford for the GOP nomination in 1976, former governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia

won the election.

When Democratic senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts challenged the renomination of Mr. Carter in 1980, the party was split wide open – and Mr. Carter, who eventually prevailed in that struggle, lost the presidency to Mr. Reagan.

The creation of party unity is a major reason to hold conventions at all.

Most of the time in the modern era, the identity of the party's nominee is apparent, as was the case this year. Incumbent presidents have not been denied renomination in 56 years – not since 1968, when Lyndon Johnson withdrew from the race in late March.

No one doubted when the Democrats gathered for their convention four years ago that Joe Biden would be the nominee; he was the clear victor in the primaries and had the delegates required to prevail. The rationale for holding these four-day spectacles, complete with speeches and hurrah-for-our-side demonstrations, is to sow unity.

That's what the Republicans are doing this week. They want party unity – all the better to prepare for the fight ahead. To the extent that they want a broader unity, it is the hope that a large majority of Americans unite behind their candidate, Mr. Trump, in the November election.

Mr. Trump said, "Fight! Fight! Fight!" – not the language of broad unity – when he was taken from the stage in Butler, Pa., Saturday night. When those in the convention crowd chant, "Fight! Fight! Fight!" they are not pleading for national unity.

They are pleading for unity against their opponents. Indeed, the raised fists that are so prominent now provide a marked contrast with the remarks of George H.W. Bush, a Republican of a different era, who at his 1989 inauguration said, "This is the age of the offered hand."

"Most Republicans are together on the big issues," former senator Rob Portman of Ohio, whose retirement provided the opening for J.D. Vance to be elected to the Senate, said in an interview.

It was not a coincidence that three of the first four elected offi-

cial to make podium appearances at the convention were Black, nor was the obvious outreach to female voters implicit in scheduling women for highly visible speaking roles an accident.

Black people and women are principal elements of the Democratic coalition, and the Republicans are making a special effort to peel away support from their rivals. But the prominence of Black people and women at the GOP conclave ardently supporting Mr. Trump is also a subtle way of promoting the notion that the party understands the diverse nature of the contemporary American electorate and that those who might ordinarily identify as Democrats are welcome to unite behind Mr. Trump.

The emphasis in Milwaukee this week is less on national unity than on having the delegates leave the swing state of Wisconsin united in their desire to defeat Mr. Biden – or whoever the Democratic nominee is. Otherwise divisive figures who are popular within the new GOP, such as Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, would not be given a forum in prime time.

When she did appear, her bid for unity was clearly directed at Republicans, not the general electorate. "For far too long the establishment in Washington has sold us out," she said in an obvious reference to the Democratic establishment in the capital. "They promised unity and delivered division."

There is another weak point in contemporary talk of unity: political figures are speaking separately about coming together.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden did not appear together to calm the nation after the shooting in Pennsylvania. When COVID-19 vaccines – a Trump initiative, after all – became available, the two did not hold a joint event to urge Americans to get the shot.

In 2017, after Hurricane Maria ravaged Texas, Mr. Carter, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama gathered together at the hurricane relief concert in College Station, Tex. It was a great moment of unity – but they were all out of office.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Biden eyeing term limits, ethics code among major Supreme Court reforms

COLLEEN LONG

ZEKE MILLER WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is seriously considering proposals to establish term limits for U.S. Supreme Court justices, and an ethics code that would be enforceable under law amid growing concerns that the justices are not held accountable, according to three people briefed on the plans.

It would mark a major shift for Mr. Biden, the former head of the Senate judiciary committee, who has long resisted calls to reform the high court, though since taking office he has been increasingly vocal about his belief that the court is abandoning mainstream constitutional interpretation. The details were first reported by The Washington Post.

Any changes would require congressional approval, which would be unlikely in a divided Congress. But with Republican nominee Donald Trump bragging about putting the three justices on the high court who are now part of the conservative majority, Mr. Biden's call for major changes could help animate his voters.

Mr. Biden is also considering calling for a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the broad immunity for presidents granted by the court in its most recent term, after Mr. Trump claimed he was immune from prosecution for his actions on Jan. 6, 2021, when a mob of his supporters violently descended on the U.S. Capitol.

The consideration of such proposals comes in response to growing outrage among Democrats about high court opinions that overturned landmark decisions on abortion rights and federal regulatory powers that had stood for decades.

There have also been increasing questions surrounding the ethics of the court after revelations about some of the justices, including that Clarence Thomas had accepted luxury trips from a GOP megadonor.

Mr. Biden, speaking in a weekend call with the Congressional Progressive Caucus, talked about the possibility, the people said. Mr. Biden often tells voters they need more Democrats in Congress and a Democrat in the White House to counter the impact of the conservative-leaning court, but these proposals would go much further.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILITIA ATTACK NEAR CONGO'S CAPITAL LEAVES 72 DEAD IN A CONFLICT OVER LAND

KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO At least 72 people, including nine soldiers and a soldier's wife, were killed when armed men attacked a village in western Congo, local authorities said, as violence intensifies between rival communities.

Saturday's attack took place in the village of Kinsele, around 100 kilometres east of Kinshasa, the capital. Because of insecurity and poor infrastructure in the region, attacks can take days to be reported.

Kinsele is in the Kwamouth territory, where conflict has raged for two years between the Teke and Yaka communities, leading to hundreds of civilian deaths. The attackers were with the Mobondo militia, a group presenting itself as defenders of the Yaka people.

The conflict over land and customary claims in the Kwamouth territory erupted in June, 2022, between so-called "native" and "non-native" communities, according to the advocacy group

Human Rights Watch.

Tensions flared between the Teke, historical inhabitants of the region, and farmers from various other ethnic groups including the Yaka, who settled near the Congo River more recently.

Despite a ceasefire in April, 2024, in the presence of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi, clashes between the communities have continued and even intensified in recent weeks.

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Searching for someone to whisper in a leader's ear

Liberals don't have much experience with rebellion, but there aren't many ways to mount one now

CAMPBELL CLARK

OPINION



Who does Justin Trudeau listen to? Who can tap him on the shoulder and tell him it might be time to go? That's a question that came up among Liberals this summer.

In the U.S., a similar question was asked, with more urgency, about President Joe Biden. His halting debate performance in June has many Democrats fearing that if he is the party's candidate, he will hand the presidency to Donald Trump. A series of private delegations of Democrats have reportedly sought to give him that message.

Isn't this odd for advanced democracies in 2024? Major political parties are wondering where to find the shadowy figure who can whisper in the ear of the long-serving leader to convince them it is time to go.

Of course, this isn't the stuff of autocratic nations. If Mr. Biden and Mr. Trudeau aren't popular, voters can cast them out. They probably will.

In both cases, the people around the leaders would argue they had earned the right to run again. But in both cases, their parties are failing at what is arguably their responsibility: providing voters a viable option to be elected to govern.

Once, the Liberal Party was famous for internal rebellions, nearly chasing prime minister Jean Chrétien out when he was still on top of the polls. But the mechanisms for pushing out a Liberal prime minister were removed a generation ago. Now, like Democrats in the U.S., all that is left is public pressure or private persuasion.

The two cases are miles apart.

Many think Mr. Biden is suffering serious cognitive decline. He's up against a candidate, Mr. Trump, who sought to overturn the results of the past presidential election. Voters who don't really want Mr. Trump as president might feel Mr. Biden is simply unfit.

In the U.S., the Democratic ticket is baked into the political system by law and convention. But in theory, there is a vetting of incumbents seeking re-election in primaries. But Mr. Biden made it through that stage before the shock of his debate performance.

None of that applies to Mr. Trudeau. He's just unpopular. His Conservative opponent, Pierre Poilievre, has never tried to undo an election. He just has different political views. And if Canadian voters don't like Mr. Poilievre or Mr. Trudeau, they could elect the NDP.

But in practice, Canadians tend to see the Liberal and Conservative parties as the two main options to govern. And now it appears many voters have ruled out a party led by Mr. Trudeau. The

one Liberal MP who has publicly called for Mr. Trudeau to resign, New Brunswick's Wayne Long, has argued the party needs to change leaders to offer a "viable" option.

The current crop of Liberal MPs doesn't have much experience with rebellion. But there aren't many ways to mount one now.

Once, Liberal prime ministers had to face a leadership review between elections. When Paul Martin's supporters took over the party machinery in the late 1990s and early 2000s, it carried a real threat for Mr. Chrétien. If he had not announced in 2002 his plans to step down, he might have been rejected by his party.

But those rules were changed in 2005. Leadership reviews for prime ministers were dropped on the grounds that a prime minister who won a mandate from voters shouldn't have it overruled by the party.

In the U.S., major Democratic donors have threatened to freeze Mr. Biden's campaign funding. But there aren't massive donors

in Canadian federal politics anymore. There is no powerful group of donors pulling the purse strings who can threaten Mr. Trudeau. The political finance reforms of the early 2000s that eliminated corporate donations and set caps – now \$1,725 – mean big parties need thousands of donors.

And Liberal MPs can't remove Mr. Trudeau, except by voting to defeat his government. The Liberal caucus never adopted the section of the 2014 Reform Act that allows a caucus to remove a party leader.

All that makes pushing Mr. Trudeau a matter of convincing him to leave. But he seems to be working on another attempt at rebooting his government, so now Chrystia Freeland's days as Finance Minister look numbered.

In Canada, as in the U.S., big political parties that play a major role in the political system find themselves without a lever to change a leader.

They're left searching for someone who can get the leader to listen.



Christia Freeland, left, is pictured with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Delta, B.C., in March. She said Tuesday it's 'a huge privilege' to serve as Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/REUTERS

Premiers speak of lack of teamwork with Ottawa at summer meeting

LYNDSAY ARMSTRONG HALIFAX

Canada's premiers on Tuesday lamented what they said was the federal government's lack of teamwork on important files from housing to school lunch programs, with British Columbia's Premier saying working with Ottawa can feel like "beating our head against a wall."

Premiers of the 10 provinces and three territories are in Halifax for three days this week for the summer meeting of the Council of the Federation, hosted by Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston.

On Tuesday, B.C. Premier David Eby told reporters that for years at these federation get-togethers, he and his counterparts have asked for a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"That call continues to go unanswered and I cannot understand why, because we have a lot of work to do together," Mr. Eby said.

Mr. Houston echoed similar sentiments in a letter sent to Mr. Trudeau ahead of the conference, asking the Prime Minister to "work with us in a true partnership" in order to revive the "collaborative spirit of the federation."

The Premier told reporters Tuesday that provinces and territories are closely attuned to their residents' needs, and they want to work more closely with Ottawa in order to tackle major issues.

"As provinces and territories, we have some things that are in our wheelhouse, that are our jurisdiction. We know a lot about them, we know what we need. And we have ideas about how to approach them," he said.

"So what we've asked for from Ottawa is to partner with us on those things and work with us, and not try to go around us – as may be the case sometimes, as we see on some of the housing stuff that's happening now."

One federal program that gets heat from provinces is Ottawa's Housing Accelerator Fund, which distributes money for housing directly to cities and municipalities, bypassing provincial governments.

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, who has been highly critical of the accelerator fund, said Tuesday that a lack of collaboration has resulted in the duplication of other programs like dental care, pharmacare and the school lunch program.

Doubling up on these services means "you're paying for twice as many civil servants to deliver the program, which means you're not getting the dollars down to the people who need them," she said.

"What we've advocated is – work with us. If you want to get involved in assisting us in cost-sharing, then use our architecture and provide funding so that we can expand the programs."

Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, acknowledged that there's a general sense of exasperation among his peers when it comes to working with Ottawa. "All the premiers together, I think that we're pretty frustrated in that area, but we want to work with the federal government," Mr. Ford told reporters Tuesday.

Mr. Eby said he thinks progress could be made if the Prime Minister were to meet with premiers and make a plan for working together.

"It's not about money. It's not about additional funding, it's about, can we co-ordinate nationally on these areas of shared interest?"

"And that is where it sometimes feels like we're just beating our head against a wall," Mr. Eby said.

The Office of the Prime Minister was not immediately available for comment.

Freeland: Finance Minister welcomes Carney's support but wouldn't say if she tried to recruit him

FROM A1

Two sources said the view of some senior officials within the PMO, including chief of staff Katie Telford, is that Ms. Freeland has been ineffective in selling the government's economic policies, which have come under assault from Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre.

Other criticism includes that Ms. Freeland is not doing enough to win over members of the Liberal caucus, the sources said. The Globe and Mail is not naming the sources because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

Two Liberal Party sources said last week there is also unease in the PMO over the reaction in Washington to a controversial new tax on U.S. tech giants. The Globe is not naming these sources because they were not authorized to discuss the internal debate.

One of the sources said the PMO had discussed a scenario about replacing Ms. Freeland with former Bank of Canada and Bank of England governor Mark Carney.

In response to The Globe's reporting, Mr. Trudeau told a news conference last week that he had been trying to recruit Mr. Carney for years. He did not directly answer a question about Ms. Freeland's future in the finance minister post but said he has "full confidence in her abilities."

Political pressure has mounted on Mr. Trudeau to shuffle his cabinet, renew his senior staff and shift policy directions since the Conservatives won Toronto

St. Paul's, which was considered a safe Liberal riding, late last month. Many former Liberal ministers have publicly called for his exit, but only one sitting MP has added his name to those demands.

During Tuesday's news conference, Ms. Freeland noted that Mr. Carney is her son's godfather. She said she speaks with Mr. Carney often and welcomed his support for the Liberals and the government but didn't clarify when asked if she has also tried to recruit him.

Asked if Mr. Trudeau had raised concerns directly with her about her performance, Ms. Freeland again declined to disclose what the Prime Minister told her and expressed gratitude for the job she has.

"It is a huge privilege for me to serve Canada and Canadians as your Finance Minister and as your Deputy Prime Minister," Ms. Freeland said.

The Globe's reporting last week also increased expectations for a cabinet shuffle later this summer. Such a shake-up would also be expected to replace ministers who have decided not to run again in the next election, which Michele Cadario, who was deputy chief of staff to former prime minister Paul Martin, said in an interview is standard practice for governments with a year left in their mandates.

Ms. Cadario said it would be rare for a prime minister to give a cabinet colleague 100-per-cent certainty about their position while a shuffle is being contemplated, and Ms. Freeland would be very limited in what she could say about private meetings.

Still, based on the comments from Mr. Trudeau and Ms. Freeland, Ms. Cadario said her takeaway is that the government isn't yet certain about its next move.

"What I read is leaving room to make decisions one way or the other," she said.

Sharan Kaur, who served as deputy chief of staff to former finance minister Bill Morneau until he resigned in 2020, questioned the leaks to the press, which she said have ultimately undermined confidence in the cabinet selected by the Prime Minister.

"Both the Prime Minister and

the Deputy Prime Minister have now had opportunities to put this rumour to bed. Instead, they have repeatedly left more and more room for speculation," Ms. Kaur said.

"The main issue is that the PMO leadership is seeking a scapegoat for declining government support," she added. "While Deputy Prime Minister Freeland's communication skills are a concern, the real problem lies within the PMO itself. These leak tactics only highlight the lack of self-awareness and accountability at the core."

Ms. Freeland is one of the government's best-known ministers. According to an Abacus Data poll conducted July 4 to 9 and released Monday, 39 per cent of respondents were able to identify her from a picture. The next most-recognized person was Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly, who was identified by 20 per cent of respondents.

She has been at the helm of the most important ministerial portfolio for the government through a rocky time. While inflation has cooled and the Canadian economy avoided a widely predicted recession, households have been gripped by affordability challenges to which the government was late to respond.

Mr. Poilievre, who has made affordability his main focus since last summer, has enjoyed a double-digit lead over the Liberals ever since.

The government recognized its vulnerability on housing affordability issues late last summer and tried to pivot with a string of announcements over the last year aimed at boosting home construction. But many of the measures – such as GST rebates for rental unit construction or federal money to incentivize municipal zoning changes – won't have an impact on housing supply and costs for some time.

The April budget also tried to make an argument for generational fairness, by funding spending on housing with an increase in capital-gains taxes for businesses and some individuals. The Liberals expected the move would help win back voters, but the polling has shown no meaningful change since then.

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Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston chairs a meeting with Canada's premiers in Halifax on Tuesday. Mr. Houston told reporters that the provinces wish to work more closely with Ottawa. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



[SCIENCE]

Welcome to Jurassic Park

A visitor views a full-size bronze replica of a Diplodocus dinosaur skeleton in the newly completed Nature Discovery Garden at the Natural History Museum in London, England, on Tuesday

TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS

N.S. boy killed in flash flood remembered as a 'bright light'

Province vows to fix delays in disseminating emergency alerts after 13-year-old Eli Young died in Wolfville

LINDSAY JONES

The Nova Scotia government has vowed to fix delays in sending out emergency alerts and it reprimanded municipalities that failed to initiate warnings about dangerous conditions during last week's fatal flash flood that killed 13-year-old Eli Young in Wolfville, N.S.

A similar tragedy occurred a year ago when two children, a teenager and a man were swept to their deaths in flood waters in the community of West Hants.

In both cases, there were bottlenecks at the municipal level that resulted in hours-long delays in sending out emergency alerts.

"We ask them to be more vigilant in issuing alerts," Emergency Measures Organization Minister John Lohr said in a letter sent to wardens and mayors of Nova Scotia municipalities on Tuesday. "Alerts will be issued within 15 minutes of receiving a request. We ask that you reach out this week to schedule refresher training for appropriate municipal staff as necessary."

An emergency alert was issued last Thursday night, nearly an hour after Eli was swept by a torrent of water into a ditch, and two to three hours after emergency crews had already been responding to calls related to heavy rain and flooding in Kings County, where Eli lived.

In Nova Scotia, current regulations state that emergency alerts can only be requested by municipalities, despite Premier Tim Houston declaring 11 months ago he was looking to change this, but during last week's flood, the province took the unusual step of sending one itself, after none were requested by any of the communities affected by the deluge.

Eli's family say they are still struggling to understand how he was killed so suddenly. His death has shocked everyone who knew him, his mother Amanda Young, father Rodney Samson, stepfather Michael Wentworth and stepmother Jesi Leigh Barber said in a statement to The Globe and Mail.

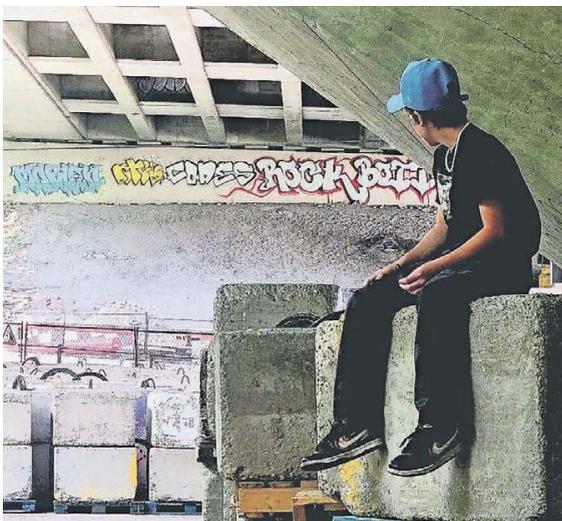
Eli, a brother to four siblings, was a charming, extroverted child who soared through the streets on his scooter and bicycle with no hands, named his kitten Bob so he could tell people he had a bobcat, and collected Nike sneakers.

"When he wasn't convincing his parents to buy him new shoes, he was getting them to create beautiful storage and displays of the ones he already acquired," his parents wrote. Recently, he saved up to buy his best friend's old white Nikes and wore them even though they were a few sizes too big, explaining to his mom: "It's about the memories, you don't know where these have been."

Eli was playing in a park near Acadia University with a friend when parts of Nova Scotia were inundated with 100 millimetres of rain in just a few hours last Thursday, flooding homes and destroying roads. Flood waters pulled him into a ditch and he



Eli Young was playing in a park when parts of Nova Scotia were inundated with rain last Thursday. Flood waters pulled him into a ditch and he disappeared under a torrent of water. DAN JARDINE PHOTOGRAPHY



A brother to four siblings, Eli was described as a charming, extroverted 13-year-old who rode through the streets on his scooter and bicycle with no hands and collected Nike sneakers. RODNEY SAMSON

disappeared under a torrent of water at 7:40 p.m. local time.

Dozens of police, firefighters and search-and-rescue teams looked for the boy, only to recover his remains after water was drained from the area nearly four hours later. An online fundraiser to support his family has already raised more than \$44,000.

"It's very difficult to understand how someone so young could be taken from us so suddenly," Eli's parents wrote. "He was such a bright light in our lives, always cheerful, always happy, always kind."

Eli's family say they are still struggling to understand how he was killed so suddenly.

Last August, after the fatal flooding in West Hants, Mr. Houston said he would consider extending the power to issue emergency alerts to lower-level decision makers, including fire officials, as in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

On Tuesday, Mr. Houston said training is now under way to expand authorization of issuing emergency alerts to fire officials, municipal police forces and other first responders. When asked why that wasn't already in place, he responded, "These are complex situations." He said first responders need specific training on whether to alert people to shelter in place or get out.

"Sometimes with these flash floods, they're not predictable so it's hard to predict what to do,

but the training is happening, the training will be there and we will work to get it right," Mr. Houston told reporters at the Council of the Federation meeting in Halifax.

The province introduced legislation in March to establish a new department to improve emergency readiness and establish a volunteer corps called the Nova Scotia Guard. The legislation, expected to pass this fall, would allow new authority to make regulations on regional alerts.

Kings County chief administrative officer Scott Conrod did not respond to questions from The Globe.

A university professor who studies climate change and flood preparedness expressed frustration that recommendations made in his 2020 report appear to have been ignored by provincial officials.

"These alerts should be going out between zero and 30 minutes. From the time that people in authority recognize the problem, it should be a very rapid response to shelter in place or other direction to get people to stay off the roads when these extreme flood events are occurring," said Blair Feltmate, head of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation at University of Waterloo in Ontario.

"It could also be the thing that says to parents: 'Holy cow, my kids are outside playing right now. Where are they? Get them in the house.' Because you just never know what child is playing close to a stream or a creek that all of a sudden turns into a torrent through flash floods."

Wine: Resumption of sales with Alberta is crucial for B.C. producers, Eby says

FROM A1

In January, B.C.'s Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor-General said it was "actively engaging with the government of Alberta" over the issue.

Direct sales are a long-standing issue for Canadian producers of alcoholic beverages. A 2018 Supreme Court decision found provinces had the right to restrict purchases that didn't go through provincial licensing agencies. Only B.C., Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia had allowed consumers to order out-of-province wine directly from producers.

On Tuesday, the two premiers explained that any vineyards barred from shipping wine directly to Alberta clients could resume these sales immediately – but they must keep track of all these sales. Then, in two months or so, once the two provinces harmonize a digital database for this interprovincial trade, they will be asked to remit the proper taxes and fees to Alberta's alcohol regulator.

"There are a lot of Albertans who love B.C. wine so we were hearing that they wanted to have a solution and we also heard directly from the vineyards," Ms. Smith said.

Mr. Eby, who noted the stark political differences between him and his counterpart, joked that the détente was spurred along by him donning an Oilers jersey after losing a bet to Ms. Smith on who would win the Canucks-Oilers second round matchup.

In reality, he stated, the resumption of these sales is crucial for B.C. producers buffeted by huge crop losses due to the brutal weather in recent years. Last summer, a historically destructive wildfire season brought smoke that lingered around vines, contaminating many vintages.

Then, around the same time Alberta's liquor regulator was investigating B.C. vineyards this January, those in the Okanagan and southern Interior were experiencing a historic cold snap that wiped out nearly all of this year's crop of grapes.

The winter prior, another deep freeze destroyed more than half the harvest of some of these same producers.

"We are working closely with the wine sector to support them in being able to really persevere through this challenging period where the vines are dead in a significant portion of many different wineries so that they live through that replant and growth period and get back on track," Mr. Eby said, promising more provincial support is coming.

Miles Prodan, president and chief executive of Wine Growers British Columbia, the trade organization representing 180 wineries making nearly all the commercial wine in the province, welcomed the end to a difficult choice his members had to make if they wanted to sell in Alberta: either anger their dedicated customers by stopping the shipment of their cases across the Rockies or lose out on the opportunity to be stocked in liquor stores or restaurants in that province.

Now, he said, B.C. wine companies – which represent a provincial sector worth an estimated \$3.72-billion – need to sell their considerable stock of wine from previous vintages to tourists flocking to the Okanagan region from Alberta to "build up their reserves to get up through the not-so-good years that we know are coming."

Al Hudec, a Vancouver-based lawyer hired by B.C. wine-makers earlier this year to push back against Alberta's move, said he was appreciative Ms. Smith was willing to negotiate an agreement, but cautioned that his clients will be eager to see how much in taxes and fees they will owe another government.

"There's no use taxing other Canadian wines like you tax foreign wines and imposing a lot of random fees," he said.

With a report from The Canadian Press

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Sir John A. Macdonald and his wife look out at the Stave River near Mission, B.C., as a CPR train takes them west in 1886, when the Pacific Scandal was long behind them. The railway's last spike was driven in 1885, during the fourth of Macdonald's six terms. CANADIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM

A NATION'S PAPER

Notes on four scandals

From Macdonald and King's dubious infrastructure deals to the Airbus and SNC-Lavalin affairs, Globe scoops have helped to uncover what happened behind closed doors

DOUG SAUNDERS

It was the first and, to date, the only time the front page of *The Globe* has brought down a federal government. Readers who spent three cents for a copy on Friday, July 18, 1873, were greeted with 17 small headlines running down the right-hand column of the front page, topped with the phrase: "THE PACIFIC SCANDAL!"

Inside was the sort of journalistic dynamite that six-year-old Canada, and the almost 30-year-old *Globe*, had never seen. The paper had obtained a trove of correspondence between Conservative prime minister Sir John A. Macdonald and his cabinet, and the secret U.S. backers of a Montreal company that had recently won a \$30-million contract to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. Macdonald had assured voters the railroad was a purely Canadian venture.

The correspondence proved, after months of reporting and parliamentary accusations, that the CPR, nominally headed by Montreal transportation tycoon Hugh Allan, was a front for the U.S.-based Northern Pacific Railway Company. In exchange for the mammoth railway-building contract, the Americans provided a staggering \$350,000 in secret campaign funds to Macdonald and his senior ministers to help them buy votes and win the 1872 election.

Among the documents *The Globe* reprinted were the prime minister's telegram to Allan reassuring him that he and his cohorts will get the railway but "the whole matter [was] to be kept quiet until after the elections," and Macdonald's urgent wire to Allan's lawyer as election eve approached: "I must have another ten thousand. Will be the last time of calling. Do not fail me."

The *Globe's* 1873 revelations weren't exactly what we'd today call investigative journalism. Those telegrams had been stolen from the lawyer for Allan by the lawyer's personal assistant, who then sold them to the opposition Liberal Party, which was then tightly linked to *The Globe*.

The Pacific Scandal had begun in earnest on April 2, when Liberal MP Lucius Seth Huntington rose in Parliament and declared, in *The Globe's* summary, "that the Prime Minister of Canada had granted the Pacific Railway in return for a bribe." He demanded an inquiry. Only after *The Globe's* revelation broke did Parliament strike a full-fledged royal commission. That fall, Macdonald gamely cross-examined all its witnesses, frequently concluding by declaring, "These hands are clean!" By early November, many of his own party's MPs had turned against him, and on Nov. 5 he reluctantly gave up his government.

If that sequence of events sounds familiar, it's because this sort of scandal — involving prime ministers, big public infrastructure projects and behind-the-scenes payments from the private companies that want to build them — has exploded onto the front page of *The Globe* on four notable occasions.

There have been other big federal scandals, including the customs scandal of 1926 and the sponsorship scandal of 1999 to 2005. But these four are united in several ways: Each prime minister initially denied any wrongdoing, and only after a front-page *Globe* story appeared did the public become fully

aware of the scandal's scope. And these controversies temporarily bruised the reputation and electoral standing of the governing party, although none has permanently ousted a party or its leader.

After Macdonald's resignation, the Liberals won the 1874 election and governed for four years amid a global economic depression, but the Conservatives returned in 1878 with a majority, and would govern until 1896. The railway's last spike was driven in 1885, during the fourth of Macdonald's six terms.

The Pacific Scandal was in many ways the template of prime ministerial scandal: It established a pattern of executive misconduct involving infrastructure money that would recur throughout the generations.

Half a century later, another long-serving prime minister faced another enormous infrastructure project, and another expensive election.

In 1928, when prime minister William Lyon Mackenzie King was presented with a plan to build a hydroelectric dam across the St. Lawrence River at Beauharnois, west of Montreal, many Canadians, especially in Ontario, felt its cost and scale far exceeded Canada's fiscal capacity and energy needs. "The preferable plan would be to build the entire seaway in conjunction with the United States, as

necessary, and reserve Canada's share of the power for public ownership and distribution." *The Globe* editorialized that year.

Instead, King's government became interested in a private firm run by Montreal businessman R.O. Sweezy: the Beauharnois Light, Heat and Power Corporation. As historians S.J. Donovan and R.B. Winnill put it in the 1976 book *Political Corruption in Canada*, Sweezy "set out to appropriate all the political influence he could summon," making an astonishing \$700,000 in donations to King's Liberals.

The company also made a deal with Liberal senator Wilfrid Laurier McDougald, a close friend of King's, and senior civil servant Robert Henry. The two men set up a dummy company that was theoretically in competition for the contract; that company was then bought out by Beauharnois, making McDougald and Henry its chairman and vice-president. King then appointed Henry the minister of railways and canals, which made him responsible for giving Beauharnois its charter — which it got in 1929.

Globe reporters had been hearing rumours, and, in April, 1928, Ottawa correspondent William Marchington wrote that McDougald "is reputed to be connected with the Beauharnois Power Company." The next day, the senator rose angrily in Parliament to deliver what he called "an immediate, unequivocal and absolute denial to the implication of the *Globe* dispatch," claiming: "I have no interest in or association with that company in any way, shape or form."

In May, 1930, as a summer election loomed, MPs from the left-leaning Labour and Progressive parties obtained documents that proved McDougald was on the board of Beauharnois. MPs rose to denounce the Beauharnois deal as "fraud," "financial brigandage," a "gigantic steal" and a "menace to Canada," *The Globe* reported. The paper's editorials argued the project would largely benefit American customers at the expense of Canadians, noting that Beauharnois was going to charge Ontario Hydro twice the cost of producing electricity.

Despite the huge donation from Beauharnois, King's Liberals lost the 1930 election, during the Depression, to R.B. Bennett's Conservatives. Bennett didn't hesitate to launch an inquiry into the Beauharnois affair. Despite being a famously detail-oriented micromanager, King claimed he was unaware of the source of most of the party's campaign funds.

That claim was blown apart by *The Globe's* front page of July 22, 1931: "Mr. King's Holiday Bills Paid by Beauharnois; Ex-Premier Didn't Know, Declares McDougald," said Marchington's story, which drew on documents released by a parliamentary committee.

That included a receipt proving King had enjoyed a lavish vacation in Bermuda and New York, shortly before the election was called in April, 1930, paid for by Beauharnois, in the company of McDougald and another Liberal senator, Andrew Haydon.

The *Globe's* editorial described the findings as "an indictment of political wrongdoing, a condemnation of prostitution of public office for private gain, the like of which probably never has been heard in the legislative halls of Canada."

To the end, King claimed he had known nothing.



The *Globe's* edition from July 22, 1931, sheds light on the Beauharnois affair and Mackenzie King's claims of what he knew and didn't know.

“The Liberal Party has not been disgraced but it is in the valley of humiliation,” he told Parliament during a three-hour speech in 1931. “But we are going to come out of that valley.”

His escape from it happened with surprising speed. The Liberals were re-elected in 1935 with a majority. King would remain prime minister until 1948, and the Liberals would stay in office until 1957. In the 1950s, the Beauharnois would become one of the major sections of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The scandal’s only lasting legacy may have been the 1944 decision to establish the publicly owned Hydro-Québec.

The next big prime ministerial scandal took place a couple generations later and unfolded over two decades of reporting. In the early 1990s, after he’d left office, Brian Mulroney accepted envelopes containing cash totalling about \$275,000, during three private meetings in hotel rooms in the U.S. and Canada with Karlheinz Schreiber, a businessman of German and Canadian citizenship.

Schreiber had a contract with the European consortium Airbus Industries to persuade the Canadian federal government to renew the fleet of Air Canada, then a Crown corporation, with Airbus rather than Boeing jets. Airbus paid Schreiber an estimated \$20-million, deposited in his Swiss account, to sell politicians and bureaucrats on this huge transportation-infrastructure deal.

In 1988, Airbus won a \$1.8-billion contract from Air Canada for 34 A320 jets. Schreiber provided a similar service for the German corporation Thyssen AG, also involving millions in fees, to persuade Ottawa to build an armoured-vehicle factory in Nova Scotia. (It was never built.)

After the deal was announced, Schreiber’s cozy relationships with prominent Tories, such as former Newfoundland premier Frank Moores – who briefly served on the board of Air Canada – were chronicled by Globe columnist Stevie Cameron. Then, in 1995, the revelation of Airbus payments to Schreiber for political influence was aired by the CBC’s *The Fifth Estate*. Later that year, news broke that the RCMP was investigating whether Mulroney received some of that Airbus money. The former prime minister then sued Ottawa for defamation, winning a settlement in 1996 that included an apology and \$2.1-million in costs. He told the court he “had never had any dealings” with Schreiber while he was prime minister.

In 2003, Globe editor-in-chief Edward Greenspon commissioned lawyer William Kaplan, who had published a book defending Mulroney and criticizing Cameron’s work, to write a series of articles on the two. In the third article, with the shocking front-page headline “Schreiber hired Mulroney,” Kaplan revealed that, years after his exculpatory book about Mulroney was released, he learned that Schreiber did in fact make cash payments to the former prime minister – news that undermined what Mulroney had previously told him about their relationship. Kaplan later said he felt “duped.”

At first, spokespeople for Mulroney insisted the payments had been in support of a putative pasta business. Later, Schreiber and Mulroney would say the payments were for help with the Thyssen armoured-vehicle contract – which, if true, would suggest they were not payoffs for deals made while Mulroney was prime minister, but advance fees for future work.

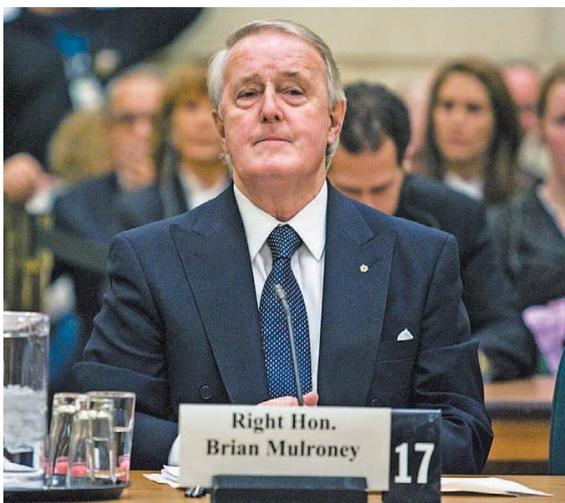
Greenspon later wrote that Mulroney had phoned him and urged him not to publish the story, adding that Mulroney “said he could give us a better story if we suppressed the one about the \$300,000 dealing.” Greenspon did not play ball.

In 2007, articles by Globe reporter Greg McArthur blew a hole in many of Mulroney’s claims. They showed that there was a previously undisclosed fourth meeting between Schreiber and Mulroney, at a luxury hotel in Switzerland in 1998, in which, according to Schreiber, the former prime minister wanted to know if there “was any evidence that he received any money.” They showed that Mulroney had not claimed the cash payments as taxable income until 2000, around the time the CBC was preparing to air a report on Schreiber’s bank records from Switzerland. Other reporting showed that Mulroney had not only known and met with Schreiber multiple times while prime minister, but that Schreiber had funded Mulroney’s 1976 and 1983 Progressive Conservative leadership campaigns.

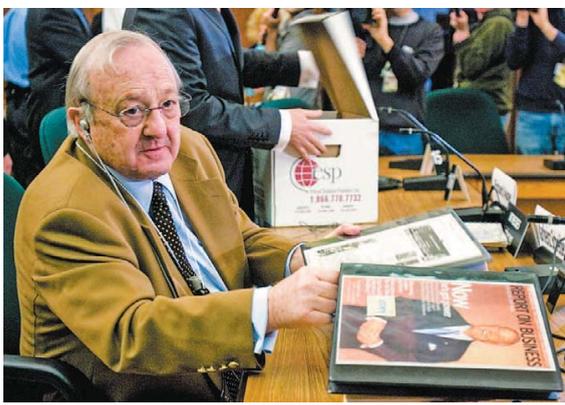
These stories led prime minister Stephen Harper’s government to launch an inquiry into the Mulroney-Schreiber dealings, chaired by Manitoba judge Jeffrey Oliphant, beginning in 2008. Mulroney made multiple appearances and insisted on his innocence, on more than one occasion breaking into tears.

In the end, Oliphant concluded that the payments to Mulroney were “not appropriate.” However, the inquiry could not prove that Mulroney was aware of the source of the money, and Oliphant’s terms of reference prevented him from examining the other millions Schreiber paid out. Notably, Oliphant also concluded, based on a forensic audit, that “the source of the funds paid by Mr. Schreiber to Mr. Mulroney was Airbus,” not Thyssen.

Schreiber was deported to Germany, where he was sentenced to eight years in prison for having evaded about \$10-million in taxes on many tens of millions he’d disbursed in “black money” – bribes and kickbacks – including those mysterious Canadian millions. He is the only Canadian figure to have



Former prime minister Brian Mulroney testifies before the Commons ethics committee in December, 2007. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Karlheinz Schreiber prepares for his appearance before the Commons ethics committee in December, 2007. TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

faceted legal repercussions. Once again, a prime minister managed to dodge responsibility for a scandal until it appeared on The Globe’s front page – this time long after the fact.

Just after that scandal died down, at the height of the Libyan uprising against dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, Globe reporter Graeme Smith found thousands of documents scattered in the bombed and looted remains of a Tripoli building belonging to the Montreal-based engineering corporation SNC-Lavalin Group Inc. They showed that the company had spent years developing a close relationship with Gadhafi and his family. It soon emerged that SNC-Lavalin had paid tens of millions in bribes and other payments to win contracts for major infrastructure projects, including a huge prison.

Weeks later, the RCMP raided SNC-Lavalin’s Montreal offices. Canadian prosecutors would eventually charge the company and its executives with bribery and fraud – and SNC-Lavalin, if convicted, faced a ban from bidding on federal contracts for up to 10 years. To prevent that outcome, SNC-Lavalin began aggressively lobbying Ottawa to introduce a deferred prosecution agreement law, which would allow mediation and fines rather than criminal trials for such corporate offences.

The lobbying also drew attention to SNC-Lavalin’s outsized political contributions. In 2018, one of its executives pleaded guilty to having channelled \$110,000 in illegal campaign donations to the federal Liberals (and \$8,000 to the Conservatives) from 2004 to 2011.

Also in 2018, the Trudeau government passed legislation allowing deferred prosecution agreements; SNC-Lavalin was the first applicant for relief under the act. But federal prosecutors concluded the company was ineligible, because of the gravity of the allegations and when they took place, before the law existed.

On Feb. 7, 2019, Globe readers were greeted with another explosive front page: A story by Robert Fife, Steven Chase and Sean Fine reported that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his staff had put pressure on the justice minister and attorney-general at the time, Jody Wilson-Raybould, to order prosecutors to grant SNC-Lavalin a deferred prosecution.

That morning, Trudeau appeared at a snow-swept podium outside a Vaughan, Ont., event and declared, “The allegations in The Globe story this morning are false.” Neither he nor his staff ever “directed” the attorney-general to drop the prosecution of SNC-Lavalin, he maintained.

But on Feb. 25, Wilson-Raybould told the Commons justice committee that Trudeau, his top aides and 11 senior civil servants and party officials had aggressively put pressure on her to drop the prosecution. Trudeau himself, in a tense meeting with the minister, had told her of the political importance of SNC-Lavalin to the Liberal Party’s fortunes. At one point, she said, “The Prime Minister jumped in stressing that there is an election in Quebec and that I am an MP in Quebec – the MP for Papineau’ [a riding near SNC-Lavalin’s head office] ... I was quite taken aback.”

Trudeau then demoted Wilson-Raybould in a cabinet shuffle. She quit the cabinet on Feb. 12, later joined by fellow minister Jane Philpott. In late March, Wilson-Raybould released a recorded phone call in which Trudeau’s Privy Council clerk Michael Wernick had warned her that the Prime Minister “is gonna find a way to get it done one way or another ... he is in that kind of mood.” On April 2, Trudeau expelled her and Philpott from the Liberal caucus.

SNC-Lavalin pleaded guilty to one charge of fraud in December, 2019, in a plea deal that imposed a \$280-million fine but meant the company could continue to bid on federal contracts. Four months earlier, the federal ethics commissioner had concluded that “the authority of the Prime Minister and his office was used to circumvent, undermine and ultimately attempt to discredit the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions as well as the authority of Ms. Wilson-Raybould.”

Trudeau would face no formal penalties and his Liberals would go on to win the election that October and another in 2021. But those would be minority governments – a shift, some believe, precipitated by a public sense of impropriety and not-so-sunny ways.

It resembled the shift in voter sentiments that had pummeled Macdonald’s Conservatives in 1874, King’s Liberals in 1930 and the Tories in 1993 after Mulroney stepped down. And it followed a uniquely Canadian pattern, one that combined big infrastructure, private and foreign money, and the ever-shifting relationship between prime ministers and an inquisitive newspaper.

Doug Saunders is international affairs columnist at The Globe and Mail.

This is an excerpt from *A Nation’s Paper: The Globe and Mail in the Life of Canada*, a collection of history essays from Globe writers past and present, coming this fall from Signal/McClelland & Stewart.



Former attorney-general Jody Wilson-Raybould told a Commons committee in 2019 that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, top aides, senior civil servants and party officials had pressed her to drop the prosecution of SNC-Lavalin. BLAIR GABLE/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Above: In a recorded phone call released by Wilson-Raybould, Privy Council clerk Michael Wernick, right, seen with Trudeau in 2019, warned that the PM would “find a way to get it done one way or another” on a deferred prosecution agreement for SNC-Lavalin. CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS



Right: The Globe’s investigation of SNC-Lavalin, whose Montreal headquarters is shown in 2012, revealed that the firm had paid sizable bribes to win contracts from the Gadhafi regime in Libya. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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

Pierre Poilievre revives the war on drugs

In 2021, ahead of the federal election, the Conservatives under then-leader Erin O'Toole eased back on some long-standing positions. Among the moves was a more thoughtful and nuanced stand on drug addiction.

During Stephen Harper's decade in power, the Conservatives maintained a war-on-drugs approach to the challenges of addiction and fought against the provision of the life-saving services at Vancouver-based Insite, a supervised drug consumption site. Mr. Harper lost that case 9-0 at the Supreme Court in 2011. This space at the time declared the decision constituted "a victory for common sense over a mindless and arbitrary 'war on drugs.'"

By the time Mr. O'Toole was in charge, seeking to appeal to more voters, the party's 2021 platform expressed empathy. "The last thing that those suffering from addiction should have to worry about is being arrested," the platform said. The party said its goal was "the reduction of harm and promotion of recovery." The Conservatives promised a focus on treatment, investing \$325-million over three years to create 1,000 beds across Canada. (The Liberals in 2021 promised \$500-million for treatment but in federal budgets since have not delivered.)

Last Friday, with the Conservatives well ahead in the polls, Leader Pierre Poilievre announced a return to the harsher approach forged by his former boss. Using his usual inflammatory rhetoric - calling Liberals and other perceived opponents "wacko" and "radical" - Mr. Poilievre said he would cut all funding to supervised drug consumption sites and close those that "endanger the public." And, perhaps no surprise, Mr. Poilievre tried to brand the health care facilities as "drug dens" in his attempt to fire up a political wedge issue - at the potential cost of Canadians' lives.

The facts are this, even if the Opposition Leader is likely to dismiss data coming from experts he disagrees with: from the start of 2017 through the end of 2023, Health Canada reports that drug consumption sites received 4.6-million visits, from about 414,000 people. There were 55,693 overdoses. None were fatal, because professional medical aid was on hand. The sites also handed out almost 500,000 referrals to other health or social services.

It is true there are challenges around some of the locations of supervised drug consumption sites. Mr. Poilievre staged his Friday news conference in Montreal near one. There have been similar issues in Toronto, Calgary and elsewhere. More can and should be done in the oversight of such facilities, to ensure issues such as needle debris are addressed. They must adhere to the highest standards. But the cases are sometimes exaggerated. When there was controversy over a site in central Calgary, it was shown that crime in the immediate area and in the downtown area were the same.

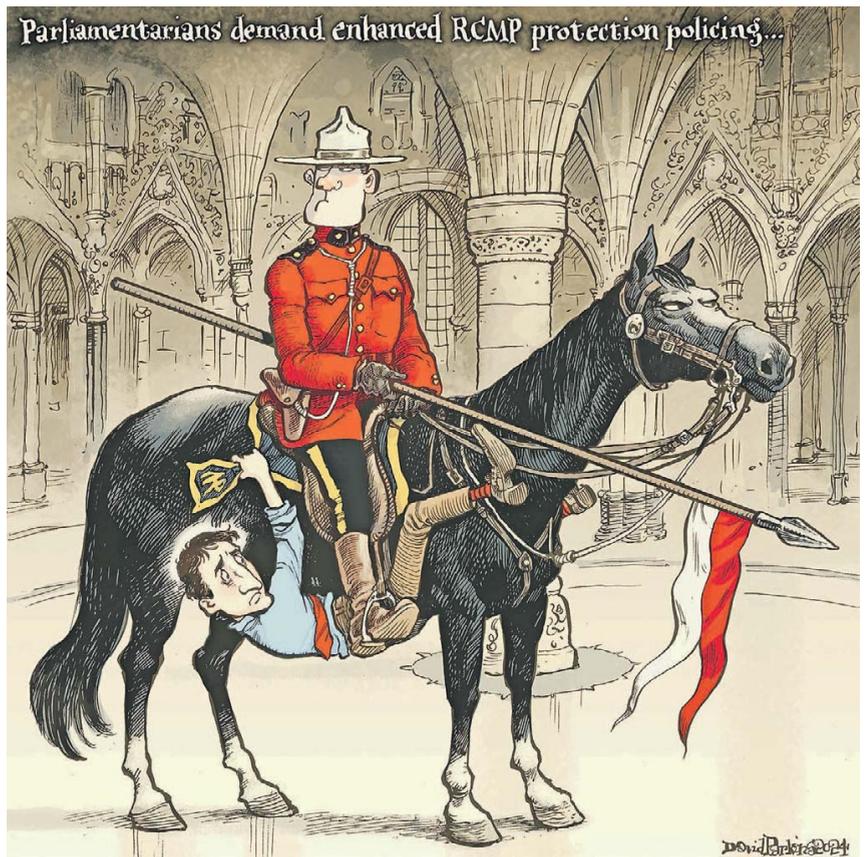
In the 2011 Supreme Court ruling on supervised consumption, the unanimous decision found that the Harper government had violated the Charter and "contravened the principles of fundamental justice" as it put the health and lives of drug users in peril. But Mr. Poilievre is right the ruling came with a limit: that drug consumption sites are permissible if there is "little or no evidence that it will have a negative impact on public safety."

Mr. Poilievre, however, appears to be ready to use those words as a sweeping prohibition. "They're drug dens - and they've made everything worse," he claimed on Friday.

He further said, absurdly, that health officials have "caused" the increase in overdose deaths in Vancouver, and he also asserted, equally absurdly, that there is an "industry of bureaucrats, lobbyists and activists who profit from the misery of people with an addiction and who want to perpetuate it."

The Conservatives are a long way from Mr. O'Toole in 2021. Mr. Poilievre seems focused on resurrecting the Harper-era approach. That agenda has been repudiated, in the courts and also by its former backers. Benjamin Perrin, a UBC law professor, was a special adviser on legal affairs and policy to Mr. Harper in 2012-13 and, like the prime minister, was strongly against supervised consumption sites. Mr. Perrin has since said his views back then were "a deadly cocktail of ignorance and ideology that cost people their lives."

The challenges of drug addiction are daunting. There is no one clear answer. Treatment is everyone's goal - but it is a deadly mistake to forsake other health care services that help drug users stay alive so they can seek treatment.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHANNEL CHANGE

Re "A gift from gunshots: Donald Trump gets a picture-perfect campaign moment" (July 16): I wish journalists would stop predicting and encouraging the rhetoric that Donald Trump will return to the White House. Instead, there should be an emphasis on his disgraceful conduct, corruption and crimes, which seem to have been washed away by partisan judges.

And now there is more news to impart: the character and words of his vice-presidential running mate J.D. Vance. It's all too scary, and it should be repeated over and over again to warn people of what's in store for the future.

■ Marianne Freeman Vancouver

Many, I expect, would prefer that your next article concerning U.S. politics be published Nov. 6 advising who won the election. Imagine how much space that would free up in the meantime.

At present, to quote *Macbeth*, much of the coverage is full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

■ Peter Hambly Hanover, Ont.

US VS. THEM

Re "A Liberal tax windfall that could cost Canada dearly" (Editorial, July 13): You did a fine job of making the case for a Canadian digital services tax. So I was disappointed when you more or less conclude that Canada should instead cover in the face of American threats.

Could Canada have a little spine, please? Bullies should be faced down, whether Russian, Chinese - or American. And no, it will not be painless.

■ Jim Paulin Ottawa

WELL SPENT?

Re "Industry should reduce number of carbon capture hubs for Alberta, ATCO says" (July 9): The idea of capturing anything, including carbon, once it has been released into the environment should be a non-starter because of the amount of energy required to recapture it. That does not even include the enormous up-front carbon footprint of building such facilities.

Nine million tonnes of carbon captured since 2015 is a drop in the bucket. Stop wasting money; put the resources into generating solar power instead.

■ Nigel Bunce Guelph, Ont.

MATH PROBLEM

Re "Canada's next housing crisis: Who is going to build millions of new homes?" (Report on Business, July 13): As pointed out, Canada simply cannot build the

3.9 million net-new houses required by 2031 to alleviate the housing crisis.

Couple that with urban planning orthodoxy which prohibits new home construction on suburban greenfields, and the situation is even more dire. Why? Because urban densification almost always results in the loss of existing housing to redevelopment.

For example, replacing 20 single-family homes with 80 townhomes results in only 60 (75 per cent) net-new housing units. At that optimistic new-unit ratio, Canada needs to build 4.9 million homes by 2031 to achieve housing affordability. Given that Canada's 2023 housing starts were only 240,000, biologist Thomas Huxley (with apologies) said it best: It is "the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact."

■ Andrew Bond
Central Saanich, B.C.

LESSON PLAN

Re "Back-to-basics education is having a moment" (July 10): I remember well when it wasn't.

In the 1980s, I worked in a consultant role with a large Ontario board. It was in those most holy days of whole-language instruction.

I happened upon a "special edition" of the journal *Exceptional Children* that examined the research on effective teaching. What works? In a nutshell, as the series of articles roundly concluded, direct instruction works.

I promptly invited one of the article writers to conduct a seminar on her DI approach at the Exemplary Center for Reading Instruction in Utah. It was a tough sell, inviting this phonics-teaching fox to the whole-language henhouse. Just another page in the never-ending feud between whole-language and direct teaching.

In the end, I'm thinking columnist Gary Mason nails it: the idea that good teaching involves both.

■ Rob Kerr Guelph, Ont.

Back to basics? Why does everyone think reading, writing and mathematics are the basics?

I find it useless for students to have those skills if they don't also know how to ask questions, sift through facts to make useful conclusions and evaluate their own skill levels. If schools teach to the test, students will likely pass. That is a low bar.

Effective education is so much more than the transfer of information. Creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving are basic skills and can't be accurately measured by written tests.

■ Kathleen Moore EdD, Toronto

REAL LIFE

Re "Alice Munro still belongs on

your bookshelf" (July 15): I believe Alice Munro's transgressions, along with her role in society, have everything in common with those of Jean Vanier.

Her art seemed to show us that she "got" these unspeakable things that happen between humans.

But it's now apparent that she herself was complicit in the worst type of betrayal possible, and in its justification by the perpetrator.

I can never read her work the same way again.

■ Anne Francis Toronto

Alice Munro's legacy is the body of her work as an unexcelled short story writer. Period.

Others may judge her character and personal life if they wish, but take care of the biblical admonition of "judge not, lest ye be judged," which has the wisdom of the ages behind it.

Let's not judge authors and other artists, medical professionals or even politicians on their personal lives, but on the quality of their works and service.

On the public stage, that's all that should matter. And keep one's moralizing to one's self.

■ Mike Priaro Calgary

Discussions about Alice Munro's work raise an old, fraught question about the relationship between artists and their products.

Should we hold artists accountable for their life decisions in relationship to their accomplishments? It boils down to how one conceives of the relationship between art and life. Either art is an aesthetic construct to be judged purely by technical measures, or it is some form of truth-telling, with the maker communicating fundamental values about life.

For me, art is an important purveyor of essential values. So Ezra Pound being endowed with the Bollingen Prize in 1949 for *The Pisan Cantos* was a profound betrayal of art's function in society to convey ethical and moral mores.

Ms. Munro's writing drew from her life. Now what are the values presented, given her life choices?

May instructors guide students to contemplate the darkness in her work in the context of art safeguarding humanity.

■ Rachelle Lerner Toronto

I believe the ultimate betrayal resides with those "in the industry" who knew and kept silent - the enablers.

■ Elizabeth Caskey Vancouver

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

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OPINION

Canada's NATO commitments are a running joke

To much fanfare, the Trudeau government took to the world stage – and offered little more than another defence-spending IOU

ANDREW COYNE

OPINION



Canada at NATO: A farce in three acts.

Act One: As NATO leaders convened at last week's summit in Washington, the government of Canada was under intense diplomatic pressure to live up to its long-standing commitment to meet the official NATO target for defence spending of two per cent of GDP.

Twenty-three of 32 NATO members have already met the target. Canada is one of the few that has not. What is more, it is the only NATO country that has no announced plan to get there. With war raging in Ukraine and the

threat of more breaking out elsewhere, the patience of our NATO partners, notably the U.S., has clearly run out.

Even before the summit, a bipartisan group of 23 U.S. senators had sent the Prime Minister a letter advising they were "profoundly disappointed" at Canada's failure to "meet its obligations." Biden administration officials warned their counterparts in the Trudeau government that Canada faced being singled out for criticism at the meeting, possibly publicly.

On the eve of the summit, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mike Johnson, accused Canada of "riding America's coattails," a policy he described as "shameful." The Republican leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, chimed in the next day: "It's time for our northern ally to invest seriously in the hard power required to help preserve prosperity and security." A Wall Street Journal editorial called Canada "a NATO scofflaw."

Act Two: All through this barrage, Canada's Minister of National Defence, Bill Blair, had been assuring everyone that, before the

summit was through, Canada would produce a "credible, verifiable" plan to meet the 2-per-cent target.

Indeed, the minister had been insisting for weeks that the target had already been met, implicitly, in last April's defence policy update. True, it only committed Canada to increase spending to 1.76 per cent of GDP over five years (a number that is itself in dispute.) But, the minister said, if you included various uncosted proposals, such as a plan to buy an unspecified number of submarines, it would probably be enough to put us over.

Nevertheless, he seemed to suggest something more concrete was afoot. Reports emerged that Canadian officials were scrambling to put together a plan at the last minute. This led to some head-scratching, even among sympathetic observers. If you were going to announce a plan to get to 2 per cent, why would you wait until you were actually at the summit to produce it? Why take such a pummelling in the international press if you are going to do what is demanded of you in the end?

At any rate, there was Mr. Blair, on the summit's second day, announcing the same vague proposal to buy submarines, only slightly formalized. As before, there were no cost figures attached, nor any timeline. And the government still could not say exactly how many subs it planned to purchase, only that it was "up to 12."

But the announcement, it turned out, was merely to buy time for another. Sources told the media the Prime Minister would unveil the long-promised plan to meet our NATO commitments the following day.

Act Three: On Thursday, just as the summit was wrapping up, the Prime Minister delivered. Canada, he announced, "fully expects" to raise defence spending to its NATO-mandated level – in 2032. Only ... there were still no specifics, no detailed plan explaining how it would be achieved – or financed.

Oh that: that's coming, he said. In 2028. Four years from now, whoever is in government at that time will tell us how they hope to meet a commitment four years later that we signed onto 14 years before.

Or at least, they might. The par-

ty leader most likely to be in power then, Pierre Poilievre, would make no commitments to keeping our commitments. Mind you, by then the target may be obsolete. NATO may have raised it to 2.5 or 3 per cent. Or we may be in a world war.

The Prime Minister himself seemed decidedly iffy about the whole thing, referring to the 2-per-cent target as a "crass mathematical calculation" and complaining of having to meet "some nominal targets" based on arbitrary "accounting practices." He could just give "every Coast Guard member a handgun," he mused, but what would that accomplish? (It would make them better armed than much of the Canadian military, for starters.)

The policy of the government of Canada, then, after three days of summiteering, after the weeks of back-and-forth that preceded it, and after years of dodging and weaving before that, remains essentially unchanged. We will meet our commitments to our NATO allies on the same timeline, for all practical purposes, as the Prime Minister was reported to have given them a year ago: "Never."

An imaginary victimhood has sprung up around the Trump shooting

GARY MASON

OPINION



In the aftermath of the assassination attempt on former U.S. president Donald Trump's life, the right in America is trying to perform a not-so-artful con.

They are trying to convince the American public that it's been the overheated rhetoric from people such as Joe Biden, other Democrats and the mainstream media that is responsible.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson went on CNN with Anderson Cooper to say, with a straight face, that "rhetoric has consequences." As though Mr. Biden is known for his hateful, violent language. Former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy blamed those on the left who had called Mr. Trump "a tyrant, a dictator, said it would be the end of the U.S. as we know it" if he was elected again, for the shooting.

He then compared the attempt on Mr. Trump's life to the assassination of Republican president Abraham Lincoln, saying Democrats were saying the same things about Lincoln just before he was shot and killed.

J.D. Vance, Mr. Trump's vice-presidential running mate, sang from much the same script, saying the "central premise of the Biden campaign is that president Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. That rhetoric led directly to president Trump's attempted assassination."

It's like these folks believe Americans are experiencing collective amnesia and have forgot-



Alberta Premier Danielle Smith leaves a scrum after speaking with reporters at the Council of the Federation meetings in Halifax on Monday. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ten that Mr. Trump has never shied from applauding attacks, physical or otherwise, on his opponents. Or that he incited the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, one that saw violent insurrectionists calling for the heads of then-vice-president Mike Pence and then-House speaker Nancy Pelosi. Mr. Trump has since vowed that, if elected, he will pardon the "martyrs" who now sit in prisons because of their role in the attack.

It was too much to hope this ridiculous victimhood by American conservatives would remain south of the border and not migrate north. But then, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith has seldom shied away from an opportunity to make ludicrous statements

that defy belief.

When she was asked Monday at the Premiers' conference in Halifax about the Trump shooting, she said: "I certainly hope that some of the progressive politicians here are careful of their language, because they've been talking about conservative politicians in the same way and they need to dial it down."

When asked specifically what she was talking about, she said: "Have you not looked at the headlines about how Pierre Poilievre is described as dangerous? How the leader of the Opposition in Alberta has described me as dangerous? When you start using that kind of rhetoric, that ends up creating an elevated risk for all of us."

This is so rich coming from Ms. Smith it should come with a dietary warning label.

The Premier of Alberta has rarely passed up an opportunity to tell her fellow citizens just how terrible Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is. How he and his acolytes want to destroy the province Albertans love so much. During a public discussion in Edmonton earlier this year with incendiary right-wing commentator Tucker Carlson, Ms. Smith complained about federal Liberal environmental policies and then said: "I wish you could put Steven Guilbeault in your crosshairs." The comment was widely condemned.

Before Ms. Smith ascended to

the Premier's throne, her predecessor Jason Kenney assailed Mr. Trudeau and others around him on a regular basis.

It was little surprise when, in August, 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland was verbally accosted by a man during a visit to Grande Prairie, Alta. As she approached an elevator with members of her staff, the large, bearded individual started screaming at her, calling her a "bitch" and a "traitor," and ordered her to leave the province immediately.

It was an ugly, scary scene. There have been others. An armed former Canadian reservist looking to have Mr. Trudeau arrested breached the gates of Rideau Hall in the summer of 2020. We should all be concerned by a report in The Globe this week that the RCMP unit responsible for protecting politicians has been chronically understaffed in recent years.

It doesn't take violent language by politicians to incite someone, mentally unstable or otherwise, to try and do something horrible to them. All it takes is convincing someone out there that a political figure is responsible for all their problems. They are the reason you can't afford groceries, can't buy a home, can't go on a nice holiday! It's all their fault!

That language filters down into an ecosystem of like-minded folks on social media who become increasingly agitated and hostile about the world's, and their own, state of affairs. It's little surprise when someone decides they can't take it any more and decides to seek revenge. And politicians are sometimes their targets.

Calling supervised consumption sites 'drug dens' is inflammatory, unhelpful rhetoric

ANDRÉ PICARD

OPINION



Justin Trudeau must immediately close this hard-drug injection site to protect our families," Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre said Friday in a playground beside the Maison Benoit Labre shelter in Montreal's working-class Saint-Henri district.

It was a politically savvy move. The community drop-in centre for homeless people and transitional-housing project has been in the local news a lot lately, and none of the coverage has been flattering: open drug use, violence and encampments, all in close proximity to a playground and elementary school.

During the news conference, Mr. Poilievre was, naturally enough, asked about his party's policy on "safe injection sites" more broadly. "We will close safe injection sites next to schools, playgrounds, anywhere else that they endanger the public and take lives," he said.

But then the Conservative Leader paused and corrected himself. "By the way, they're not safe injection sites. I'm sorry I used your dishonest language," he replied to a reporter, before launching into a tirade about the "radical Liberal-NDP activists, lobbyists and bureaucracy" who have created the "drug dens" that his government will defund.

"There will not be a single taxpayer dollar from the Poilievre government going to drug dens. Every single penny will go to treatment and recovery services to bring our loved ones home drug-free."

Mr. Poilievre makes some good points. The public is indeed fed up with the chaos and disorder that the toxic drug crisis has wrought on cities and neighbourhoods.

He is also correct that while the Supreme Court of Canada rebuffed an attempt by Stephen Harper's government to close supervised (not "safe") consumption sites, the court said restrictions on their locations are allowed. The activities around these facilities are not meant to be a free-for-all. People defecating, having sex, or injecting drugs in

schooledyards or playgrounds or other public spaces is not acceptable.

But Mr. Poilievre is not served well by his inflammatory language and over-the-top rhetoric.

Supervised consumption sites like the one at Maison Benoit Labre are facilities where drug users can consume drugs (that they bring themselves) under the supervision of health professionals such as nurses. These sites offer clean needles (to reduce the risk of disease transmission) and overdose prevention and treatment (to reduce the burden on first responders), and they are a key conduit to getting users into detox and treatment.

To call health centres that practice harm reduction "drug dens" is insulting to those who do great work there. There are 39 supervised consumption sites across Canada and they have overseen 4.6 million visits and treated 55,693 overdoses to date (and counting).

(There is another common form of supervised consumption site called bars, where people consume the drug alcohol. Should we, for consistency's sake, call

them "gin mills" and shut them down?)

To say, as Mr. Poilievre did, that safe consumption sites are "drug dens and they've made everything worse" is patently untrue.

The promise (or threat) to cut federal funding is also a hollow one, as the federal government does not provide core funding to supervised consumption sites. What it does is provide exemptions from drug laws that allow them to operate.

"Bringing our loved ones home drug-free" is an admirable goal, but we need to keep people alive if they're going to have any hope of treatment and recovery, and that's the goal of harm-reduction services.

It's disingenuous to suggest that closing supervised consumption sites, stopping decriminalization pilot projects, ending safer supply programs or any other singular measure will magically clean up the streets, or that we can solve this complex problem with more addiction treatment alone.

The encampments that have mushroomed in North American cities in recent years have a multitude of causes that include a pro-

found lack of affordable housing, a lack of mental-health services and an ever-worsening toxic drug crisis.

More than ever, we need to embrace the "four pillars" strategy: Prevention, harm reduction, enforcement and treatment.

In recent years, we have probably focused too much on the harm-reduction part of the puzzle, and not enough on enforcement and treatment.

No one benefits from city streets that are a combination of open-air drug markets, encampments and garbage dumps. We need to recognize that these problems are sometimes more acute where services such as supervised consumption sites operate.

But we also have to recognize that if supervised consumption sites are closed, drug use won't end. It will simply move, to an even greater extent, into more streets, alleyways, parks and other public spaces.

Ultimately, we need to tackle public disorder and the toxic drug crisis simultaneously. And these complex problems require sophisticated solutions, not just colourful catchphrases.

LIFE & ARTS

TRAVEL | OPINION | PUZZLES | WEATHER



For a national holiday in South Korea, a Bulguksa Temple is decorated specially for Buddha's birthday.
PHOTOS BY MATS FREDRIX/TDA GLOBAL CYCLING

Cycling may be the best way to explore South Korea

From succulent Yeongdeok crab to ancient hot springs, exploring on two wheels gave **Christina Palassio** a closer look at the country

I bolted up from a dead sleep and knew I'd overslept. My heart pounded as I tried to figure out if I could still make it to the restaurant.

I'd wanted to grab a power nap (classic mistake!) before meeting the tour group for our special Yeongdeok crab feast. We'd had a big biking day: 105 kilometres and 1,400 metres of climbing over Ihwa Pass and back down again. Have you ever biked 105 kilometres for crab? And then slept through the dinner?

I ran downstairs and looked pleadingly at the front desk clerk, miming what I hoped translated to "I'm late! Do you know where the group went?" He responded with a satisfyingly alarmed look, miming: "Why are you still here? You're missing the crab!"

He motioned for me to follow him, and in under two minutes we were in his black sedan flying down the road, past the enormous crab sculpture on the bridge, to the restaurant.

You may not have heard of Yeongdeok or its crab. Neither had I. It's one of the many delights I discovered on a 650-kilometre bike crossing of South Korea. Being able to explore the country and its rich history and points of interest – well-known and not – at the speed of a bike was an exciting prospect, both for the chance to see places I might fly by in a car, and to work up an appetite that could accommodate Korea's vast culinary offerings.

On our first morning, we biked out of Seoul, a bustling city of nine million, through huge and beautiful Yeouido Park, bypassing rush hour traffic via a network of connected bike paths along the Hangang River, the sweet scent of white fringe trees in the air and seed pods popping under our wheels. I felt the jet lag leaving my body as I pedalled, and my bike felt jaunty thanks to Korean Airlines's careful handling.

The plan was to cycle southeast from Seoul along bike paths and rural roads to the busy seaport of Busan. The group would continue to Japan for a month's cycling, and I'd head home. Chatting with my fellow riders on the tour, which was organized by TDA Global Cycling, I learned that most had joined the trip for the Japan section.

Hallyu, a.k.a., the Korean Wave, has put South Korea on the culture map in recent years – think K-Pop superstars BTS, big and small screen hits like *Parasite* and *Squid Game*, and the K-Beauty craze – but the country is still off many travellers' radar. That's changing, and for good reason. Especially if you like to travel on two wheels.

In most places as a cyclist, you're constantly reminded that you're a guest in a world made for cars. But cycling along the Hangang River Path, I had a different feeling: I felt welcome. The path is part of the 580-kilometre Four Rivers Bicycle Path, which criss-crosses the country. The path was created in the late aughts as part of then-President Lee Myung-bak's controversial Four Rivers Restoration Project. Imagine the privilege to be able to cross a country on bike lanes.

Our first stop was Yeosu, a city whose



Traditional hanok houses constructed with tiled roofs made from burned soil are one of the many sights along the bike route.

culinary claim to fame is its rice, which was served to monarchs during the Joseon dynasty that ruled from 1392 to 1910. I'd be lying if I said my tastebuds noted the subtle earthiness that our guide described, but then, I'd been training for cycling, not rice-tasting. We continued along the Namhan River to Suanbo, home to 30,000-year-old hot springs and many large plastic pheasant statues – representing the city's culinary specialty. After a long post-ride soak in the hotel hot spring, we ate pheasant eight ways, including raw.

From Suanbo we took inland country roads, hitting steep 14 per cent climbs and long switchback descents that had me worried I'd burn out my knees on the climbs and my brake pads on the descents. Every so often I'd remind myself to breathe, and the smell of pine, black locust, and lily of the valley would flood in. I'd unlock my eyes from the road ahead and see farmers working rice paddies and greenhouses, racing magpies overhead, ancient Buddhist temples and rivers rushing through gorges.

The great thing about bike travel is that you can see the major sights, and you can see the small and quirky everyday stuff, too: seniors exercising at calisthenics machines, traditional *hanok* houses with their tiled roofs made from burned soil, and their rows of *onggi*, the pots used to ferment kimchi, and the many cute cafés that popped up seemingly out of nowhere.

My favourite stop was Gyeongju, a historic city that's home to 23 enormous and haunting tumuli, the burial mounds that hide the tombs of monarchs from the Silla dynasty. Walk a few minutes and you're launched from the fifth century to the present, the nearby streets crammed with self-photo studios, playful caricature shops, and stands selling sweet mozzarella pancakes on a stick.

At nearby Bulguksa Temple, we walked under hundreds of colourful lanterns strung up in honour of Buddha Day and drank from a fountain that our volunteer guide assured us would take years off our lives. Cycling has a way of making your mind and heart feel young but your body feel old, so I happily bought into the hype.

With every cycling day, I felt more welcome. From the restaurant owner in Andong's Galbi Alley who showed us proper beef barbecue technique to the woman who stopped us one morning with an ex-

cited clap to tell us that this was her first day on a bike, to my Yeongdeok crab captain – I felt invited to stay and discover.

As our group pedalled together, we shared uphill curses, downhill exhilaration, and reflections that extended into post-ride beers and meals. In a world where I often feel like I'm going both too fast and not fast enough, I had the reassuring feeling that we were going exactly the right speed. By the time we neared the finish line, after some tough climbs in the Busan Alps, we all agreed that we'd discovered something unexpected and special.

Forget music, movies and makeup – the next Korean Wave phase should be K-biking.

IF YOU GO

For cycling, the best times to visit are May to mid-June and September to November. Toronto's TDA Global Cycling runs a seven-day itinerary as part of their Journey to the East expedition (tdaglobalcycling.com). Seoul-based Teamax Adventures offers several itineraries too (teamaxadventure.com). Google maps doesn't work in South Korea so download the Naver app for navigation.

Korean Air has direct business and coach service from Toronto to Seoul Incheon Airport six days a week, with Korean favourites like bibimbap and bulgogi on the inflight menu, and excellent bike handling (koreanair.com).

Refuelling: In Seoul, try *pyeonsu* dumplings or kimchi *jjigae*, a spicy stew. In Yeosu, try Yeosu rice for its earthy flavour. Suanbo's specialty is pheasant, which you can try barbecued, in stew, in dumplings and raw. You can't visit Yeongdeok without feasting on king and snow crab. In Andong, go to Andong Jjimdak Alley for the delicious braised chicken dish or hit up Galbi Alley for beef barbecue. In Gyeongju, head to Daereungwon for *ssambap* – leaf wraps and rice. In Busan, sample the best of Korean street food in Changseong-dong Food Alley, or steep in seafood at Jagalchi Fish Market.

Special to The Globe and Mail

The author was a guest of TDA Global Cycling and Korean Air, which did not review or approve the article.

Ben Stiller's *Nutcrackers* is the perfect film to open a growing TIFF

BARRY HERTZ

SCREEN TIME



If there is one constant to an opening-night film at the Toronto International Film Festival, it's that there is no constant.

Over the years, TIFF has kicked things off with everything from a dreamy animated film from a Japanese master (last year's *The Boy and the Heron*) to a bland ripped-from-the-headlines biopic (2022's *The Swimmers*) to a raucous concert documentary (2020's *American Utopia*) to maligned musicals (2021's *Dear Evan Hansen* and 2010's *Score: A Hocky Musical*, the latter of which the festival will never, ever live down). Trying to successfully guess the prestige and pedigree of what might open any given edition of TIFF is an impossible game to win.

All of which makes this year's opening-night selection of the new Ben Stiller-starring dramedy *Nutcrackers*, as announced by programmers Tuesday, both a surprising head-scratcher and a stealthily perfect choice.

On the one hand, the film's logline – a straitlaced workaholic named Mike (Stiller) is suddenly thrust into being a caregiver for his orphaned nephews – promises the kind of crowd-pleasing affair that TIFF is known for. And the world premiere, which marks Stiller's first lead role in six years, marks a homecoming of sorts, too. The actor's last movie as a leading man, the 2017 comedy *Brad's Status*, also debuted in Toronto.

The actor, whose red-carpet presence will help TIFF bounce back from last year's actors' strike-plagued festival, is also currently enjoying the best reviews of his career. At least, behind the camera, thanks to Stiller's directing and producing duties on the acclaimed Apple TV+ series *Severance*, whose long-awaited second season arrives in January. On the other hand, there has been minimal buzz for *Nutcrackers*, which is directed by David Gordon Green, who is just coming off the worst reviews of his career for *The Exorcist: Believer*.

The actor's last movie as a leading man, the 2017 comedy *Brad's Status*, also debuted in Toronto.

Another curious wrinkle is the fact that *Nutcrackers* is coming to TIFF without a studio or distributor already attached, with UTA Independent Film Group acting as the film's sales agent. That would make the movie the first acquisitions title to open TIFF since 2009, when the Charles Darwin biopic *Creation* launched the festival. (The U2 doc *From the Sky Down* lacked a North American distributor when it was selected to open TIFF in 2011, though its U.S. rights were acquired by Showtime two days before it premiered.)

Yet *Nutcrackers*' current lack of distribution makes it a subtly sly opening-night choice, given TIFF's ambitions as an organization. Earlier this spring, festival organizers announced plans to launch what they say will be a "game-changing" official content market in 2026, an initiative made possible thanks to \$23-million in funding from the federal government. If *Nutcrackers* lands a big distribution deal coming off of its TIFF debut, then the festival will have just one more bargaining chip in its hands to convince the global film industry that it can serve as the premiere North American hub for buying and selling movies.

Nutcrackers is the 12th film to be confirmed for this year's TIFF so far, joining such previously announced titles as the Amy Adams comedy *Nightbitch*, the animated family drama *The Wild Robot*, the Indigenous basketball drama *Rez Ball* and the documentary *Elton John: Never Too Late*.

This year's edition of TIFF will run Sept. 5 through 15, with more programming to be announced over the coming weeks.

As I crossed Canada by train, I looked inward as much as I looked out

FIRST PERSON

This trip was a novel way for me to travel across this great country while reflecting on my own milestones, **Alison West Armstrong** writes

To my husband's great relief, a four-day cross-Canada trip on the Canadian struck me as a wonderful way to celebrate a milestone birthday. That this train trip could be more than a great way to see the country, that it could serve as a catalyst for deep reflection on my 70 years and even a metaphor for my life, was a realization that dawned on me slowly and unexpectedly on the journey.

The inward-looking dimension of the trip began to dawn shortly after we boarded in Toronto. I soon began paying attention to the movement of the train itself. At times we raced, then we crawled, we sat sidetracked as more important trains whizzed by, we even went backward a couple of times – it was hard not to see the similarities with my own journey of 70 years.

As I met and spoke with other passengers it seemed that many were having their own moments of self reflection. I don't know if it was the rhythmic sounds, the holiday mood, the gentle rocking or the blurry tableau streaming past, but together they seemed to conjure up the perfect environment for sharing.

Everyone of course had a story but it was the way they told them, the colour and the nuance, that suggested these deeper conversations were brought on by the train journey ... or perhaps I was just hearing these stories from a different place in my own soul.

I spoke with a granny who has a severe fear of flying and the train is the only way she can get to see her grandchildren. She faithfully boards the Canadian once a year and confessed that her heart sings louder with each passing mile. I too was heading to see grandchildren in Vancouver and we were able to share that special feeling.

We had a few meals and many laughs with a couple of similar age from Edinburgh. Now retired, they were heading to meet their daughter working in Banff, Alta. In spite of living our lives half a world away, we had an instant connection, surprised by the number of things we had in common

and curious about the differences.

We dined with a recent widow from Toronto and her son, a nurse from Vancouver, who bought the tickets on the hunch that the trip could be solace for his Mum and a milestone in their relationship. It was obviously a precious time for them both.

There was a young woman from China, travelling alone, chatting with everyone. It put me in mind of my own solo train journey across Australia as a twentysomething, but I don't remember being so self-assured.

Two fellows, each travelling alone, joined us at lunch one day. The man in his 50s was thinking about a career change and felt that time on the train would help with the decision. The other, a 30 year old from Toronto with a blue-collar job, loved adventure and photography. He was snapping his way across the country and back.

A middle-aged couple from Melbourne were having the holiday of a lifetime, at

first grumbling about the cost of their trip but soon snapping pictures non-stop. Snow in the bush and frozen lakes in spring, are you kidding?

An extended family of five adults were on their third train ride across Canada. It was fun to hear their banter and a pleasure to be included in their conversations. Passing by their sleeping quarters on our way back to our room from the dining car it was inspiring to see the two 80-some-things in their group clambering up the ladder to the top berth, laughing and chatting as they went.

We also met a man who, in 1964, spent his honeymoon on the Canadian. His wife of 59 years had died recently and he was taking the train again to recover that memory and to say goodbye.

As for the view out the window, the Canadian landscape was vividly on display. Approaching the cities reminds you that you live in the 21st century, but the bits in between seem timeless. The Cana-

dian Shield and the Boreal forest of Northern Ontario with its endless trees and lakes; the switch-flipping transition to the big-sky prairies at the Manitoba border; the magnificent mountains start in Alberta; and finally the relentless waters of British Columbia's Fraser River as it thrashes and then meanders to the ocean.

While our train spent a lot of time on sidings waiting for freight trains to pass it reminded me that trains are essential to the commercial lifeblood of this country. But I for one am thankful for passenger trains like the Canadian: This trip was more than a novel way for me to travel across this great country, it was a chance to pause, reflect and give thanks at the 70-year milepost on my own life's journey.

Alison West Armstrong lives in Arnprior, Ont.

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



ILLUSTRATION BY CATHERINE CHAN

Stephen Colbert is the only host willing to joke and jab on late night

J. KELLY NESTRUCK

OPINION



TELEVISION

While other U.S. talk-show hosts checked out or self-censored Monday, Stephen Colbert didn't pull any (non-physical) punches and kept the political jokes coming despite pervasive pressure on progressive stand-ups to sit down and shut up after Saturday's assassination attempt on Donald Trump.

The *Late Show* host and high-minded humourist went live on CBS after the first night of the Republican National Convention, delivering an extra-long opening monologue touching on the stunning events of the weekend, which saw a gunman fire at and wound the former president at a rally.

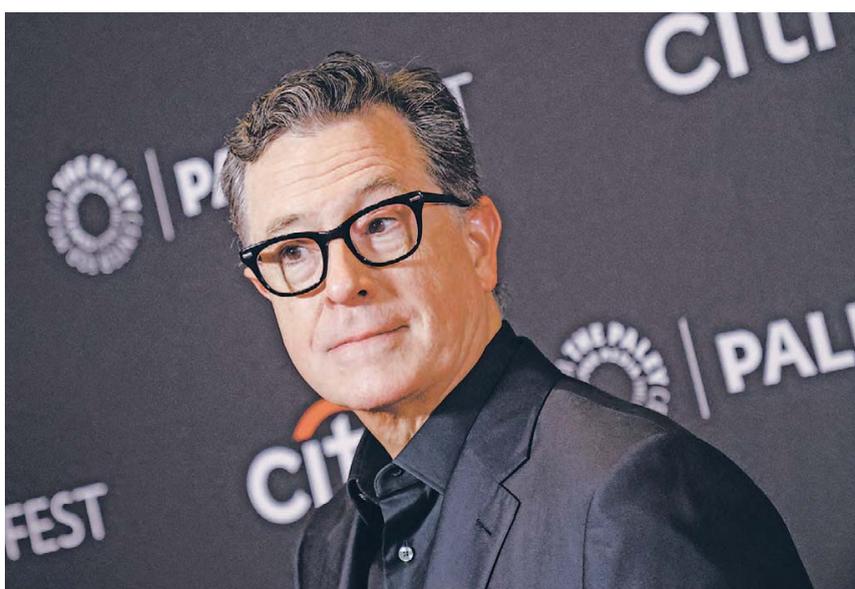
"It feels like if you fall asleep for a second, you will miss some insane twist in this election," Colbert said. "Fortunately, this election has made it impossible to fall asleep ever again."

This was a pungent punchline about how Americans are once again staying up all night, doomscrolling about politics. But nothing about Colbert's Monday show would have been particularly remarkable if it weren't for the fact his peers all seem to be running scared.

The sense is that commentators and comedians – especially those who have been using their pulpits to stress the threat of a second Trump term to American democracy – are afraid to have a one-liner taken out of context and be accused of playing a role in making U.S. politics the powder keg it is.

A postshooting chill was first apparent Monday when the left-leaning MSNBC news channel decided not to air its *Morning Joe* show and again, later in the day, when Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* announced it had cancelled its first show of the week.

The latter political comedy mainstay, in fact, has retreated from a week-long plan to



Stephen Colbert addressed the recent assassination attempt against Donald Trump on The Late Show's Monday night broadcast, saying the election has made it 'impossible to fall asleep ever again.'
MICHAEL TRAN/GETTY IMAGES

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broadcast from Wisconsin, where the Republican National Convention is being held. It was originally to culminate in a live show hosted by Colbert's former colleague Jon Stewart on Thursday.

On ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, Kimmel was not on as host Monday, though this was part of his regular summer hiatus rather than a reaction to what happened Saturday. "All weekend, I kept wondering what Jimmy Kimmel's going to say about this on Monday," guest host Anthony Anderson said. "And then I was, like, oh [expletive], I am Jimmy Kimmel on Monday."

The other late-night Jimmy – Jimmy Fallon on NBC's *The Tonight Show* – was on, but he was definitely not on. The comedian once inevitably described as boyish looked exhausted and nervous as he worked his way through a monologue that, incredibly, completely omitted any mention of the weekend's violence, unless you consider Taylor Swift swallowing a bug while performing in Milan as such.

After a couple of weak jokes about Trump's newly picked running mate J.D. Vance's appearance ("I didn't realize Cabbage Patch made bearded dolls"),

Fallon headed over to his desk, where he went on a barely coherent ramble about the shots he made during a golf tournament over the weekend while the Trump rally was being shot up.

On CBS, by contrast, Colbert returned to his tradition of starting the show with a sober speech from his desk rather than a monologue after a tragic event has rattled the nation. "How many times do we need to learn the lesson that violence has no role in our politics?" he asked.

He shared a childhood memory of watching assassinated

politician Bobby Kennedy's coffin "on that slow train from New York down to Washington" on a black-and-white TV in 1968 – before talking about a dangerous spate of contemporary American political violence, from "the shooting of a GOP baseball practice that seriously injured Steve Scalise to the plot to kidnap and kill Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the hammer attack that nearly killed Paul Pelosi to the horrors of Jan. 6 to this most recent attack."

After this prerecorded speech, Colbert went live as planned and mocked the first night of the Republican National Convention in his monologue without any apparent anxiety. Indeed, his writers made a gag, instead, out of a perceived imperative to tone down any rhetoric by having Colbert hold a puppy while he lambasted Judge Aileen Cannon's decision to dismiss the classified documents case against Trump.

Colbert's first guest was former representative Adam Kinzinger, a vocal Republican critic of Trump, who was making his second live appearance on the show – the previous one was after the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Kinzinger expressed concern that the weekend's shooting would be used "to intimidate those around Joe Biden from trying to tell the truth about Donald Trump," whom he described as a "threat to democracy."

A perusal of what was on other television channels that day suggested he was right to be concerned, and it's not just politicians who are intimidated.

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

96x	3	2+	1-	6	5	
4	3	2	1	6	5	
3	4	5	2	1	6	
2	6	4	5	3	1	
11+	3+	2-	45x	5	3	
6	2	1	4	5	3	
5	1	3	6	4	2	
4-	1	5	6	3	2	4

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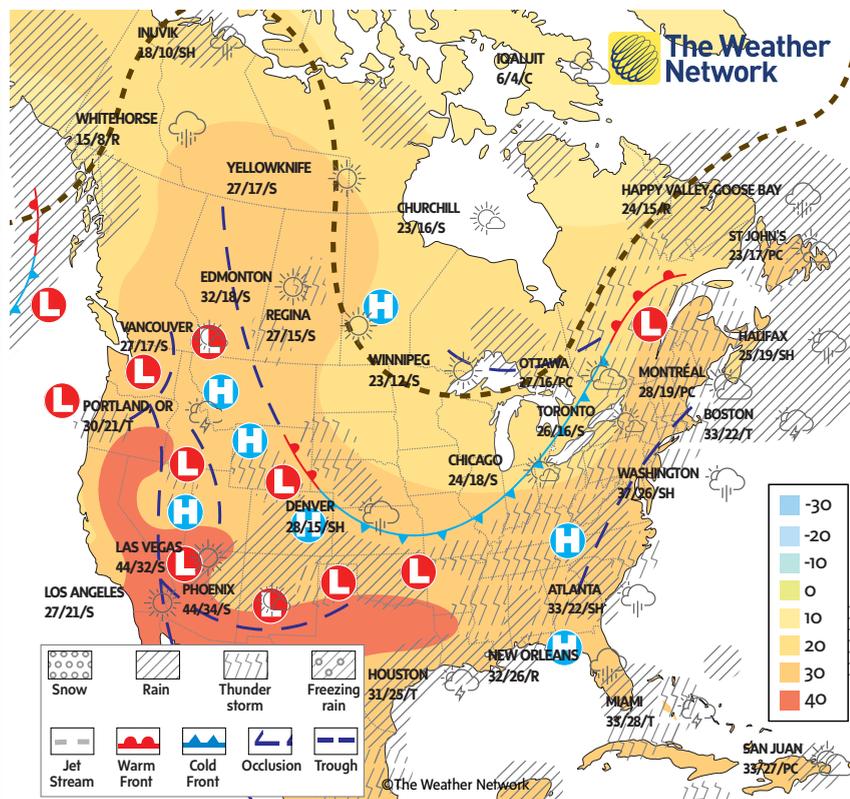
The Local Journalism Initiative (LJI) supports the creation of original civic journalism that covers the diverse needs of underserved communities across Canada. Funding is available to eligible Canadian media organizations to hire journalists or pay freelance journalists to produce civic journalism for 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	21/13 SH	25/16 PC	27/17 S
ATHENS	37/28 S	38/29 S	38/27 S
BANGKOK	30/26 R	30/26 T	30/27 R
BEIJING	36/23 S	39/25 S	39/27 S
BERLIN	24/15 SH	27/18 S	29/18 S
BRUSSELS	23/13 SH	25/15 PC	28/18 S
COPENHAGEN	20/14 SH	20/14 PC	22/15 S
FRANKFURT	23/13 PC	27/15 PC	29/17 S
HONG KONG	29/27 T	29/27 T	29/28 T
JERUSALEM	33/21 S	33/22 S	32/22 S
LAS VEGAS	44/32 S	43/32 S	44/33 S
LONDON	24/15 SH	26/16 PC	28/17 S
LOS ANGELES	27/21 S	28/22 S	32/23 S
MADRID	36/21 S	38/23 S	39/23 S
MIAMI	33/28 T	33/28 T	34/28 SH
MOSCOW	30/21 SH	28/19 SH	25/17 R
NEW DELHI	36/29 SH	34/27 T	34/27 SH
NEW YORK	33/22 T	29/19 T	28/20 S
NICE	28/23 S	29/24 S	30/25 S
ORLANDO	34/25 S	34/26 SH	34/26 T
PARIS	26/15 S	28/17 PC	30/20 PC
PHOENIX	44/34 S	44/34 S	45/34 S
ROME	38/23 S	37/23 S	38/25 S
SAN FRANCISCO	18/13 S	19/13 S	23/13 S
SEOUL	27/24 T	25/23 R	29/23 PC
SINGAPORE	30/28 T	30/27 T	30/28 PC
SYDNEY	18/9 S	17/6 S	16/12 PC
TOKYO	29/24 C	31/26 PC	31/26 PC
WASHINGTON	37/26 SH	33/22 PC	31/23 S

NATIONAL FORECAST

	TODAY	TOMORROW	FRIDAY
BANFF	28/14 T	29/14 T	30/14 S
BARRIE	24/15 S	20/13 S	24/13 S
BRANDON	23/12 S	27/15 S	29/17 S
CALGARY	30/16 S	31/15 T	34/17 S
CHARLOTTETOWN	28/21 PC	24/18 T	24/18 PC
CHICOUTIMI	24/17 T	21/14 T	25/17 S
CHURCHILL	23/16 S	17/6 S	14/8 S
CORNER BROOK	23/19 T	25/18 T	24/15 PC
CORNWALL	28/18 T	23/15 PC	25/16 S
EDMONTON	32/18 S	32/18 T	34/17 S
HALIFAX	25/19 SH	22/17 T	24/16 SH
HAMILTON	26/14 S	22/13 S	25/14 S
HUNTSVILLE	23/14 PC	21/12 PC	24/14 S
IQALUIT	6/4 C	6/5 R	7/6 SH
JASPER	31/12 SH	32/16 T	31/15 S
KELOWNA	37/20 S	37/20 S	35/19 S
KINGSTON	25/17 S	23/16 S	24/18 S
LONDON	24/14 SH	21/12 S	24/14 S
MONTREAL	28/19 PC	24/16 S	25/17 S
NIAGARA FALLS	26/16 SH	23/15 S	24/16 S
NORTH BAY	22/12 T	20/13 PC	23/15 S
OTTAWA	27/16 PC	22/14 PC	25/16 S
PRINCE GEORGE	34/16 S	34/18 S	29/15 S
PETERBOROUGH	26/15 S	22/13 S	24/15 S
QUÉBEC	26/19 T	24/14 T	25/16 S
REGINA	27/15 S	30/17 S	32/18 S
SASKATOON	28/15 S	30/17 S	31/18 S
SALUIT STE MARIE	19/12 T	21/12 S	24/15 S
SAINT JOHN	24/18 SH	21/16 R	24/16 S
SEPTÎLES	20/17 T	20/16 T	21/17 S
ST JOHN'S	23/17 PC	25/18 PC	22/15 S
SUDBURY	21/12 T	22/13 S	25/15 S
THUNDER BAY	22/11 PC	25/15 S	27/17 S
THOMPSON	25/16 S	27/17 T	27/15 S
TORONTO	26/16 S	22/16 S	24/16 S
VAL-D'OR	21/11 T	21/12 SH	25/15 S
VANCOUVER	27/17 S	25/16 S	25/16 S
VICTORIA	28/15 PC	24/14 S	20/15 S
WHISTLER	34/17 S	30/15 S	27/16 S
WHITEHORSE	15/8 R	20/10 S	20/11 SH
WINNIPEG	23/12 S	26/15 S	28/17 S
YELLOWKNIFE	27/17 S	30/21 S	30/20 S



LEGEND
Daytime high, overnight low, and conditions

CG CLOUDY	RS RAIN/SNOW
F 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, JULY 17, 2024

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

The bidding:

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

Opening Lead – two of diamonds.

NORTH

♠ K Q 6
♥ A
♦ 9 7 5 3
♣ J 9 5 4 3

WEST

♠ J 5 4
♥ 9 7 3
♦ J 8 6 2
♣ Q 8 2

EAST

♠ A 10 8 2
♥ 8 5 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ 10 7

SOUTH

♠ 9 7 3
♥ K Q J 10 6 4
♦ K
♣ A K 6

The question the defenders must resolve on each deal is whether to adopt an active or passive defence. Every deal has its own characteristics, and even though general rules are helpful, the most reliable guide usually is plain common sense.

Assume you're East and partner leads a diamond against South's four-heart contract. When you play the ace, declarer produces the king, obviously a singleton.

If you decide to defend passively, you return a diamond at trick two. Declarer ruffs, leads a trump to dummy's ace, a club to

his ace and continues with two more rounds of trump. He then plays the king and another club.

West wins with the queen, but whatever he returns, the only other trick your side can score is the ace of spades. So, South makes the contract, losing only a spade, a diamond and a club.

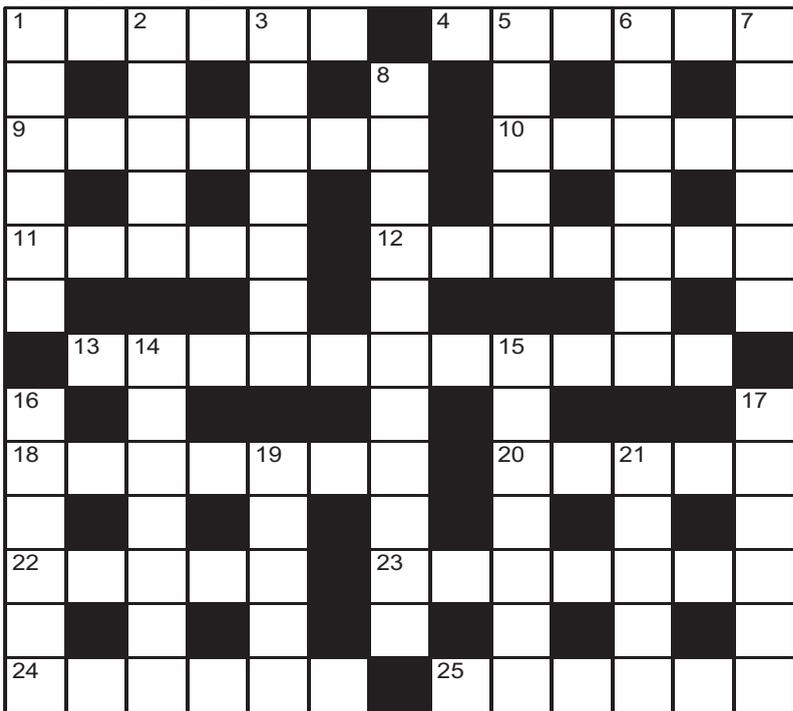
This is a predictable outcome if you play a diamond at trick two. South must have very good clubs on the bidding, so you can't expect West to take more than one club trick. Therefore, your only realistic hope is to score two spade tricks.

To that end, your best shot is to

lead a low spade from the A-10-8-2 at trick two, hoping to develop two spade tricks for yourself when and if West gains the lead with a club. This is clearly a time for active defence, even though it presupposes that your partner has the jack of spades. This assumption is not far-fetched, and it is unlikely to do any harm if you're wrong.

In the actual case, your low spade lead at trick two is eminently successful. After partner takes the queen of clubs, his spade return allows you to score the A-10, and the contract goes down one.

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

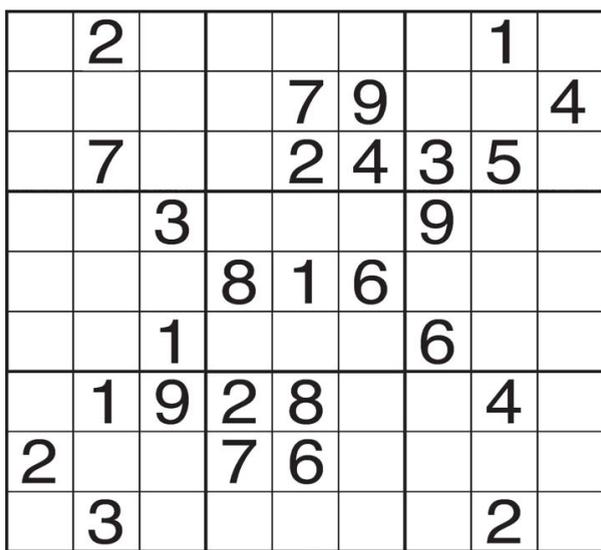
- ACROSS**
- Call for more directions to the centre (6)
 - Source material used for study programme (6)
 - Not a good case for a charity appeal? (4,3)
 - Penal settlement in the country (5)
 - Wager gold when backing like a sovereign (5)
 - Model it in dated style (3-4)
 - Wrong way to make wealth (5,3,3)
 - Cut a girl and slip away (7)
 - Act as a paid informer (5)
 - Girl I care about (5)
 - Gardens are sources of hidden perils (7)
 - Father leads a dog back in the building (6)
 - A different composer from Bach and Elgar (6)
- DOWN**
- A rule the British had (6)
 - Raise one's voice about no rise for a friend (5)
 - German measles is a problem to a girl (7)
 - Acknowledged and admitted (5)
 - Duplicate parcel I made up (7)
 - Girl born to misrepresent the facts in return (6)
 - Outgoing traffic (6,5)
 - Taking the offensive is a help in boxing (7)
 - One is at variance in the country (7)
 - Please disturb slumbering (6)
 - A sculptor may use it to cheat (6)
 - Listened to the sound of the cattle (5)
 - Advanced to a crisis (5)

QUICK CLUES

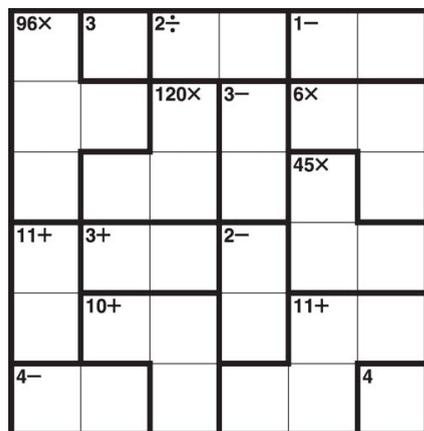
- ACROSS**
- Demand assertively (6)
 - Deliverance from danger (6)
 - Model of excellence (7)
 - A characteristic (5)
 - Subdivision of a play (5)
 - Clemency shown to enemy (7)
 - Not hiding any blemishes (5,3,3)
 - Casual in manner (7)
 - Blacksmith's block (5)
 - Griggishly proper person (5)
 - Postpone (7)
 - Deadly (6)
 - Only just (6)
- DOWN**
- Take unwarranted advantage (6)
 - Strong twilled worsted fabric (5)
 - Hint at (7)
 - Especially (5)
 - Littoral (7)
 - Wring (6)
 - Perplexed (2,1,8)
 - Culpable (2,5)
 - Middle East salt lake (4,3)
 - Oblige (6)
 - Somnolent (6)
 - Sphere of action (5)
 - Border (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 3 single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.

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YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Distaff, 5 Pains, 8 Mortality rate, 9 Senna, 10 Imputed, 11 Rebate, 12 Coheir, 15 Bolster, 17 Taint, 19 Contemplation, 20 Niece, 21 Ratchet.
DOWN: 1 Dumps, 2 Spring balance, 3 Adamant, 4 Frigid, 5 Pay up, 6 In at the finish, 7 Spender, 11 Rubicon, 13 Outcast, 14 Proper, 16 There, 18 Tenet.

YESTERDAY'S QUICK

ACROSS: 1 Mascara, 5 Whole, 8 Cut the mustard, 9 Arise, 10 Dreamer, 11 Angler, 12 Smelly, 15 Aureole, 17 Issue, 19 Get the message, 20 Maybe, 21 Tannery.
DOWN: 1 Mecca, 2 Sitting pretty, 3 Achieve, 4 Armada, 5 Waste, 6 On a small scale, 7 Elderly, 11 Amalgam, 13 Meissen, 14 Permit, 16 Ochre, 18 Enemy.

Drugs: Advocates of harm-reduction approach say safe supply worries are overblown

■ FROM A1

The centrepiece of its effort is a network of treatment centres, known as therapeutic communities, where those with addictions can stay for up to a year.

"We've got to figure out how we help people not only stay alive but have a life," Mr. Campbell said.

His remarks are significant because of his long engagement with the issue and his history as a prominent public figure in British Columbia.

After a dozen years in the RCMP, he became Vancouver coroner and, in 1996, chief coroner of B.C. The CBC television drama *Da Vinci's Inquest* was based loosely on his story. The central character is a crusading coroner who was once an undercover cop.

Mr. Campbell was elected mayor in 2002 under the party banner of COPE, or the Coalition of Progressive Electors. He served until 2005. That same year, he was appointed a Liberal senator. He retired in 2023 after 17 years in the Red Chamber.

His change of perspective coincides with a shift in the debate over how to end the drug crisis. In the spring, British Columbia recriminalized drug use in public places after a wave of complaints about open use in parks, hospitals and transit stops.

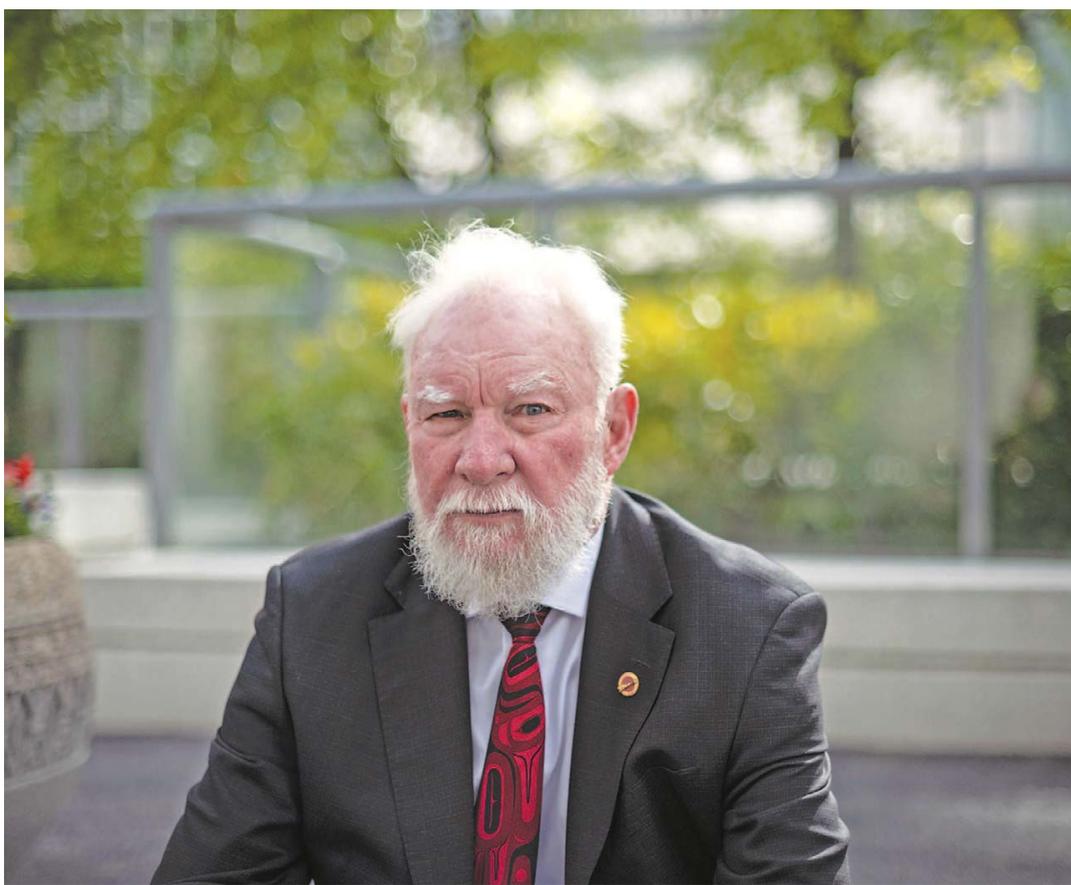
Ontario, meanwhile, asked Ottawa to stop approving safe-supply sites. Progressive Conservative Premier Doug Ford said drug users on the program are selling their prescription pills or trading them for lethal drugs like fentanyl, the potent synthetic opioid.

Advocates of the harm-reduction approach say the worries about safe supply are overblown. They say that right-wing politicians preying on the fears of the public are leading a backlash.

Mr. Campbell says he is just adapting his views to reflect the facts.

Despite all the effort put into harm reduction, he says, British Columbia just had its deadliest year ever for drug overdoses. More than 2,500 people died in 2023, compared with 200 or 300 a year when he was chief coroner. Each time he visits the Downtown Eastside, the epicentre of the province's drug crisis, he feels "terrible sadness, almost to the point of despair."

To combat the crisis, he says, governments have to take a more balanced approach. Harm reduction is still important. Supervised consumption sites allow users to take their drugs in a hygienic setting, with trained attendants on hand in case



Former B.C. coroner, Vancouver mayor and Liberal senator Larry Campbell says governments need a more balanced approach to combat the toxic drug crisis as harm reduction got all of the funding and publicity with no care for treatment. TIJANA MARTIN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

they overdose. Handing out naloxone kits allows police, paramedics and ordinary citizens to reverse overdoses in minutes.

But those measures are only part of the answer. He says authorities should be paying more attention to the other pillars of the accepted four-pillar approach to the problem: prevention, enforcement and, above all, treatment.

"Harm reduction, from my point of view, had gotten all of the publicity, gotten all of the money, and treatment was not there for the most part in the Canadian system."

Asked for a response, B.C.'s Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions issued a

statement saying it was investing not just in harm reduction but in educating young people about the dangers of drugs and expanding treatment for those with addictions.

Since 2017, it said, the government has added 607 new substance-use beds. It also cited its "new model of care," the Road to Recovery, which aims to support people with addictions throughout their recovery, from withdrawal to treatment and beyond.

Mr. Campbell gives the government some credit. He says it was brave to try decriminalization, but also brave to change course after the public outcry. No one

should feel unsafe in their own community, he says. "More governments need to be able to say, 'We were wrong, and we're going to stop this and we're going to try something else.'"

Mr. Campbell says he is sure his old allies in the harm-reduction movement will be upset at how he has changed his tune, "and that's why people don't like to speak out, because they don't want people to be yelling at them. And so, lots of people stay silent."

For him, though, "Silence is never, never an option. Because then you've just accepted the status quo, and you're part of the problem."

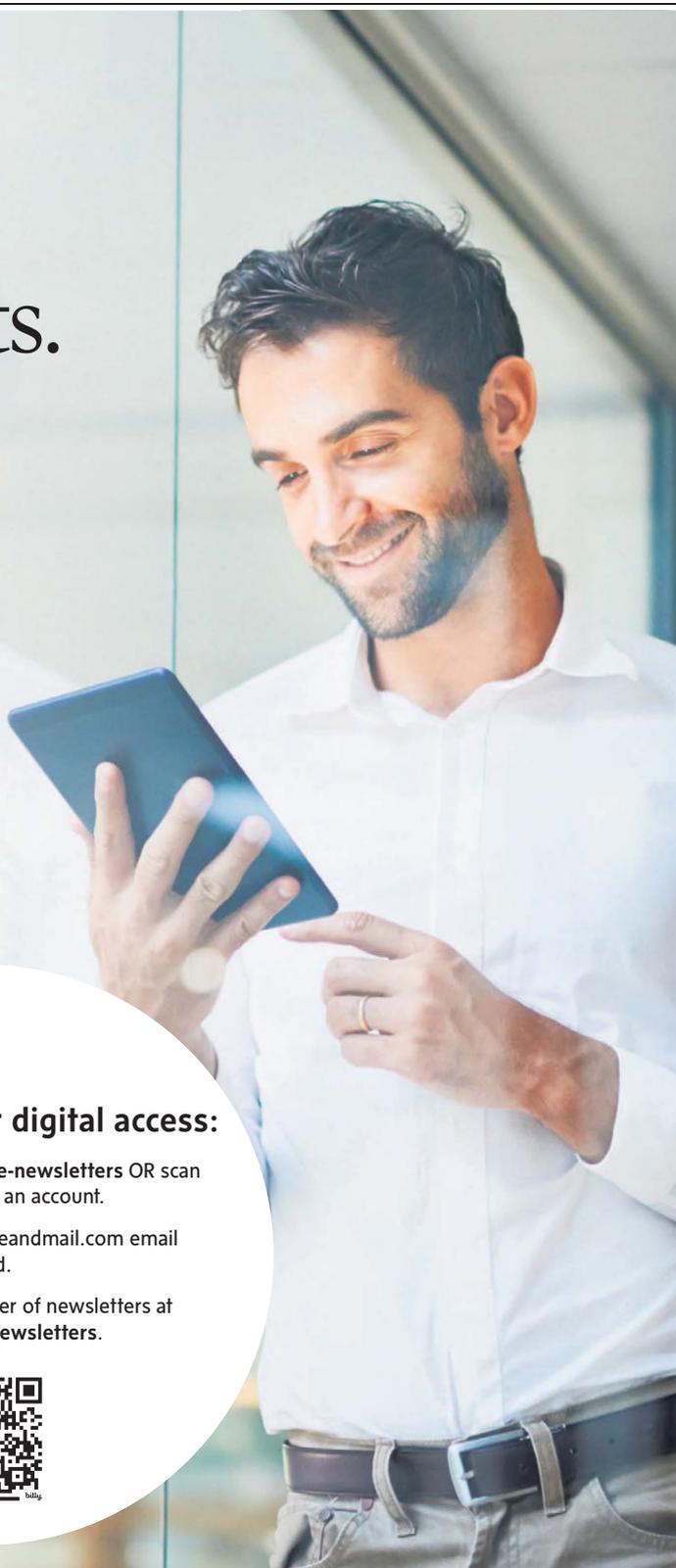
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REPORT ON BUSINESS

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Odds of BoC rate cut grow after inflation dips more than expected

MATT LUNDY
ECONOMICS REPORTER

Canada's inflation rate fell by more than expected in June, boosting the likelihood that the Bank of Canada will cut interest rates again next week.

The Consumer Price Index rose by an annual 2.7 per cent in June, down from 2.9 per cent in May, Statistics Canada said Tuesday. Financial analysts were expecting a slight easing to 2.8 per cent. Unadjusted for seasonality, consumer prices fell 0.1 per cent on a month-to-month basis – the first decline in six months.

While the previous CPI report in May was surprisingly strong, inflation has mostly been weak this year, relative to expectations on Bay Street and the Bank of Canada's projections. Moreover, the annual inflation rate has been within the central bank's target range of 1 per cent to 3 per cent for six consecutive months.

Because of the progress it was seeing in taming inflation, the Bank of Canada trimmed its benchmark lending rate in early June to 4.75 per cent from 5 per cent – the first cut in four years. The central bank is taking a data-dependent approach to its decisions, meaning the timeline for additional rate cuts is uncertain.

■ INFLATION, B6

Size of federal work force hits new high as pace of growth slows

JASON KIRBY

The number of workers in Canada's federal public service climbed to a new high this year, but the pace of growth was the slowest in seven years as the government moves to curb spending after a surge of hiring during the pandemic.

There were 367,772 federal public servants as of March 31, up 10,525 or 2.9 per cent from the year before, according to recently updated numbers published by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

The federal work-force count doesn't include members of the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP regular forces.

The new numbers show National Defence increased its head count the most of all departments over the past year, expanding by 1,384 employees to 28,740.

Statistics Canada saw the second-largest increase. However, that was because employees of the statistical survey operations division, which carries out survey work and had previously been considered a separate agency, were brought into the core public service under Statistics Canada as part of an agreement between the government and the Public Service Alliance of Canada union.

The third fastest-growing department was civilian staff at the RCMP, which increased by 923 to 10,309.

■ STAFF, B5

COMPANIES

ALAMOS GOLD	B8
BRP	B8
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS	B2
CORUS ENTERTAINMENT	B8
STELCO HOLDINGS	B2, B8
TC ENERGY	B3

{ SERVICES }



Workers at X-ray Reclaim, a branch of Plan Automation, inspect blocks of cheese for inedible materials. The subsidiary, based in Bolton, Ont., has seen its revenue and sales double every year since 2021. YADER GUZMAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Invisible touch: How X-rays keep good food out of the green bin

Ontario company sees rising demand to detect contaminants

PIPPA NORMAN

In a refrigerated warehouse in Bolton, Ont., Plan Automation is X-raying millions of kilograms of food annually from producers who suspect shards of inedible materials have accidentally made their way into their products.

In 2021, the 15-year-old company launched a service to X-ray processed food and weed out products contaminated with pieces of glass, metal or rubber, said vice-president Mat Bédard, one of the firm's two co-owners. That branch, X-Ray Reclaim, has seen its revenue and sales double every year since, and is the only one in Canada to offer emergency X-ray services to isolate contaminated products and keep companies from having to throw out perfectly safe, good food, Mr. Bédard said.

"We did \$80-million of product last year – \$80-million of product that, if we didn't exist, went straight to the landfill," he said.

Contamination incidents occur every day in Canada when malfunctioning equipment or human error allow pieces of machinery or other contaminants to end up inside packaged foods. The standard response when a company finds a missing bolt or shard of glass in a product after hours of non-stop production is to throw away the entire batch out of an abundance of caution.

Across Canada, the amount of food lost to the risk of contamination every year is largely unknown and unregulated. Jackie Green, a food safety consultant and industry expert, says that, other than for insurance purposes, there's no reason why companies would track how much food they lose to such concerns.

■ X-RAY, B6

Damage from extreme weather taking a toll on corporate profits, survey finds

JEFFREY JONES
ESG AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCE REPORTER

More than half of Canadian businesses took financial hits last year from extreme weather, yet a large majority of executives say their companies lack the time and resources to prioritize cutting carbon emissions, a new survey finds.

The poll of executives from 350 companies, conducted by accounting consultancy KPMG, found 56 per cent suffered lower profit because of wildfires, floods, heat waves and other weather damage in 2023.

Half suffered productivity losses and broken supply chains, and 30 per cent reported having their insurance cancelled or premiums increased, the survey to be released Wednesday found.

In addition, nine out of 10 believe their organizations will have to deal with a climate-related incident this year, KPMG said.

The results show how the physical impact of climate change is a growing business risk, in addition to more stringent government and regulatory policies related to moving to a lower-carbon economy. In 2023, severe weather and natural disasters in Canada caused more than \$3-billion in insured damage for the second year in a

row, and wildfires, flooding and extreme heat are again wreaking havoc across the country.

"Around 90 per cent of businesses are seeing the impacts of extreme weather and right around that same number are those who want to make more investments and support climate-related goals. So they're connecting the dots from our perspective," said Roopa Davé, partner and national climate risk leader at KPMG.

However, four out of five company officials say their organizations lack the time and resources to make reducing their carbon footprint an immediate priority.

■ CLIMATE, B6



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SAMMY KOGAN/
THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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Ottawa likely to approve Stelco takeover

With Cleveland-Cliffs being a U.S. company and already offering economic promises, 'deal looks good,' expert suggests

NIALL MCGEE
MINING REPORTER

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.'s proposed acquisition of Stelco Holdings Inc. is likely to get the nod from Ottawa, industry experts say.

The Cleveland-based steel company on Monday announced it had reached a friendly deal to acquire Canadian steel maker Stelco for \$3.85-billion.

Originally called the Steel Company of Canada, Stelco is the biggest steel maker in the country. Founded in 1910, it operates the Lake Erie Works steel plant and Hamilton Works, both in Ontario.

Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne will scrutinize the deal to make sure there are no national-security concerns and that it makes economic sense for Canada under a net benefit test.

While China-based acquirers with their sights set on Canadian critical minerals assets have been lately rebuffed by Mr. Champagne because of national-security concerns, since Cleveland-Cliffs is based in the United States, one of this country's closest allies, national security isn't expected to be an issue.

On the net benefit front, Cleveland-Cliffs has already made a number of economic promises, including a pledge to preserve union jobs, putting Canadians on the management team, investing at least \$60-million over the next three years back into the business, keeping Stelco's headquarters in Hamilton and retaining the Stelco name.

"On its face, this deal looks good to me," said Heather Exner-Pirot, senior fellow and director of natural resources, energy and environment at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute.

"It takes into consideration some Canadian interests and is



Canadian flags are straightened in front of rolls of coated steel at Stelco in Hamilton in June, 2018, before a visit by then-foreign affairs minister Chrystia Freeland. A Cleveland-based steel company on Monday announced it had reached a friendly deal to acquire Stelco for \$3.85-billion.

PETER POWER/
THE CANADIAN PRESS

with a buyer in the United States, with whom we depend on and collaborate on for our mutual security and have a free-trade agreement. If this kind of deal was blocked, I don't know what deals would ever get passed."

Mr. Champagne earlier this month raised the bar on allowing deals involving the acquisitions of Canadian miners with significant critical-minerals operations, saying those deals would be approved only under the most exceptional circumstances.

While high-purity iron used in some steelmaking is a critical mineral, steel itself is not classified as such in Canada, which makes the path to deal approval easier. Mr. Champagne also recently approved the acquisition of the coal business of Teck Resources Ltd. by Glencore PLC of Switzerland, a major M&A deal valued at US\$6.9-billion, but one that didn't involve a critical-minerals asset.

Audrey Champoux, press secretary for Mr. Champagne, in an e-mail to The Globe and Mail, declined to comment on the government's review of the Stelco acquisition, citing confidentiality provisions of the Investment Canada Act.

Pierre Lassonde, co-founder and chairman emeritus of mining royalty company Franco-Nevada Corp., has been a vocal critic of past acquisitions of Canadian metals and mining companies because he believes the industry has been overly hollowed out over the past two decades, particularly after the acquisitions of Falconbridge Ltd., Inco Ltd., Alcan Inc. and others in the 2000s.

However, on this deal, he sees no cause for concern.

"I don't have any issues with Canada allowing this takeover," he said.

He points to the relatively small value of the deal, the fact that steel isn't a critical mineral

and he believes the Canadian steel industry isn't big enough to survive on its own.

"Our steel industry is simply too small," he said. "In the long run, it can't compete against international giants."

The Stelco of today is a much smaller and leaner version of its former self. Stelco over the years has drifted in and out of creditor protection in part because of the vicissitudes of a notoriously boom-bust industry.

When Stelco was acquired in 2007 by U.S. Steel Corp., it wasn't long after emerging from creditor protection. In 2014, it was put into creditor protection once again as United States Steel Canada. Three years later it emerged as a Canadian company and the Stelco name was resuscitated after a mammoth thinning-out restructuring effort led by financier Alan Kestenbaum that saw it shed \$3-billion in debt and \$1.4-billion in pension and benefit obligations.

Exiled Chinese businessman convicted in U.S. fraud trial

LUC COHEN

Guo Wengui, an exiled Chinese businessman and outspoken opponent of Beijing's Communist government, was convicted on Tuesday in his U.S. trial on charges of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from online followers.

Mr. Guo was convicted on nine of the 12 criminal counts he faced, including racketeering conspiracy and wire fraud, in a trial that lasted seven weeks.

He could face decades in prison. U.S. District Justice Analisa Torres set his sentencing for Nov. 19.

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan said Mr. Guo raised more than US\$1-billion by guaranteeing followers on social media that they would not lose money if they joined him in a series of investment and cryptocurrency schemes from 2018 to 2023, some of which he said would go toward challenging China's government.

Prosecutors say the onetime real estate mogul spent the money on luxury goods including a New Jersey mansion, a red Lamborghini and a yacht.

"Thousands of Guo's online followers were victimized so that Guo could live a life of excess," Damian Williams, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, said in a statement after the verdict.

Mr. Guo's defence lawyers portrayed him as an ardent dissident who flaunted his wealth as part of his political critique of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and said that jurors should not rush to judgment as prosecutors had.

"Mr. Guo didn't care about the money," defence lawyer Sidhardha Kamaraju said in his closing argument last week. "He cared about the movement."

After Mr. Kamaraju spoke, prosecutor Juliana Murray told jurors that the defence lawyer was correct that Mr. Guo cared about the anti-CCP movement.

"And at least one of the reasons he loved it is because it was his personal piggy bank," Ms. Murray said.

During his closing argument last week, prosecutor Ryan Finkel played videos of Mr. Guo pitching investments, including several in which Mr. Guo wore sunglasses and stood on a yacht deck.

Earlier in the trial, jurors were allowed to hold keys to the Lamborghini that authorities found in a garage on Mr. Guo's Connecticut estate.

Mr. Kamaraju argued that the New Jersey mansion and Lamborghini were not Mr. Guo's personal property, but rather amenities available for the use of a luxury membership club for his followers.

Mr. Guo has been jailed since his March, 2023, arrest.

Mr. Finkel also showed jurors a video of Steve Bannon, a onetime adviser to former U.S. president Donald Trump, promoting one of Mr. Guo's ventures at a news conference in 2018.

Mr. Bannon was arrested in August, 2020, on Mr. Guo's yacht, the Lady May, in an unrelated fraud case and was later pardoned by Mr. Trump.

REUTERS



TD economist Marc Ercolao says overall starts 'remain well above prepandemic levels, as builders have broken ground at elevated rates for purpose-built rental and condo units.' CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Annual pace of housing starts down 9% in June from May, CMHC says

OTTAWA

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. says the annual pace of housing starts in June fell 9 per cent compared with May.

The housing agency said the seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts in June amounted to 241,672 units, down from 264,929 in May.

"The higher interest-rate environment appears to have caught up with some of Canada's major centres as lower multiunit starts, particularly in Vancouver and Toronto, drove both the [seasonally adjusted annual rate] and trend down in June," CMHC chief economist Bob Dugan said in a press release. "While strong starts growth in June and the first half 2024 in Calgary, Edmonton and Montreal mitigated some of these decreases, we expect continued downward starts pressure across Canada throughout 2024."

Non-seasonally adjusted housing starts were markedly lower in two of Canada's three major cities compared with June, 2023, with

Toronto down 60 per cent and Vancouver down 55 per cent.

However, Montreal housing starts rose 226 per cent in June year-over-year as multiunit activity picked up significantly.

The housing agency said the seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts in June amounted to 241,672 units, down from 264,929 in May.

The actual number of housing starts in urban centres across Canada was down 13 per cent to 20,509 units in June compared with 23,518 units a year earlier. CMHC attributed the decrease to lower multiunit starts.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of rural starts was estimated at 18,438.

The six-month moving average of the monthly seasonally adjusted annual rate was down 0.4 per cent at 247,205 units in June com-

pared with 248,260 units in May.

Despite the pullback, Toronto-Dominion Bank economist Marc Ercolao said overall starts "remain well above prepandemic levels, as builders have broken ground at elevated rates for purpose-built rental and condo units."

"However, we believe this tide will turn and starts will trend lower on the back of weak presale activity in key markets and elevated input costs," he said in a note.

The June data serve as a reminder of "just how little breathing room builders are working with," NerdWallet Canada's Clay Jarvis said in a statement.

"Unless starts settle into a groove of significant month-over-month increases that lasts for the next several years, we won't get anywhere near the housing targets set out by the CMHC," he said.

"It's hard to feel confident that builders will generate and sustain that kind of momentum, especially those that rely on presales to get projects off the ground."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Car thefts fall in Ontario and Quebec

Decline is largely owing to government agencies, law enforcement and the insurance industry joining forces

CLARE O'HARA
WEALTH MANAGEMENT REPORTER

Car thefts in several provinces have fallen since government agencies, law enforcement and industry stakeholders joined forces to combat Canada's theft problem, which has grown in recent years.

In a report released Tuesday, Équité Association – a not-for-profit organization that assists in insurance fraud and crime investigations – said the number of auto thefts in Canada dropped 17 per cent in the first half of 2024, compared with the same period last year.

The decline is largely owing to the collective efforts of the insurance industry, federal and provincial governments, law enforcement agencies, Canada Border Service Agency and public awareness, said Bryan Gast, vice-president of investigative services at Équité Association.

"While it is fantastic to see this decline occur after the collaboration of so many organizations, it is still early days and there's no room for complacency," Mr. Gast said in an interview. "We need to continue focus on preventing auto thefts before they even occur."

Canada now ranks among the top 10 countries that international police organization Interpol sees in its stolen motor vehicle database for 2024, out of 137 countries connected worldwide.

Earlier this year, the federal government announced a national strategy to combat the increase in auto theft, which includes a boost in funding for law enforcement agencies and the



Deputy Commissioner Marty Kearns of the Ontario Provincial Police, left, and Deputy Chief Benoît Dubé of the Sûreté du Québec talk beside two recovered stolen vehicles in Montreal on April 3. GRAHAM HUGHES/CP

CBSA, proposed changes to make it illegal to own or sell electronic devices that are commonly used to steal cars, and proposed amendments to the Criminal Code to impose stricter penalties for thefts tied to violence, organized crime and money laundering.

"All levels of government are stepping up – auto theft is no longer seen as just a victimless crime, or a property crime," Mr. Gast said, pointing to the Ontario government's \$18-million commitment to help police services crack down on auto theft.

Ontario and Quebec are starting to see some momentum, reporting the largest declines in the number of auto thefts in Canada, down 14 per cent and 36 per cent, respectively. This compares with a 50-per-cent jump in auto theft for both provinces in 2022.

The two regions, which continue to see SUVs most often targeted, are densely populated areas that are within driving distance to the Port of Montreal, a popular destination for stolen cargo with connections to major roadways and rail lines. Almost 18,000 vehicles were stolen in Ontario and Quebec in the first six months of this year. That includes about 5,532 SUVs in Ontario, and 2,816 SUVs in Quebec.

This year's decline in auto theft in Ontario and Quebec has had a "ripple effect" across Canada, the report says. In Western Canada, the number of stolen vehicles dropped by 10 per cent, with Alberta, which has stolen vehicles primarily transported to Montreal for export, seeing a decline of 5 per cent. Stolen vehicles in Alberta are most commonly pickup trucks.

In Atlantic Canada, the ripple effect wasn't as positive, with thefts climbing by 11 per cent. Équité said the increase is likely tied to the strong measures put in place in Ontario and Quebec that are now forcing thieves to look to other provinces.

The proceeds of auto theft are commonly used to finance domestic drug trafficking, arms dealing, human trafficking and international terrorism. Mr. Gast said this year's momentum has helped disrupt the flow of money for both domestic and international criminal organizations.

"However, to truly ensure the safety of Canadian communities, it will require a sustained commitment towards preventing vehicle theft altogether," he added in a statement.

Last year, the cost of insurance claims for replacing stolen vehi-

cles in Canada skyrocketed to a record \$1.5-billion, according to a report by the Insurance Bureau of Canada. It was the second year in a row that auto theft claims costs topped \$1-billion. The previous four-year national average, between 2018 and 2021, was \$556-million. (Auto theft claims for 2024 are not yet calculated.)

IBC spokesperson Andrew Bartucci said the sheer volume of thefts and the associated claims costs "remains troubling," and while premium changes can't be predicted because auto theft is just one factor that affects pricing, Canada's auto theft crisis is "placing pressure on claims costs."

"Continued collaboration amongst all stakeholders – insurers, law enforcement, government and manufacturers – is needed to effectively fight theft. Insurers have rolled up their sleeves but they can't do it alone," Mr. Bartucci said.

Mr. Gast said making it harder for criminals to succeed in their operations – whether that involves reselling domestically or exporting to countries in Europe, West Africa or the Middle East – is crucial to solving the large-scale problem in Canada.

"Criminals adapt and try and find other solutions, the goal is to be right on pace with them," he added.

Another part of the equation involves making it harder to steal the vehicle in the first place, he said. Auto manufacturers are weighing in on how to produce effective anti-theft devices – as well on what standards are required to be successful.

"There's an open consultation right now with Transport Canada looking to modernize the current safety standards in preventing auto theft and what that might look like in the future," Mr. Gast said. "That's a very big piece of the equation that needs still to be addressed and without it, it's still going to be a very big uphill battle."

Trade tribunal tosses out TC Energy's \$15-billion Keystone XL legal claim

AMANDA STEPHENSON CALGARY

TC Energy Corp., the Canadian company behind the ill-fated Keystone XL pipeline, has suffered a major blow after a trade tribunal tossed out its claim to US\$15-billion in damages.

The Calgary-based company launched the claim in 2021 to seek compensation after its proposed Keystone XL pipeline project was scuttled by U.S. President Joe Biden.

The claim was made under the legacy rules tied to the old North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, because of what TC Energy said was the U.S. government's breach of its free-trade obligations.

Keystone XL was a proposed crude oil transportation pipeline, roughly 1,900 kilometres long, which would have carried oil from the oil sands of Northern Alberta to the major U.S. crude storage hub at Cushing, Okla., and then on to Gulf Coast refineries.

But the project became a lightning rod for controversy and environmental and Indigenous activism, in addition to being subject to government flip-flops.

TC Energy first proposed the Keystone XL project under the Obama administration, which ultimately rejected it on environmental grounds. U.S. president Donald Trump revived the project, but Mr. Biden then killed it again by revoking the pipeline's permit on his first day as president in 2021.

In its claim, TC Energy said it was due more than US\$15-billion in damages as a result of the years it spent navigating legal and regulatory challenges before the Biden administration officially spiked the project by revoking a key permit. Construction on the pipeline had already begun when the project was cancelled.

But the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) tribunal sided with the U.S. government in the matter last Friday by refusing to hear TC Energy's case.

The tribunal said the legacy provisions tied to the old NAFTA only permit claims based on breaches that allegedly occurred while NAFTA was in force.

Mr. Biden revoked Keystone XL's permit a year after NAFTA was terminated and the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) took its place.

In an e-mail Tuesday, TC Energy expressed its dismay over the tribunal's decision.

"We are both disappointed and frustrated with the Tribunal's decision to deny our right to bring a legacy NAFTA claim," said Patrick Keys, executive vice-president and general counsel for TC Energy.

"This ruling does not align with our expectations and views of the plain interpretation of the protections NAFTA and the USMCA were designed to offer. TC Energy was treated unfairly and inequitably in the revocation of the permit, which was driven by political considerations."

The tribunal's decision was hailed by environmental activists, who interpreted it as evidence that fossil-fuel companies will not be able to successfully sue governments for policy changes made for the good of the environment or to mitigate the effects of climate change.

"This is an important precedent, because governments need to be able to take action to protect people [from climate change] and corporations shouldn't be able to sue them for it," said Keith Stewart, senior energy strategist at Greenpeace Canada.

"The threat of these types of lawsuits has actually been giving governments cold feet about taking bold action [on climate] and I think we should recognize this decision as saying, 'full speed ahead.'"

Pension funds face more pressure on real estate, private credit, debt rater says

JAMES BRADSHAW
INSTITUTIONAL INVESTING
REPORTER

Canada's largest pension funds will likely take more losses on real estate and see defaults on private loans rise over the coming year, but have enough financial flexibility to mostly avoid having to sell assets at depressed prices, according to a report from Fitch Ratings Inc.

A higher cost of debt and slower economic growth have created a tough investing environment, pushing down the value of some private assets that pension funds own. That pressure has been most noticeable in real estate, where almost all of the country's largest pension fund managers suffered losses ranging from 5 per cent to nearly 16 per cent, erasing billions of dollars of asset value last year.

Some pension fund chief executive officers have signalled that the worst pain may be over for real estate investors as central banks have started to cut rates, giving hope that the cost to borrow money could ease. According to Fitch, however, property values "are still adjusting to higher borrowing costs, a scarcity of available financing and a general repricing of assets," especially office properties that have suffered from falling demand as hybrid working takes hold.

"There are a lot of mortgages that are yet to mature over the next year, year and a half," Dafina Dunmore, a senior director at Fitch, said in an interview. "To the extent that there is pressure to refinance – which we certainly expect there to be, certainly for office properties – then you'll see some continued losses over the foreseeable future."

Private credit has been one of the best-performing asset classes for some large pension funds in recent years, often earning double-digit percentage gains. But high interest rates have also driven up costs to private borrowers, and the market has grown crowded with lenders.

There are no signs of widespread losses on private loans among major pension funds, and the loans tend to be backed by significant collateral. But defaults are rising and as more loans go bad, pension funds that invest directly in private credit "will be put to the test with respect to their workout capabilities," Ms. Dunmore said.

"We do expect more losses to come in that portfolio, just given the increased competition," she said.

"And as competition grows, in terms of capital providers, that puts pressure on deal terms and pricing."

Private credit has been one of the best-performing asset classes for some large pension funds in recent years, often earning double-digit percentage gains. But high interest rates have also driven up costs to private borrowers, and the market has grown crowded with lenders.

In the near term, major Canadian pension funds have built up a considerable cushion against losses. They are accustomed to holding tens of billions of dollars in cash and other liquid assets that give them breathing room to pay pension obligations, make new investments or meet other financial obligations. The liquidity levels maintained by Canadian plans are "viewed as exceptionally strong," Ms. Dunmore said, and "we have seen a few

plans to build additional liquidity, given the volatility that we face."

Fitch rates three of the largest Canadian pension funds – the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, Public Sector Pension Investment Board and Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System – and has assigned AAA long-term default ratings to each. Canada's eight largest pension funds collectively controlled about \$2.1-trillion of assets, as of Dec. 31.

For most of the past decade, pension funds have invested an ever larger share of their portfolios into private assets, seeking higher returns when interest rates were at ultralow levels. Now, as funds receive new contributions from members or look to put the proceeds from selling assets back to work, they are shifting more of that cash into bonds, which offer attractive returns with low risk at a time when interest rates are high.

Private assets will remain a major part of large pension funds' portfolios, as investment executives chase premium returns, but funds are already trimming their exposure in places, rebalancing the mix of their investments.

"In a higher-rate environment, taking the additional risk makes less sense than maybe it did a decade ago," Ms. Dunmore said.

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DIVIDENDS

TECK RESOURCES LIMITED (the "Corporation") Dividend Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that the following dividends have been declared:

Dividend of \$0.625 per share on the Class A Common and Class B Subordinate Voting Shares of the Corporation, payable on September 27, 2024, to shareholders of record at the close of business on September 13, 2024.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Amanda R. Robinson
Corporate Secretary

July 11, 2024

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE



NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Birks Group Inc. has fixed the close of business on July 26, 2024 as the record date for determining Birks Group shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual and special meeting of Birks Group shareholders, which will be held on September 19, 2024.

OPINION & ANALYSIS

The nuclear industry deserves some credit

The way that the sector is stewarding its waste in Canada is its strength, not its weakness

HEATHER EXNER-PIROT

OPINION

Director of energy, natural resources and environment at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute

Last week, Ignace, Ont., a town 250 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay, indicated its support to host a deep geological repository for spent nuclear fuel. In a demonstration of deliberative democracy, the town struck a “Willingness Committee” to canvass citizens and conduct a vote through a combination of online, curbside and home visits. This followed years of community meetings, door-knocking and other forms of engagement. The vote passed with 77-per-cent support.

This was a culmination of 15 years of work by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), a private-sector consortium of Canada’s nuclear energy – and waste – producers, to find and earn the consent of a host community for its plan to store spent fuel. No process is perfect; but it would be hard to find one better suited to achieve free, prior and informed consent.

Credit where credit is due. The way that the nuclear sector is stewarding its waste in Canada is its strength, not its weakness. This should be acknowledged and promoted as we think about what our future energy systems should look like.

The process to find a forever home for Canada’s nuclear waste began in 2008, when the NWMO



Nuclear waste is stored in ‘in-ground’ structures near the Bruce Power nuclear plant beside Lake Huron. Used nuclear fuel loses most of its radioactivity in the first 10 years after removal from the reactor, but it takes about a million years for it to return to the original level of natural uranium. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

first developed principles for how it would choose a site. In 2010 it started welcoming expressions of interest from communities to learn more about the project. By 2012, 22 communities had requested to explore the process further, including three in Saskatchewan, where Canada’s uranium is mined; and 19 in Ontario, where the vast majority of its nuclear waste is produced.

Screening based on technical and safety suitability, as well as likely support of the host communities, narrowed the candidates down to two potential sites, each with an affected municipality and a First Nation: Ignace and

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation near the Ontario-Manitoba border, and Saugeen Ojibway Nation and South Bruce near the Bruce nuclear station.

In the coming months Wabigoon Lake, Saugeen and South Bruce, following in Ignace’s footsteps, will also indicate to NWMO whether or not they are willing hosts. NWMO will then choose a site and enter into the regulatory approval stage. Community consent is not the end of the process, but rather the beginning.

The project has the advantage of time on its side: In their current locations, Canada’s various nuclear-waste facilities pose no

imminent environmental or human risk. The NWMO literally has decades to get its long-term solution for spent fuel right. Other resource projects, say in mining or oil and gas, don’t have the same time frame and insulation from market prices, and can’t replicate the NWMO approach. That said, it is in many ways a model that provides lessons and deserves praise.

The task the NWMO and its community partners are assuming is in some ways mind-boggling. They are taking care of our spent fuel not only for the next generation, but for the next civilization. The plan for where to store the nuclear waste is not

measured in centuries; the chosen location must be suitable for geological epochs. Used nuclear fuel loses about 99 per cent of its radioactivity in the first 10 years after removal from the reactor, but it takes about a million years for it to reach the original level of natural uranium.

The two shortlisted regions – Ignace/Wabigoon Lake and South Bruce/Saugeen – are technically suited for the task. They both have highly stable geology and face minimal seismic or volcanic activity. Their rock is extremely dense and hard for water to penetrate. At the depth at which the repositories would be built, about 650 metres below surface, no aquifers exist. Initial testing of porewaters – the water found in the very small spaces between sediment particles – show they have been isolated for millions of years. There is no possibility of groundwater contamination, or contact with the Great Lakes.

Unlike other energy producers, nuclear operators track and manage every gram of waste they produce. Canada’s used nuclear-fuel bundles, if stacked like logs, would fit into nine NHL rinks from the ice surface to the top of the boards. The operators’ safety track record is near perfect, as it must be. Their incredible diligence is owing to the stark reality that any significant accident, anywhere, would be an existential threat to assets worth tens of billions of dollars.

The hard work and strong track record has paid off. The Canadian nuclear sector has achieved what many would have thought impossible – securing community consent to host a depository for nuclear waste. Those that are incredulous must acknowledge that the people of Ignace who voted in its favour are far more knowledgeable about the project than they.

Why Ottawa won’t come to grips with Canada’s productivity problem

EUGENE LANG

OPINION

Assistant professor in the School of Policy Studies at Queen’s University. He is a former Finance Canada official.

Paul Krugman, the Nobel laureate economist, once said: “Productivity isn’t everything, but in the long-run it is almost everything.” Which helps explain the March comment by Carolyn Rogers, senior deputy governor of the Bank of Canada: “You’ve seen those signs that say, ‘in emergency, break glass.’ Well, it’s time to break the glass.”

Ms. Rogers was reflecting on Canada’s abysmal productivity growth, leading to five quarters of declining real per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in the six quarters before her speech. Numbers like these led the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to project Canada will turn in the worst growth performance of any advanced economy over the next decade and beyond.

But Canada’s weak productiv-

ity growth (in absolute terms, relative to the past and compared with peer countries) is not new. It is age-old and has been well-documented in Ottawa policy circles for a generation. While the federal government has never taken the dramatic step of “breaking glass,” successive governments going back three decades have sounded the alarm through several reports on the “innovation” performance of Canadian business – innovation being seen as the key factor in productivity growth.

So, after 30 years and four major reports loaded with ideas aimed at improving Canada’s productivity growth, why is this country still grappling with the same problem?

Ottawa’s innovation journey began with the publication of Building a More Innovative Economy (1994), the so-called “orange book.” The orange book did a good job of describing Canada’s productivity challenge, but its proposals were necessarily low-budget and small scale, because the priority in Ottawa then was reducing a deficit of nearly 7 per cent of GDP. There just wasn’t any money for substantial innovation

policy in the mid-1990s regardless of the severity of the problem.

Eight years later, with budget surpluses now piling up, another federal report was published. Titled Canada’s Innovation Strategy, it was the product of a year of internal bureaucratic wrangling, with 30-odd departments and agencies advancing “innovation” policy proposals for consideration. I had worked on it at the time. In the end, the report produced no substantial policy change, had no impact on the innovation performance of the Canadian economy, and was soon forgotten.

Then Ottawa got a new idea. Why not put a successful business executive, rather than bureaucrats, in charge of developing innovation policy recommendations? Hence the appointment of OpenText’s Tom Jenkins to lead an expert advisory panel. The fruit of which was Innovation Canada: A Call to Action (2011). It contained a couple of big ideas; namely, a recommendation to utilize the billions of dollars in federal procurement spending to drive business innovation; and a call to de-emphasize the long-standing tax-credit approach to

incentivizing private-sector research and development (R&D), in favour of more direct program spending aimed at small and medium-sized firms. Mr. Jenkins’s main recommendations went nowhere.

Enter Justin Trudeau’s first finance minister, Bill Morneau, and his appointment of the Advisory Council on Economic Growth, a group of business leaders and academic gurus set up to advise the government on growth-related policy. The council produced six reports, one of which was titled Unlocking Scale to Drive Innovation and Growth (2017). Like its predecessors, the report’s core recommendations were ignored.

Three reasons spring to mind for why Canada has done so little on the productivity front.

First, federal policy change is often driven less by the importance of the issue and more by a sense of urgency – it’s the classic dilemma: urgent crowds out the important. Unfortunately, long-run economic decline is never seen as a matter of urgency in government. It is the quintessential boiling-frog problem.

Second, persistent productivity weakness suggests deep-seated

structural problems in the Canadian economy. You can’t meaningfully get at that without paradigm-shifting policy change. That entails risk, and all governments are masters of risk aversion. The irony here is that over the years the federal government has routinely chided Canadian business for insufficient investment in R&D, inadequate pursuit of foreign markets and weak entrepreneurialism, all of which boils down to risk-taking.

Third, when governments do get down to discussing innovation, the regional political imperative rears its head. Meaning innovation policies, especially spending programs, are usually designed to confer benefits on all regions of the country, seriously diluting their impact.

All previous federal innovation reports have tripped over some or all of these three hurdles. And this will likely continue. When the next government comes along, expect either indifference to Canada’s productivity crisis, or yet another study and report into the problem, which will be largely ignored. Then turn the heat up one more notch on the frog in the pot.

Mainframes, the back-end computers supporting everyday life, face a looming crisis

FARHAZ THOBANI

OPINION

President of Kyndryl Canada. Kyndryl is an international IT infrastructure services provider

The mainframe is the original enterprise computing platform. Over its 60-year history, this powerful computer, which processes and stores large amounts of data, has been the backbone of many of Canada’s government services and major financial institutions. Whether you withdraw cash at an ATM, access Canada’s health care system or use your mobile phone, it’s a mainframe that quietly, reliably and securely processes the back-end operations that make everyday life possible.

You may not know it, but mainframes are facing a major problem.

Most of today’s computer pro-

grammers don’t know the technology languages that run mainframes. Meanwhile, a generation of mainframe experts is reaching retirement age – and taking their deep knowledge with them.

It gets worse. Depending on the nature of the data hosted on mainframes, many organizations insist, or laws and regulations require, that such data be stored in Canada and accessible only by Canadians. So not only are there too few mainframe programmers to go around, there are some practical limitations when it comes to leveraging resources outside our borders.

Most business leaders are aware of the problem, but many lack the means to address it. According to Kyndryl’s latest mainframe study, 90 per cent of organizations plan to continue running their mission-critical workloads on mainframes for the foreseeable future, but the majority (56 per cent) lament the fact that most people entering

the work force do not have mainframe skills. I have heard from many IT leaders in Canada that it can take months to fill a role. And with only a handful of Canadian universities offering mainframe-related courses, the talent gap will continue to widen.

The good news is that there are several steps we can take to help ensure both business continuity and innovation at the enterprise and government levels. A short list would include filling the pipeline of future mainframe talent by expanding postsecondary training in mainframe programming. Academic courses, industry certifications and mentoring also have the potential to bring new, mid-career and non-traditional workers into the field. The focus would be on skills, not degrees.

New technologies such as artificial intelligence also have an important role to play. The convergence of AI, mainframe and cloud computing is shaping the

evolution of IT. As mainframe customers embrace the hybrid cloud era, they must modernize to allow integration and deployment of data and applications across multiple platforms. In other words, the future of enterprise IT will encompass a mix of approaches to computing, with some systems running independently and others in combination to capitalize on the best capabilities of each. AI will serve as the connective tissue among various types of systems to help process the massive amounts of data required to spot trends, detect cybersecurity threats and turn “ones and zeroes” into actionable insights.

Embedding various types of AI into mainframe and hybrid cloud environments can also help augment human capabilities and streamline automation of business processes, which can help take the pressure off when it comes to mainframe skills in the short term, giving tech talent the

time to develop those skills. This enables organizations to decrease manual interventions, process time and software costs. The AI-driven operational insights can enable more proactive and predictive management of mainframe systems and provide visibility and control over mainframe performance and costs.

Developers can also deploy generative AI tools to help write code documentation, increase productivity and modernize or convert classic mainframe code to languages such as Java and C#.

Solving the mainframe skills shortage isn’t simply a challenge for Canada’s core infrastructure businesses and government services, it’s an imperative. It’s important to act now to help ensure that this trusted and secure technology continues to serve our needs while evolving its capabilities for the challenges of the future.

IMF sees signs of cooling in U.S. economy

Report forecast that growth would increase to 2.6 per cent, a slight downgrade from past projection of 2.7 per cent

ALAN RAPPEPORT WASHINGTON

The U.S. economy is growing more slowly than expected and inflation remains stubbornly high around the world, two developments that pose risks to the global economy, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday.

The IMF's most recent World Economic Outlook report underscored the lingering vulnerabilities that could derail a so-called soft landing for the world economy — one in which a global recession is avoided despite aggressive efforts by central banks to tame rapid inflation by making it more expensive to borrow money.

The new report said the IMF still expected growth in global output to hold steady at 3.2 per cent in 2024. That would be unchanged from its April projections. The fund also expected growth to be slightly higher next year, at 3.3 per cent. However, the closely watched projections included several caveats and warned that the global economy was in a “sticky spot.”

Most notable were signs of weakness in the United States, which has helped power the global recovery from the pandemic.



People in Sunrise, Fla., in June wait for a job fair to open. The IMF expects the U.S. economy to grow more slowly than it has owing to a softening job market. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

The IMF now expects the U.S. economy to grow more slowly than it did previously as a result of weaker consumer spending and a softening job market.

The report forecast that U.S. economic growth would increase to 2.6 per cent in 2024 from 2.5 per cent in 2023, a slight downgrade from its previous projection of

2.7 per cent. “The United States shows increasing signs of cooling, especially in the labour market, after a strong 2023,” Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's chief economist, said in an essay that accompanied the report.

Global inflation is still expected to ease to 5.9 per cent this year from 6.7 per cent

in 2023. But the IMF noted that prices for services remained hot. That could force central banks — which have raised interest rates to their highest levels in years — to keep borrowing costs elevated longer, putting growth at risk for both advanced and developing economies.

“Unless goods inflation declines further, rising services prices and wages may keep overall inflation higher than desired,” Mr. Gourinchas said.

“Even absent further shocks, this is a significant risk to the soft-landing scenario.”

Recent inflation reports have suggested that price increases in the United States have been moderating, leading investors to speculate that the Federal Reserve could begin lowering borrowing costs in September. Jerome Powell, the chair of the Federal Reserve, said Monday that the data had added to central bankers' confidence that price increases were slowing, but avoided giving a clear signal about when officials would have enough confidence to cut interest rates.

Despite some indications of sluggishness in the United States, the IMF said output in the euro area, China and India was looking stronger. The fund described Asia's emerging market economies as the “main engine for the global economy” and said growth in China and India accounted for nearly half of global growth.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Staff: When adjusted for population size, growth is virtually unchanged from last year

FROM B1

When adjusted for the size of Canada's rapidly growing population, which stood at 41 million in April, the growth of the federal service levelled off at 8.9 workers for every 1,000 people, virtually unchanged from last year.

That marked the first year the federal work force did not grow faster than Canada's population since the Liberals took office in 2015.

“The Canadian population is rising so fast that perhaps it doesn't look like the federal government is still hiring a lot, but it is,” said Gabriel Giguère, a senior policy analyst with the Montreal Economic Institute.

“We need to look at what departments

are having the biggest increases and those aren't linked to providing services to Canadians.”

To that point, Ottawa's two largest departments, the Canadian Revenue Agency and Employment and Social Development Canada, each expanded by less than 3 per cent after witnessing explosive growth during the pandemic as the federal government ramped up emergency support programs such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

For instance, between 2019 and 2023 the CRA alone added 14,000 new employees, a 34-per-cent increase. In 2024 the CRA grew by just 136 employees.

The gear-down in hiring comes as Ottawa talks up its efforts to rein in spending. In the 2023 federal budget, the govern-

ment laid out a plan to refocus \$15.8-billion in spending over five years, with the first phase of that coming mostly through cuts to travel and the use of consultants. The 2024 federal budget document said the second phase will involve cutting 5,000 full-time equivalent federal public-service jobs over the next four years through attrition.

A full-time equivalent position is a different metric from that used by the Treasury Board which is based on headcount from the federal pay system.

The day after the budget was released in April, Treasury Board President Anita Anand said there had been “significant growth in the public service” to administer pandemic programs but now it was “looking at ways in which we can save money,

cut red tape and ensure that our taxpayer dollars are allocated towards our government priorities.”

However, Mr. Giguère questioned whether the government will achieve its reduction target when the federal work force was still growing so fast.

“It's hard to believe it until we see it,” he said.

Economists have expressed concern that Canada's job market has been driven by public-sector hiring at all levels of government, while private-sector job growth has been weak. That trend has continued, with the latest employment report from Statscan for June showing the public sector added 182,700 employees since the same month last year, compared with just 106,100 private-sector employees.



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X-ray: Machines can detect non-metal contaminants such as stones, bones or plastic

■ FROM B1

But a report by food rescue charity Second Harvest says that 43 per cent, or 4.82 million tonnes, of food loss and waste during processing and manufacturing in Canada is avoidable. That's nearly \$21-billion worth of food.

"So much of this waste occurring at that processing and manufacturing level is something that the vast majority of people don't see, and it's kind of out of sight, out of mind," said Winston Rosser, vice-president of food rescue operations at Second Harvest.

Increasingly, X-ray technology is being used to ensure food is safe to eat. Often replacing or used in addition to metal detectors, X-rays can detect non-metal contaminants such as stones, bones or plastic.

Some large grocery chains such as Costco have even made the introduction of X-ray technology mandatory. In food safety audit expectations released by Costco in 2022, the company said almost all its manufacturer suppliers had to have an X-ray detection device installed by April, 2023. Mr. Bédard said that deadline was later revised to 2028, owing to industry feedback.

Ms. Green said the push to make X-rays more commonplace comes largely from manufacturers themselves, who could face thousands of dollars in lawsuit costs if a customer were to bite into a contaminated product. "It's just at the beginning stages, I would say, because it is expensive technology. But it is well worth it," she said.

On a Thursday morning at X-Ray Reclaim's facility, about an hour northwest of Toronto, workers are running huge blocks of cheese and canned pet food through the company's third-generation X-ray machines. While most X-ray machines in use today are the less expensive and less precise first-generation models, X-Ray Reclaim's are based on the same technology in medical CT scans and can detect



Mat Bédard, X-Ray Reclaim's vice-president, says the machines his company uses are safe for daily use and do not irradiate the food that passes through them. PHOTOS BY YADER GUZMAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



A block of cheese that was rejected after setting off the sensors on the X-rays will either be destroyed or sent back to the manufacturer.

contaminants as small as a fifth of a millimetre in size.

On the hunt for pieces of ceramic, employees unload the seven pallets of cheese blocks they received early that morning

onto a conveyor belt to be scanned. With 4,000 pounds of cheese per pallet, Mr. Bédard said, the load will take about four hours to complete before being hurriedly shipped back to

its producer well ahead of its best-before date.

Nearby, about six workers run 144 pet-food cans per minute through another X-ray machine, searching for a clip the manufacturer found had gone missing.

Once the cheese and pet food orders are complete, the company will turn its attention back to the shipment of 1.1 million chocolate bars it received a few days earlier, some of which have been contaminated with pieces of metal. At 50 chocolate bars per machine per minute, Mr. Bédard said, it will take more than a week of non-stop work to scan them all, even after increasing the number of shifts.

Plan Automation owns about \$3-million worth of inspection systems, including 10 third-generation X-ray machines, five first-generation machines and 11 metal detectors. Companies can choose to send their contaminated loads to the Bolton facility or

can request that the company come to them; in that case, Mr. Bédard said, a technician will run the manufacturer's product through one of X-Ray Reclaim's machines on site.

Similar to the X-ray machines used at an airport security checkpoint, Mr. Bédard said the machines his company uses are a cabinet type that's safe for daily use and do not irradiate the food that passes through them. The machines don't generate enough power to pose a safety risk and, as added protection, feature stainless steel shielding to ensure radiation emissions remain minimal, he added.

Mr. Bédard said reclamation is important because it keeps more than food out of landfills: It also prevents the packaging from being thrown out — packaging that would all have to be defaced, costing time and money.

"You can't just get a container and, say, dump all these chocolate bars in the container and then throw those on the dump, because people will scale the fence and go to the dump to try to pick food. You've got to destroy it, you've got to make it unusable and you have to make it so it cannot be recognized," he said.

Ms. Green said services such as X-Ray Reclaim's are likely to expand in the future, as more companies realize the cost-saving benefits of opting for reclamation instead of a recall or rubbish bin.

"It's not just the product that you're losing. You're losing all the man-hours of production as well," she said.

Of the thousands of food producers in Canada, Mr. Bédard said, his company has worked with less than 10 per cent of them so far. He's eager to see more companies expand into reclamation, because the environmental cost of maintaining the status quo is simply too high.

"I'm not saying that we're the solution to what's going on there, but we're definitely part of the solution," he said.

Climate: Companies struggle to meet targets owing to funding challenges, changing regulations

■ FROM B1

Fewer than a third report setting specific targets for emissions reduction.

This is largely owing to the competition for capital as companies deal with other problems to be solved, such as inflation and other business risks, Ms. Davé said.

"It's not to say that this diminishes it. It is just a challenging business environment," she said.

"Getting the business case is sort of the main focus for a lot of us who work in this space and it can be a challenge."

KPMG surveyed top executives and owners of companies with annual revenues ranging from above \$10-million to more than \$1-billion in industries such as transport, health, mining, oil and gas, and retail.

Among the top reasons for struggling to meet climate targets, companies cited difficulties adapting to changing regulations, securing funding for large decarbonization projects and balancing short-term financial constraints with meeting long-term net-zero goals.

KPMG's statistics track closely those compiled by Climate Engagement Canada, a coalition of institutional investors seeking to



A paddler kayaks past a submerged truck in Abbotsford, B.C., in November, 2021, days after rainstorms lashed the province, triggering landslides and floods, and closing highways. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/REUTERS

persuade the country's largest industrial emitters to improve their climate-related performance.

Of the more than three dozen companies that generate large volumes of greenhouse gases, nearly all are moving to improve their climate-related disclosure to international standards, but none has committed capital spending to meeting their decarbonization strategies, the investment group has reported.

Investments for getting to net-zero are likely to pick up as com-

panies gain broader perspectives on how return on investment is defined, Ms. Davé said. That will include adopting highly detailed plans to make the transition to low-carbon operations, and understanding the risks of not doing so, she said.

"It's a little naive to say that everything's going to have a positive ROI. That's unrealistic. So a lot of it is also looking at alternative ways of understanding ROI for the business and I think a big piece of that is value protection," she said.

EU COUNTRIES DIVIDED ON CHINESE EV TARIFFS IN VOTE: SOURCES

BRUSSELS European Union governments exposed divided views on the merits of EU tariffs on imports of China-built electric vehicles in a non-binding but still influential vote, sources with knowledge of the vote said on Tuesday.

The European Commission, which oversees the bloc's trade policy, has set provisional duties of up to 37.6 per cent on EVs imported from China to counter what it says are unfair subsidies and has canvassed EU member views in a so-called advisory vote.

A dozen EU members voted in support of the tariffs, four voted against and 11 abstained, the sources said.

The commission is expected to take this into account when deciding whether to follow up with definitive duties in what is the EU's highest profile trade case yet.

If it does advocate duties at

the end of its investigation, they will come up for a binding vote among the EU members and would be imposed unless a qualified majority of 15 member countries representing 65 per cent of the EU population vote against.

If the voting pattern of the advisory vote were repeated, definitive duties, typically applicable for five years, would then enter force.

However, the large number of abstentions reflects wavering among many EU members, aware of the commission's arguments that trade must be on a level playing field, but also mindful of the risk of a trade war with China. Beijing has threatened wide-ranging retaliation.

German carmakers, which made a third of their sales last year in China, have urged the EU to drop tariffs, which would not only apply to Chinese producers such as BYD, Geely and SAIC, but

also to China-built cars of Western automakers such as Tesla and BMW.

In the vote, France, Italy and Spain supported the tariffs, while Germany, Finland and Sweden abstained, government sources said.

A German source said that its abstention was in the spirit of "critical solidarity" with the commission. Finland had doubts whether it was in the EU's interests, given that not all European car manufacturers favoured measures, an embassy official said.

The commission will continue its investigation for another three months.

In one sign of compromise, the European Commission has signalled that it may consider a lower tariff for BMW's China-made electric Mini and Volkswagen's Cupra Tavascan, two sources with knowledge of the matter said. REUTERS

Inflation: Many economists, investors reinforced their calls for a second rate cut

■ FROM B1

Even so, the data point to a sluggish economy that is struggling to cope with higher interest rates. The unemployment rate has risen to 6.4 per cent from a historic low of 4.8 per cent two years ago, and households are pulling back on discretionary purchases.

After Tuesday's report, many economists and investors reinforced their calls for a second consecutive rate cut.

"A return to tepid consumer price growth likely seals the deal," Royce Mendes, head of macro strategy at Desjardins Securities, said in a client note. "Along with significant declines in inflation expectations and a further normalization in corporate pricing behaviour, the latest inflation data build a strong case for continuing the rate cutting cycle without delay."

Interest-rate swaps, which capture market expectations of monetary policy, are pricing in a 90-per-cent chance that the Bank of Canada lowers its policy rate by a quarter-point next week, according to Bloomberg data as of Tuesday morning. A day earlier, those odds were roughly 80 per cent.

The June CPI report showed fading price pressures on several fronts. Gasoline prices fell 3.1 per cent on a month-to-month basis, while those for travel tours dropped 11.1 per cent.

However, grocery price increases have accelerated for two consecutive months, climbing at an annual pace of 2.1 per cent in June after rising 1.5 per cent in May. While those figures are a far cry from the worst increases of the past two years — grocery prices were rising by roughly 11 per cent on an annual basis in late 2022 and early 2023 — it's still a concerning development for inflation-weary consumers.

As consumers spend less on non-essential products, it's having a big impact on durable goods, which have fallen 1.8 per cent in price over the past year. Furniture and household appliance prices have dropped by 3.9 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively, declines that are also tied to a slumping real estate market.

Rents remain a significant financial challenge for many households, with those costs rising 8.8 per cent, year over year. Over all, shelter costs increased by 6.2 per cent in June, easing from 6.4 per cent in May.

Various core measures of inflation — which strip out volatile movements in the CPI — slowed last month. The Bank of Canada's preferred core measures rose at an average annual rate of 2.75 per cent in June, easing from 2.8 per cent in May.

The CPI report is the last set of major economic numbers before the Bank of Canada decision. At the June announcement, BoC Governor Tiff Macklem said that "if inflation continues to ease, and our confidence that inflation is headed sustainably to the 2-per-cent target continues to increase, it is reasonable to expect further cuts to our policy interest rate."

Rate cuts would bring relief to some consumers and companies, who expressed a dour outlook for the economy in a pair of surveys that the central bank published on Monday.

"Recent data have supported a cut, with the job market loosening and wage gains decelerating from elevated levels," Toronto-Dominion Bank senior economist James Orlando said in a client note.

"From our view, the story hasn't changed," he continued. "The BoC is in a cutting cycle. Whether or not it follows through with a slightly quicker pace of cuts next week, Canadians should expect rates to be steadily reduced over the rest of this year and next."

Rate cuts would bring relief to some consumers and companies, who expressed a dour outlook for the economy in a pair of surveys that the central bank published on Monday.

China growth figures signal slow recovery to investors

LAURA MATTHEWS
CAROLINA MANDL
RAE WEE

For global investors with money in China's stock markets, the latest economic numbers are not of any comfort and just a reminder that the recovery they are betting on will take a while to happen.

Monday's second-quarter growth figures in China pointed not only to an economy growing below target, but also showed there is no sign of improvement in its anemic property sector and the domestic consumer is more pessimistic and unwilling to spend.

That backdrop is a signal to investors it will be a long wait before the world's second-largest economy is able to have any meaningful recovery that lifts its stock market, which is up just over 1 per cent this year.

"Being a China investor right now is frustrating," said Phillip Wool, U.S.-based senior managing director at asset manager Rayliant Global Advisors.

Rayliant has been selective but buying some Chinese stocks, which Mr. Wool likens to value investing, or a strategy of picking cheap stocks with high earnings potential. Mr. Wool says prices should eventually correct higher, but he has no idea when.

After surging some 19 per cent from a multiyear low in February to its highs in May, China's benchmark CSI300 Index has been middling around the 3,400-3,500 range for the past month.

The Shanghai Composite Index has also fallen more than 6 per cent from its eight-month high hit in May.

A slew of support measures from Beijing earlier this year to prop up its ailing stock market, which saw a change of leadership at the market regulator, had spurred investor hopes that the tide could be turning and sparked a short-lived rally.

But a few months on, the country's shaky economic recovery and lingering property crisis continue to remain an overhang, with geopolitical challenges spanning rising trade frictions with the European Union and protracted Sino-U.S. tensions adding to headwinds.

"The problem with China is this is a multiyear healing process," said Michael Dyer, investment director of multi-asset at M&G Investments.

While the authorities and central bank seem to be taking steps in the right direction, "they haven't come along with the bazaar that the rest of the world wants. There's still the geopolitical uncertainty," Mr. Dyer said. "So until then, if you're waiting for certainty, you're not going to get it."

To be sure, some investors have piled in, citing attractive valuations and strong fundamentals, especially for companies that fall under the country's new growth sectors such as advanced technology and manufacturing.

Chinese stocks are cheap. The S&P 500 index trades at a price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio of 23, Japan's Nikkei trades at 22, India at 23 and the Shanghai benchmark index is at half that number.

The forward 12-month price-to-book value for Chinese equities also stands at 0.95, compared with a value of 1.26 for the broader Asia-Pacific region.

"As value investors, we cannot ignore the opportunities in Chinese equities but we have to temper our enthusiasm given macro and policy risks that China is facing," said Kamil Dimmich, partner and portfolio manager at North of South Capital EM fund.

He is slightly underweight in the Chinese market overall, but "much less so" than a few years ago when valuations were high.

Foreign flows through the Northbound Connect scheme into Chinese stocks point to 37.6 billion yuan (\$7-billion) worth of inflows to date. Inflows were 43.7 billion yuan in 2023.

Over all, the consensus seems to be that while peak pessimism toward China has passed, most investors are still waiting on the sidelines for a more definite recovery to play out. And the patience of those already committed is being tested.

REUTERS



ID-WORK/GETTY IMAGES

Grandparents giving more to support children, grandchildren

RBC poll found that 54% of respondents were sacrificing their savings to assist with living expenses

SALMAAN FAROOQUI

Grandparents are increasingly paying for their children and grandchildren's everyday expenses, and it's causing them to worry about whether they'll have enough money left over to remain financially comfortable in retirement, according to a new poll by Royal Bank of Canada.

The survey of 1,508 grandparents aged 55 or older found that 21 per cent of respondents are financially supporting a child, and 30 per cent have provided money to a grandchild, sometimes for everyday living costs or for their education costs.

The poll found grandparents are increasingly expected to help with necessities, rather than discretionary spending, with 70 per cent saying their children expected financial help when they can't cover costs.

Of the grandparents that provide money to their children, 54 per cent said they sacrificed their own savings to provide that support. More than half of respondents also said they have made or will make significant lifestyle changes to continue supporting their children and grandchildren, while one-third of respondents were concerned that they would run out of money for their own costs while supporting their offspring.

Financial advisers say Canadians need to start accounting for financial aid to younger generations in their retirement planning, as expectations for help from parents and grandparents become commonplace.

At the same time, they say older Canadians need to have conversations with their kids, grandchildren and financial advisers early so they can outline expectations with their family and prevent themselves from having their own financial well-being at risk when providing support.

"Having an idea of your income sources, your outgoing expenses and cashflow is critical, both for now and in the future," said Craig Bannon, director of RBC's Financial Planning Centre of Expertise, adding that providing support is also likely easier for grandparents who haven't retired yet.

He said that 54 per cent of grandparents who financially support their children do so in monthly payments, meaning that it is not a one-and-done scenario. The average yearly payment to adult children in the survey was just under \$7,000.

Aaron Hector, a certified financial planner based in Calgary with CWB Wealth Management, said the decision to support your children and grandchildren isn't always made with proper consideration of the long-term impact it'll have on one's own finances.

"So many of these decisions are made emotionally and without the proper analysis around whether someone should actually be providing support to begin with or are they going to be putting themselves in an unfortunate circumstance in the future," Mr. Hector said.

"That part of it is really important for financial planners to provide context."

Mr. Hector said he currently has two clients that are giving financial support that they know might be unmanageable, but they're doing it anyways.

He said those couples might end up needing to make difficult decisions in their own life, whether that means downsizing earlier, or downsizing when they hoped to keep their original home in retirement.

In other cases, parents might feel guilty for supporting one child, but then not gifting money to another child who is self-sufficient. When a client asks Mr. Hector if they can afford to give \$100,000 to one child, he always asks if they'd be able to give the same amount to all their children, or emotionally justify only supporting one child.

Mr. Hector said roughly one in five of his clients are currently supporting their children or grandchildren – a number that is similar to the RBC polls findings.

Thirty-four per cent of respondents to the RBC poll also said they didn't know how much money they had gifted to their adult children and grandchildren, underscoring the need for grandparents to make a financial plan to better understand the impact that financial support will have on their retirement, Mr. Bannon said.

He said that earlier discussions about their children's financial situation and one's own capacity to help their offspring can ensure that your retirement is safe.

"If you're covering essentials for younger family members on an 'as needed' basis, it can be challenging to keep on top of these amounts and how they are affecting your cash flow and savings," said Mr. Bannon.

A few caveats to keep in mind with office REITs

PHILIP MacKELLAR

OPINION

CONTRA GUYS

Writer for the Contra the Heard Investment Letter

Where do contrarian and value investors look for investment opportunities with North American benchmarks at or near record highs? Though there are many sectors that are flat or slightly down, few are significantly off their peaks. One exception is office real estate and the REITs that own office space.

Over the past six months or so, a number of subscribers have reached out asking if there are office real estate investment trusts on Contra the Heard's watch list, and what we think of the space. The answer to the watch list question is easy: Yes, there are many U.S. and Canadian office REITs on our watch list. The answer to what we think of the space is much more nuanced.

The office REIT industry is undoubtedly cheap and contrary, which makes it a potentially lucrative place to look for opportunity. No one is talking up the prospects of the sector these days, and office REITs rarely make it into a list of top picks. Here in Canada, Slate Office recently defaulted on its debt, Inovalis is basically a penny stock and large REITs such as Dream Office and Allied Properties have lost more than 75 per cent of their value from their historic highs.

The story is similar in the United States. Columbia REIT defaulted last year, former billion-dollar-plus REITs such as Office Properties Income Trust have fallen below

US\$100-million in market cap, and even heavyweights including BXP (formerly Boston Properties) are badly bruised and battered.

Regardless of the side of the border they are on, these operations are suffering from the same issues, which fall into three categories.

First, the work-from-home trend forced upon society during the pandemic has stuck around for a large portion of the work force. This means many office REITs have endured years of high vacancy rates and low rents. These issues have driven down the top line and, in some cases, resulted in massive net losses.

Second, REITs tend to carry a lot of debt, and the office-space sector is no exception. This debt has become more expensive since 2022 when interest rates started rising in earnest to tackle inflation. The combination of lower rents and higher vacancies on the one hand, and high debts with rising interest rates on the other hand, is a terrible combination for any business.

Finally, to cover interest payments and make mortgage payments, many organizations have had to issue equity, sell assets or do both. Issuing equity when a name is beaten down can be nearly as devastating for owners as default. Alternatively, selling assets into a distressed market can result in vending properties for less than you paid for them or selling them for less than the book value or mortgage on the property, which results in little more than kicking the default day down the road. The industry is in a tough spot.

Some office providers have tried to avoid selling assets at depressed valuations and instead have converted their buildings into residential, retail or mixed-use sites. While this is happening to some locations, and conversions in Calgary were

recently featured in the *The Globe*, the process has been slow, and uptake has been low. This is because conversion is expensive, takes a long time and can easily get swept up in regulatory and land use uncertainty at the municipal level.

Despite the warts, the industry is interesting, and here at Contra the Heard we are investigating, researching and watching. Those interested in the space may want to consider either buying a best-in-class operator such as Allied Properties or BXP with a strong-enough balance sheet to weather continued pain, or wait to see organizations lower their vacancy rates, increase rental rates per square foot and stabilize their income statements.

Additionally, REITs in this space need to strengthen their balance sheets by improving liquidity, cutting debt and extending maturities. Though there are some in the industry that have taken significant steps in the right direction, a lot of balance sheets remain in rough shape. Falling interest rates will help in this regard.

Other signs we are looking out for include insider buying and positive revisions among the analyst community. This is because insiders (that is, executives and board members) are knowledgeable investors in their own business. The terms smart and dumb money get thrown around a lot, but in my estimation, there is a good argument that insiders are some of the smartest money out there. Meanwhile, analysts tend to judge the direction of sales and earnings accurately even if they fail to pinpoint the exact sales and net income figures on a quarterly basis.

These are not foolproof signals the worst is behind the industry, but investors interested in office REITs may want to keep these features in mind if they dive into the world of office real estate.

These two Canadian tech stocks are standing out in the sector

They've posted good gains thus far in 2024 and may be set for a further increase

GORDON PAPE

OPINION



Editor and publisher of the Internet Wealth Builder and Income Investor newsletters

You can't always believe everything you see. For example, subindexes usually offer an accurate assessment of what's happening in a specific sector of the economy. But not always. Look at the S&P/TSX Information Technology subindex. Based on the year-to-date gain of only 4.1 per cent, you'd think there was nothing happening there that is worth your attention.

You'd be wrong. The index is being dragged down by its largest single component, Shopify Inc. (SHOP-T), which is off 14.2 per cent so far this year. Many of the other companies in the index are doing very well, thank you.

The leader in terms of price gain continues to be Celestica Inc. (CLS-T). We recommended it in my Internet Wealth Builder newsletter in November, 2023, at \$38.46 and advised taking half profits in June at \$76.19 for a gain of 98 per cent in seven months. The shares closed July 12 at \$81.01, up 109 per cent year-to-date.

Here are two other Canadian tech stocks we have recommended that are also posting good gains this year.

THE DESCARTES SYSTEMS GROUP INC.

Originally recommended on Oct. 30/17 at \$37.83. Closed July 12 at \$137.76.

Ticker: DSG-T

Background: Descartes provides on-demand, software-as-a-service products focused on improving the productivity, performance and security of logistics-intensive businesses. Customers use its services to route, schedule, track and measure delivery resources; plan, allocate and execute shipments; rate, audit and pay transportation invoices; access global trade data; file customs and security documents for imports and exports; and complete numerous other logistics processes. The company's headquarters are in Waterloo, Ont., and Descartes has offices and partners around the world.

Performance: We recommended taking half profits in March, 2023, when the shares were trading at \$103.27, giving us a gain of 173 per cent to that point. This means we have a guaranteed profit no matter what

the stock does from here. Fortunately, it's still rising, with a year-to-date gain of 24 per cent. The shares are currently trading at \$137.76, near the all-time high of \$138.57. The stock is up 26.4 per cent since the original recommendation.

Recent developments: The company recently released first-quarter results for fiscal 2025, for the three months to April 30.

Revenues were US\$151.3-million, up 11 per cent from US\$136.6-million in the first quarter last year and up 2 per cent from US\$148.2-million in the previous quarter.

Net income was US\$34.7-million (40 US cents per diluted share), up 18 per cent from US\$29.4-million (34 US cents per share) last year. Net income as a percentage of revenues was 23 per cent, compared with 22 per cent a year ago.

Adjusted EBITDA was US\$67-million, up 16 per cent from US\$57.7-million in last year's first quarter. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of revenues was 44 per cent, compared with 42 per cent a year ago.

"Global trade is complex and constantly evolving. Supply chains and logistics operations continue to be impacted by a myriad of factors, including military conflicts, disruptions to trade routes, government sanctions and material changes to taxes and tariffs," chief executive officer Edward J. Ryan said. "Our technology solutions are designed to help shippers, carriers and logistics services providers manage this dynamic complexity."

Acquisitions: Descartes grows its business both organically and through acquisitions. It added two new companies in the quarter.

On March 28, Descartes acquired U.S.-based OCR Services Inc., a leading provider of global trade compliance solutions and content. The purchase price was approximately \$82.8-million, which was funded from cash on hand.

On April 22, Descartes acquired U.K.-based Aerospace Software Developments Ltd., a leading provider of customs and regulatory compliance solutions. The price was approximately \$62.5-million, net of cash acquired, which was substantially paid at closing from cash on hand with the remaining \$5.1-million expected to be paid by the end of Descartes's fiscal 2025 fourth quarter.

In June, Descartes bought BoxTop Technologies Ltd., a leading provider of shipment management solutions for small- to mid-sized logistics services providers (LSPs).

Based in Windsor, England, BoxTop helps LSPs digitize their operations and connect to the wider logistics community to manage the lifecycle of shipments. LSPs use the BoxTop platform to manage the secure and efficient movement of goods from quoting through to routing, booking and final delivery.

Descartes acquired BoxTop for approxi-

mately £10.25-million (\$18.2-million), using cash on hand.

Dividend: Descartes does not pay a dividend.

Outlook: Good. The company continues to increase revenue and profits at a double-digit rate.

Action now: Buy.

CONSTELLATION SOFTWARE INC.

Recommended on Feb. 12, 2024 at \$3,732.08. Closed July 12 at \$4,147.15.

Ticker: CSU-T

Background: Constellation is a large tech company by Canadian standards with a market cap of about \$88-billion. It was founded in 1995 to assemble a portfolio of vertical market software companies that had the potential to be leaders in their particular area of expertise. The company has grown rapidly through a combination of acquisitions and organic growth and continues to apply the same formula.

Performance: The shares continue to hit new all-time highs. The stock is up about 25 per cent year-to-date and shows a gain of 11 per cent since it was reinstated as a "buy" in February in the Internet Wealth Builder.

Recent developments: The company's first-quarter results showed continued strong growth. Revenue increased 23 per cent to \$2.35-billion compared with \$1.92-billion in the first quarter of 2023. The increase is primarily attributable to growth from acquisitions as the company experienced organic growth of 4 per cent in the quarter.

Net income attributable to common shareholders was \$105-million (\$4.95 per diluted share), compared with \$94-million (\$4.44) in the prior year.

Free cash flow available to shareholders decreased \$7-million to \$446-million compared with \$453-million for the same period in 2023.

Constellation continued its acquisition policy, spending \$223-million on new purchases during the quarter. Deferred payments associated with these acquisitions have an estimated value of \$65-million, resulting in total consideration of \$288-million.

Dividend: The stock pays a quarterly dividend of \$1 per share (\$4 annually) to yield 0.14 per cent.

Outlook: The formula continues to work. There is no reason to believe it won't continue to do so. But the shares are expensive at this level with a P/E ratio of 111.3.

Action now: Hold.

EUROPEAN AUTOMAKERS, CLEAN ENERGY SHARES SEE SELL-OFF ON FEARS OF TRUMP PRESIDENCY

A sell-off in the shares of some European carmakers and renewable energy firms entered a second day on Tuesday on growing concerns over potential U.S. policy risks after an assassination attempt boosted Donald Trump's chances in the presidential race.

Mr. Trump's choice of J.D. Vance as his running mate for the top job in Washington added to the worries, driving traders to sell shares perceived to be at risk.

European carmakers and luxury stocks were already looking fragile, given the recent escalation in trade tensions between the European Union and Beijing.

Mr. Vance said in a televised interview on Monday that China was "the biggest threat" to the United States right now, and not Russia's war in Ukraine.

Mr. Vance's tough talk on China and

opposition to more aid for Ukraine have reinforced the view that trade barriers would rise, should he and Mr. Trump win, and Europe's export-oriented economy looks vulnerable.

"It is a further step away from the 'business-friendly' Republican party image of old, and a step closer to the possibility that the MAGA movement will continue after Trump," Lindsay James, investment strategist at Quilter Investors, said. "Commitment to NATO will be on even more shaky ground as will support for Ukraine, a risk that goes beyond financial markets but is captured by the notion of 'risk premium' that will surely increase in European equities as a result," Ms. James said. Among European automakers, which are heavily reliant on exports for growth, Porsche AG was the

biggest loser on Tuesday, down as much as 5.7 per cent in Frankfurt.

Traders linked the drop to the view that a tougher U.S. stance over China could create another headwind for its economy, hurting companies that do business there. Investors are also concerned about possible tariffs from Mr. Trump on European vehicles, which are already at risk of retaliation from Beijing over EU duties on Chinese electric imports.

Some European clean energy stocks were also under pressure, adding to Monday's declines on concerns Mr. Trump would reduce support for renewables in favour of fossil fuels. Wind energy firms Orsted and Vestas Wind were down 3.2 per cent and 2.3 per cent, respectively. The two fell by 5.5 to 6 per cent the day before.

REUTERS

Dow jumps to record close

The Dow Jones Industrial Average reached an all-time closing high on Tuesday after U.S. retail sales data supported the narrative that the Federal Reserve is approaching its easing cycle, reining in inflation while avoiding a recession.

The S&P 500 also rose, but weaker megacap growth stocks, led by Nvidia Corp. and Microsoft Corp., capped the tech-heavy Nasdaq's gains.

Economically sensitive small caps extended their rally. The Russell 2000 scored a fifth straight day of gains greater than 1 per cent, its longest winning streak since April, 2000. The index gained 3.5 per cent, touching its highest level since January, 2022.

Dow transportation stocks also outperformed the broader indexes, logging its biggest one-day percentage gain since November and reaching its highest closing level since August, 2023, as investors increasingly focused on undervalued areas of the market.

The rotation into less expensive areas of the market also benefited the S&P/TSX Composite Index, which closed at a new record high of just below 23,000. A modestly tamer-than-expected Canadian inflation reading for June also had markets betting on monetary policy easing ahead in this country, with swaps markets now pricing in about 90-per-cent odds of another Bank of Canada rate cut next week.

The Canadian benchmark, which lacks high-flying megacap tech companies, trades at a considerably cheaper level than the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq on a price to earnings basis. Value stocks, which have underperformed their growth peers and the broader S&P 500 so far this year, jumped 1.5 per cent on Wall Street. "This rotation underscores the likelihood of [U.S.] interest rate cuts as early as September," said Greg Bassuk, chief executive officer at AXS Investments in New York. "Small-cap companies are among the best-positioned to benefit from rate cuts, and today we're seeing this trifecta of strong earnings, a resilient economy and high confidence of a rate cut in September."

U.S. economic data on Tuesday included stronger-than-expected retail sales reported by the Commerce Department. This provided reassurance that consumer spending has stayed resilient despite restrictive monetary policy. Second-quarter earnings season is ramping up.

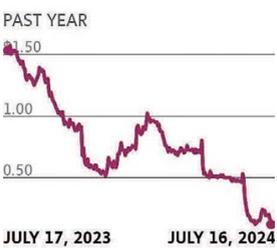
UnitedHealth Group Inc. jumped 6.5 per cent after reporting consensus-topping profit. Bank of America's second-quarter profit beat expectations. The second-largest U.S. bank also provided upbeat net interest income guidance, sending its shares up 5.3 per cent.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 742.76 points, or 1.85 per cent, to 40,954.48, the S&P 500 gained 35.98 points, or 0.64 per cent, at 5,667.2 and the Nasdaq Composite added 36.77 points, or 0.2 per cent, at 18,509.34.

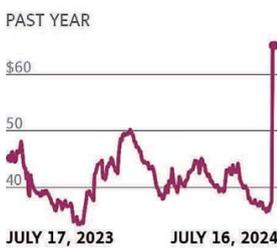
The S&P/TSX Composite Index ended up 243.71 points, or 1.1 per cent, at 22,995.39, its fifth straight day of gains and its fourth consecutive record closing high. Technology was up 3.1 per cent, helped by a gain of 8.5 per cent for the shares of e-commerce company Shopify Inc. after BofA Global Research upgraded the stock to "buy" from "neutral."

REUTERS, GLOBE STAFF

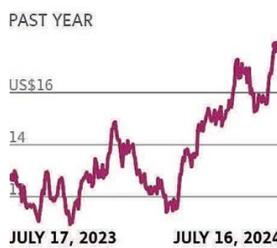
EYE ON EQUITIES DAVID LEEDER



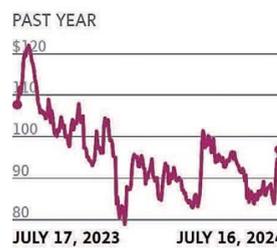
SOURCE: BARCHART
CORUS ENTERTAINMENT (CJR.B-TSX)
CLOSE 12¢, DOWN 3¢



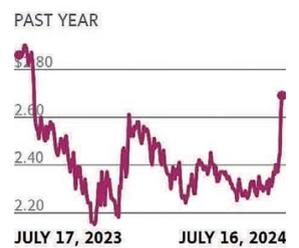
SOURCE: BARCHART
STELCO HOLDINGS (STLC-TSX)
CLOSE \$65.16, UP 16¢



SOURCE: BARCHART
ALAMOS GOLD (AGI-NYSE)
CLOSE US\$17.79, UP 24¢



SOURCE: BARCHART
BRP (DOO-TSX)
CLOSE \$96.84, UP \$2.91



SOURCE: BARCHART
EUROPEAN (ERE.UN-TSX)
CLOSE \$2.69, UP 6¢

National Bank Financial analyst Adam Shine dropped his target price for shares of **Corus Entertainment Inc.** to a penny after lower-than-anticipated third-quarter results and "weak" outlook for the current period. "Based on our revised estimates, projected values in our NAV [net asset value] have turned negative, and it's hard for us to ascribe any remaining value for equity holders," he said.

Target: With an "underperform" rating, his target slid from 25 cents. Consensus is 14 cents.

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.'s \$3.85-billion deal to acquire Canadian steelmaker **Stelco Holdings Inc.** is a "logical industry development," according to National Bank Financial analyst Maxim Sytchev, who calls the price tag "more than fair."

Target: Citing the "significant premium" being offered for Stelco shares and the support from major shareholders, Mr. Sytchev moved his recommendation to "tender" from "outperform" with a \$70 target, up from \$52. Consensus is \$67.70

Scotia Capital analyst Ovais Habib thinks **Alamos Gold Inc.'s** acquisition of Argonaut Gold is "logical given the proximity of both assets and the opportunity to unlock significant value for shareholders through the optimization of the combined operations, realization of synergies through shared infrastructure and long-term exploration potential."

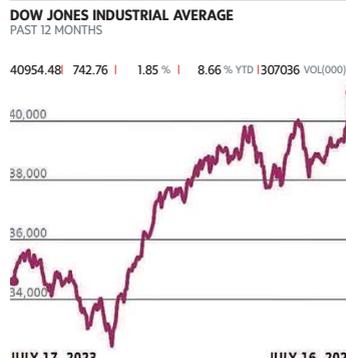
Target: He resumed coverage with "sector outperform" rating and US\$20 target, up from US\$16 and above the US\$19.77 consensus.

While **BRP Inc.** is striking a "cautious near-term tone," Citi analyst James Hardiman raised his target for its shares on "the increased likelihood of a September rate cut and the tailwind it should provide" after meetings with its executives. "The general sentiment was one of near-term caution amidst macro pressures, balanced with long-term confidence in the company's products and business," he said.

Target: His target rose to \$110 from \$100 with a "buy" rating. Consensus is \$101.11.

In response to the completion of various strategic asset sales, including rental suite privatizations, for €129-million in total gross proceeds, Raymond James analyst Brad Sturges raised his rating for European Residential REIT to "outperform" from "market perform" previously, emphasizing its strategic Dutch multifamily residential building divestiture activity is beginning to accelerate.

Target: His target increased to \$3.25 per unit from \$2.75. Consensus is \$3.06.



TSX INDEXES AND SUB INDEXES

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TSX COMPOSITE IND	22995.39	243.71	1.07	190782	9.72
TSX 60 INDEX	1370.60	14.82	1.09	104259	8.36
TSX COMPLETION I	1417.49	13.77	0.98	86522	15.61
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	802.35	9.83	1.24	75180	14.29
TSX VENTURE COMPO	599.14	4.59	0.77	24543	8.36
TSX CONSUMER DISC	294.36	5.67	1.96	4006	7.72
TSX CONSUMER STAP	1003.39	2.06	0.21	2061	15.92
TSX ENERGY CAPPED	287.10	-3.69	-1.27	41668	18.61
TSX FINANCIALS CA	411.87	3.00	0.73	38821	7.31
TSX HEALTH CARE C	25.48	0.25	0.99	2062	7.42
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	470.36	6.78	1.46	10254	11.33
TSX INFORMATION T	229.43	6.95	3.12	15683	7.84
TSX MATERIALS CAP	395.35	7.92	2.04	43720	24.73
TSX REAL ESTATE C	314.78	3.57	1.15	5889	1.72
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	364.67	11.80	3.34	62320	28.29
TSX GLOBAL MINING	126.77	0.99	0.79	150297	11.97
TSX INCOME TRUST	206.86	2.67	1.31	5988	-0.34
TSX PREFERRD SHA	604.87	0.56	0.09	2040	11.93
TSX COMMUNICATION	152.08	1.16	0.77	5651	-11.87
TSX UTILITIES CAP	284.61	2.01	0.71	11002	0.76

TSX VOLUME

TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	79.82	1.54	1.97	10833	-6.77
BITF BITFARMS LTD	4.06	0.28	7.41	6910	5.45
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	52.50	-0.63	-1.19	6155	23.67
CVE CENTURY ENER	27.90	-0.34	-1.20	5928	26.36
CNO CANADIAN NATU	49.15	-1.01	-2.01	5575	13.24
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	5.15	-0.05	-0.96	4891	17.58
TRP TC ENERGY COR	54.60	1.06	1.98	4842	5.49
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	49.22	0.27	0.55	4750	3.19
MFC MANULIFE FIN	36.56	-0.48	-1.30	4515	24.86
CS CAPSTONE MININ	9.86	-0.51	-4.92	3891	52.87
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	2.96	0.04	1.37	3843	-55.29
POW POWER CORP OF	39.06	-0.73	-1.83	3600	3.09
CM CANADIAN IMPER	68.68	0.49	0.72	3325	7.65
SHOP SHOPIFY INC	95.32	7.50	8.54	3247	-7.60
BTO B2GOLD CORP	4.28	0.15	3.63	3207	2.15
BMS BANK OF NOVA	65.58	1.11	1.72	2953	1.67
BMO BANK OF MONTR	19.96	1.36	1.15	2949	-8.50
K KINROSS GOLD CO	12.75	0.26	2.08	2811	58.98
PPL PEMBINA PIPEL	51.36	0.04	0.08	2603	12.58

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS

STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AEM AGNICO EAGLE	104.54	2.31	2.26	1036	43.90
AIF ALTUS GROUP L	55.96	0.63	1.14	62	32.80
ABX BARRICK GOLD	26.32	1.20	4.78	3740	9.94
BIK-PR-A BIP INVE	25.69	0.19	0.75	17.74	
BBD-A BOMBARDIER	97.62	2.32	2.43	7	82.71
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	97.71	2.43	2.55	307	83.63
BN BROOKFIELD COR	64.79	1.77	2.81	1435	21.90
BNRE-A BROOKFIELD	64.85	1.78	2.82	12	22.36
CWB CDN WESTERN B	45.64	0.25	0.55	262	47.85
CLS CELESTICA INC	86.50	2.77	3.31	601	122.88
CIGI COLLIERS INT	176.80	5.97	3.49	63	5.49
CYB CYMBRIA CORP	73.02	0.02	0.03	1	20.48
DSG DESCARTES SYS	141.92	1.10	0.78	89	27.48
ELF E-L FINANCIAL	1170.86	60.86	5.48	11.70	
EQB EQB INC	97.63	1.38	1.43	48	11.92
EFN ELEMENT FLEET	26.49	0.59	2.28	458	22.87
FFH FAIRFAX FINAN	1584.15	1.48	0.09	31	29.58
GIL GILDAN ACTIVE	54.19	0.51	0.95	184	23.66
HRX HEROUX-DEVTEK	30.96	-0.13	-0.42	415	103.68

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS

STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
HUT HUT 8 CORP	28.60	1.35	4.95	2263	61.76
IFC INTACT FINANC	239.80	0.55	0.23	242	17.63
XUSC ISHARES S&P	40.92	0.30	0.74	5	1.72
XSPC ISHARES S&P	40.84	0.24	0.59	5	0.59
XUSCU ISHARES SP	29.91	0.23	0.77	2	
LAS-A LASSONDE IN	161.45	11.06	7.35	5	15.12
MRU METRO INC	79.36	-0.14	-0.18	198	15.70
NGT NEWMONT CORP	66.10	1.40	2.16	238	20.51
OR OSISKO GOLD RO	24.43	0.52	2.17	420	29.19
PAAS PAN AMERICAN	33.07	1.34	4.22	837	52.89
PVS-PR-H PARTNERS	24.59	0.24	0.99	4.59	
PD PRECISION DRIL	104.91	1.57	1.52	107	45.79
MNT ROYAL CANADIA	34.31	0.69	2.05	5	27.07
CEF SPROTT PHYSIC	32.23	0.55	1.74	16	27.04
PHYS SPROTT PHYSI	26.10	0.43	1.68	92	23.76
STN STANTEC INC	119.44	3.20	2.75	207	12.28
STLC STELCO HOLDI	65.16	0.16	0.25	1655	29.83
X TMX GROUP LTD	41.26	0.48	1.18	213	28.74
WCN WASTE CONNECT	249.27	3.08	1.25	117	25.98
WPM WHEATON PRECI	84.96	3.61	4.44	588	29.97

TSX GAINERS

TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AKT-B AKITA CL B	3.69	1.97	114.53	97.33	
QIPT QUIPT HOME M	4.71	0.49	11.61	44	-30.22
LAC LITHIUM AMERI	4.37	0.43	10.91	1125	-48.59
DXAU DYNAMIC ACTI	22.55	2.07	10.11		
ADW-B ANDREW PELL	5.30	0.48	9.96		-8.62
TKNU NINEPOINT W	15.08	1.31	9.51	29.55	
TA-PRG TRANSACT	19.68	1.68	9.33	8.12	
LAAC LITHIUM AMER	4.68	0.39	9.09	203	-43.95
LOGO LARGO RESOURC	2.75	0.22	8.70	297	-9.84
XTG XTRA GOLD RES	1.27	0.10	8.55	13	20.95
SHOP SHOPIFY INC	95.32	7.50	8.54	3247	-7.60
HPS-A HAMMOND POW	108.16	8.41	8.43	76	32.39
HUBL-U HARVEST US	14.32	1.03	7.75	15.21	
BITF BITFARMS LTD	4.06	0.28	7.41	6910	5.45
LAS-A LASSONDE IN	161.45	11.06	7.35	5	15.12
ADEN ADENTRA INC	40.03	2.73	7.32	202	25.21
ASCU ARIZONA SONO	1.47	0.10	7.30	98	-16.00
NG NOVAGOLD RES I	6.20	0.42	7.27	252	25.25
LEV LION ELECTRIC	1.34	0.09	7.20	338	-43.22
CRX CARERX CORP	2.41	0.16	7.11	14	49.69

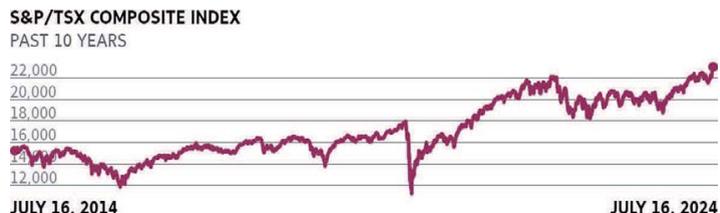
TSX LOSERS

TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AIDX HEALWELL AI	2.20	-0.15	-6.38	632	193.33
HGD BETAPRO CDN G	2.71	-0.17	-5.90	426	-47.78
MDS-UN HEALTHCARE	13.65	-0.74	-5.14	1	15.19
DLGG DOMINION LEN	3.70	-0.20	-5.13	3	32.14
CS CAPSTONE MININ	9.86	-0.51	-4.92	3891	52.87
BPO-PRY BROOKFIE	9.45	-0.45	-4.35	1	21.94
ISO ISOENERGY LTD	3.90	-0.17	-4.18	215	5.69
HZD BETAPRO SILVE	7.58	-0.33	-4.17	219	-46.39
MND MANDALAY RESO	2.53	-0.11	-4.17	29	38.25
COPP G COPPER PR	36.77	-1.51	-3.94	34.79	
PRYM PRIME MINING	1.98	-0.08	-3.88	80	32.00
FM FIRST QUANTUM	17.73	-0.64	-3.48	2348	63.41
SWP SWISS WATER D	3.63	-0.12	-3.20	30.58	
RUP RUPERT RESOUR	3.70	-0.12	-3.14	275	-4.64
HBD BETAPRO GOLD	7.42	-0.24	-3.13		-26.53
GMIN G MINING VEN	2.51	-0.08	-3.09	1210	78.01
RAY-B STINGRAY DI	7.31	-0.23	-3.05	1	21.83
BPO-PR-W BROOKFIE	9.30	-0.28	-2.92	1	19.85
BITU-U BETAPRO IN	3.50	-0.10	-2.78	1	-42.05
TPZ TOPAZ ENERGY	24.79	-0.69	-2.71	257	27.92

SPB SUPERIOR PLUS

8.31 -0.20 -2.35 2109 -13.71



S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX STOCKS

LARGEST STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AAV ADVANTAGE IO	10.00	-0.03	-0.30	302	17.23
AOI AFRICA OIL CO	2.43	-0.01	-0.41	448	-2.41
AEM AGNICO EAGLE	104.54	2.31	2.26	1036	43.90
AC AIR CANADA	17.70	0.43	2.49	1832	-3.80
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	24.31	0.29	1.21	589	36.42
ASTL ALGOMA STEEL	11.58	0.18	1.58	76	-12.93
AQON ALQUON POW	8.55	0.05	0.59	2095	2.27
ATD ALIMENTATION	82.24	0.68	0.83	645	4.50
AP-UN ALLIED PROP	17.65	0.57	3.34	568	-12.54
ALA ALTAGAS LTD	30.84	-0.14	-0.45	300	10.86
AIF ALTUS GROUP L	55.96	0.63	1.14	63	32.80
ARX ARC RESOURCES	23.75	-0.20	-0.84	1416	20.74
ATZ ARIZONA SONO	47.65	0.94	2.01	730	73.27
ACO-A ATCO LTD CL	39.44	0.06	0.15	84	1.99
ATH ATHABASCA OIL	5.34	-0.07	-1.29	1947	28.06
ATS ATS CORP	46.49	0.92	2.02	212	-18.60
AYA AYA GOLD AND	15.96	-0.07	-0.44	368	64.37
BTO B2GOLD CORP	4.28	0.15	3.63	3207	2.15
BCE BCE INC	45.03	0.32	0.72	2010	-13.69
BDGI BADGER INFRA	37.96	0.87	2.35	56	-6.76
BLDP BALLARD POWER	3.50	0.04	1.16	1180	-28.72
BMO BANK OF MONTR	119.96	1.36	1.15	2949	-8.50
BNS BANK OF NOVA	65.58	1.11	1.72	2953	1.67
ABX BARRICK GOLD	26.32	1.20	4.78	3740	9.94
BHC BAYSCH HEALTH	10.32	0.29	2.89	438	-2.92
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	5.15	-0.05	-0.96	4891	17.58
BB BIRCHCLIFF EN	6.33	-0.02	-0.31	798	9.52
BR BLACKBERRY LTD	3.49	0.07	2.05	2044	-25.74
BEI-UN BOARDWALK	74.75	0.21	0.28	45	4.78
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	97.71	2.43	2.55	307	83.63
BLX BOREALX INC	34.17	-0.29	-0.84	184	1.45
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	263.41	7.40	2.89	80	-5.41
BAM BROOKFIELD AS	57.63	1.14	2.02	676	8.29
BBU-UN BROOKFIELD	28.41	1.16	4.26	42	3.88
BN BROOKFIELD COR	64.79	1.77	2.81	1435	21.90
BIP-UN BROOKFIELD	43.08	1.26	3.01	445	3.16
DEP-UN BROOKFIELD	35.41	0.34	0.97	238	1.72
BDO BRP INC	96.84	2.91	3.10	190	1.73
CAR-UN CDN APARTM	47.52	0.00	0.00	281	-2.62
CWB CDN WESTERN B	45.64	0.25	0.55	262	47.85
GIB-A CGI GROUP I	146.76	3.18	2.21	332	3.39
CIX CI FINANCIAL	16.20	0.20	1.25	620	9.02
CRX-UN CT REAL ES	14.22	0.08	0.57	120	-2.94
CAE CAE INC	26.36	0.67	2.61	578	-7.83
CXB CALIBRE MININ	2.20	0.05	2.33	1507	61.76
CCO CAMECO CORP	70.22	-1.18	-1.65	842	22.91
GOOS CANADA GOOSE	16.48	0			



SPORTS

Jones's reputation as a defensive guru didn't translate into success with the Elks ■ B12

WNBA heads into month-long Olympic break with anticipated all-star weekend ■ B14

[MLB ALL-STAR GAME]



All-star smiles

American League starting pitcher Corbin Burnes, of the Baltimore Orioles, right, jokes with the National League's William Contreras, of the Milwaukee Brewers, after an out on a ground ball by Contreras in the first inning of the MLB All-Star Game on Tuesday in Arlington, Tex.

For coverage, visit ■ GLOBESPORTS.COM

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's roster for Paris to include 38 past Olympic medalists

Oleksiak, De Grasse among 142 athletes with Games experience in delegation of 338

RACHEL BRADY

The Canadian Olympic Committee named its team for the coming Paris Summer Games on Tuesday, a delegation including 338 athletes.

Canada's team boasts 142 returning Olympians, 38 who already own medals, including two of the country's most decorated Olympians of all time. Swimmer Penny Oleksiak, who has seven to her name, and sprinter Andre De Grasse, who owns six, are each making a third Olympic appearance.

The Games begin on July 26 — with some preliminary competitions on July 24 — and continue through Aug. 11. They will feature 329 events across 32 sports, many contested at venues held alongside famous Paris landmarks, from the River Seine to the Eiffel Tower and Roland Garros. The athletes will return to normalcy, after the Tokyo Games in 2021 was



Canada's team for the Paris Olympics, which officially begin on July 26, is slightly smaller than the 2021 Summer Games in Tokyo when the country sent 370 athletes. ABDUL SABOOR/REUTERS

a year delayed by the pandemic, then held without fans and under strict restrictions.

"The Paris 2024 Olympic Games have been long anticipated, both by athletes and fans," said Bruny Surin, Olympic champion and Team Canada's Paris 2024 chef de mission. "The atmosphere promises to be unique and festive."

Canada's team is slightly smaller than the group that competed in Tokyo, which had 370 athletes,

including eight squads qualifying in team sports. Canada is sending six teams to Paris. Those include the defending women's soccer champions, a women's basketball team and the first men's basketball squad to play at a Summer Games since 2000 — a group boasting 11 NBA players, from Shai Gilgeous-Alexander to Jamal Murray.

Some experts have estimated Canada could collect approximately 20 medals in Paris, pro-

jected on the strength of Canadians who have thrived on the world stage in recent years, including 800-metre runner Marco Arop, judoka Christa Deguchi and 17-year-old swimming sensation Summer McIntosh.

Canada earned 24 medals in Tokyo, its most at a non-boycotted Summer Games. That was 11th among all countries competing, and included seven golds, seven silvers and 10 bronzes.

Of the 338-strong delegation, 22 are alternates who will travel to Paris ready to step in at a moment's notice. The Canadian athletes hail from nine different provinces — all but Newfoundland and Labrador — the most from Ontario (141), Quebec (58) and British Columbia (45).

Canada will compete in 3x3 basketball, BMX freestyle, and surfing for the first time at an Olympics — all sports that made their Olympic debuts at Tokyo 2020. In Paris, breaking will debut, featuring gold-medal contender Phillip Kim of Canada.

Team Canada has full teams in men's and women's artistic gymnastics for the first time since Athens 2004. Canada is sending full teams in all three equestrian events for the first time since

London 2012.

Dressage rider Jill Irving (61) is the oldest Olympian on Canada's team; while 14-year-old park skateboarder Fay DeFazio Ebert is the youngest.

The athlete with the most Olympic appearances to their credit is table tennis player Mo Zhang, as Paris 2024 will be her fifth straight Games.

Other notables Canadians will recognize include pro-tennis stars Félix Auger-Aliassime, Bianca Andreescu, Milos Raonic and Leylah Fernandez; plus golfers Brooke Henderson, Corey Conners and Nick Taylor.

The COC will have a Canada Olympic House for the first time since the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, a home away from home for Team Canada athletes and their families, as well as for fans.

"These Games mark a return to the full scale of the Games we haven't had the opportunity to experience in a long time," said Eric Myles, the COC's chief sport officer. "From packed stadiums and having families and friends on hand, to being able to welcome the world to Canada Olympic House, Paris 2024 will be a moment to cherish for us all."

Third-ranked Canadian women to face world's best rugby sides in B.C. at WXV 1

NEIL DAVIDSON

Third-ranked Canada will open the WXV 1 women's rugby competition against No. 4 France on Sept. 29 as part of a triple-header at BC Place Stadium.

Top-ranked England takes on the seventh-ranked United States, before the Canada-France matchup with No. 2 New Zealand facing No. 10 Ireland in the night-cap.

While BC Place is a popular stop in the HSBC SVNS circuit and has hosted men's test matches, the WXV will mark the first time international women's 15s play

has taken place under the dome.

The WXV is a three-tiered annual competition with the top division drawing on the top three finishers in the Pacific Four Series (Canada, New Zealand and the U.S.) and Women's Six Nations Championship (England, France and Ireland).

The Canada women will take on Ireland on Oct. 5 at Willoughby Stadium at the Langley Events Centre in a doubleheader that also features a U.S.-France game. The next day, England faces New Zealand in Langley in a No. 1 versus No. 2 matchup.

Action returns to BC Place on Oct. 11 with the U.S. facing Ireland.

The next day, New Zealand plays France and Canada takes on defending champion England at BC Place.

The Canadian women finished runner-up to the Red Roses in last year's inaugural WXV 1. Canada defeated Wales 42-22 and France 29-20 and lost 45-12 to England.

While Canada was leapfrogged by New Zealand in the latest world rugby rankings, the Canadians upset the Black Ferns 22-19 in May in Christchurch to win the Pacific Four Series. That victory moved Kevin Rouet's team — at least temporarily — into second place in the rankings, its highest position since November, 2016.

The Canadian women will be without star forward Sophie de Goede for the WXV 1. The talismanic captain tore her anterior cruciate ligament in June. All three WXV divisions run Sept. 27 to Oct. 12.

WXV 2 is slated for South Africa with a field consisting of No. 5 Australia, No. 6 Scotland, No. 8 Wales, No. 9 Italy, No. 11 Japan and No. 12 South Africa.

WXV 3 takes place in Dubai with No. 13 Spain, No. 14 Fiji, the 16th-ranked Netherlands, No. 17 Hong Kong, No. 18 Samoa, and No. 25 Madagascar.

Ireland has jumped from winning WXV 3 last year to the top

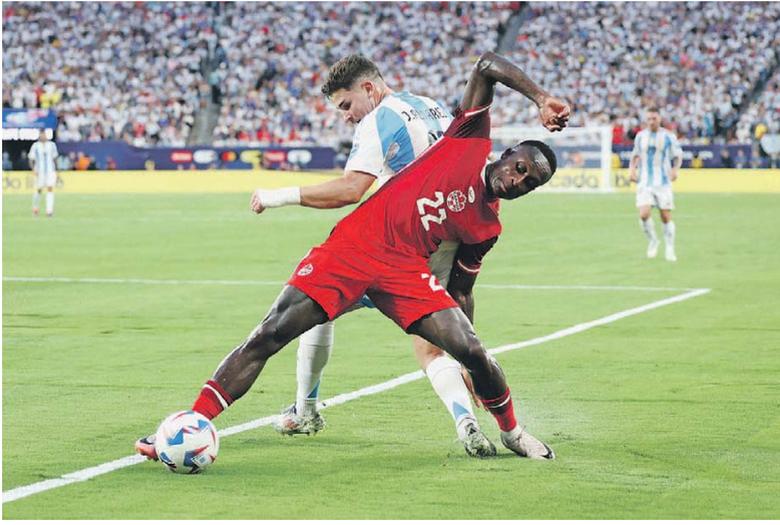
tier thanks to its third-place finish in Six Nations play. Scotland went 3-0-0 in winning WXV 2 last year.

The WXV will flesh out the 2025 Women's World Cup field with the top six ranked non-qualified teams at the end of WXV qualifying for the tournament.

Host England automatically qualifies while Canada, France and New Zealand secured their berths by finishing in the top four at the last World Cup.

Ireland, South Africa, the U.S., Fiji, Japan and Brazil have also qualified.

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Canada's Richie Laryea gets his toe to a ball ahead of Argentina's Julián Álvarez during the Copa America semi-finals on July 9 in East Rutherford, N.J. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Osorio, Laryea back at TFC for challenging week in MLS regular season

Canadian pair return from international duty with club set to face Inter Miami, CF Montreal

NEIL DAVIDSON

Buoyed by the return of captain Jonathan Osorio and Richie Laryea from Copa America and having finally snapped a nine-game winless run, Toronto FC looks to consolidate a postseason position with 10 games left in the MLS regular season.

The playoff push starts with two challenging road games, however, as John Herdman's team visits Inter Miami on Wednesday and CF Montreal on Saturday.

Toronto (8-13-3, 27 points) currently sits eighth in the Eastern Conference and needs to pick up points if it wants to separate itself from the pack chasing the eighth- and ninth-place wild-card berths. Nashville (6-9-8, 26 points) currently occupies ninth.

Montreal, Atlanta, D.C. United, New England and Chicago go into weekend play in 10th through 14th place, respectively, with Montreal just one point below Toronto and Chicago five points adrift. And all but D.C. have at least a game in hand on TFC.

Toronto snapped a six-game losing streak and nine-game winless run (0-7-2) with a 2-1 comeback win Saturday at BMO Field over the slumping Philadelphia Union. Herdman's team had not won in league play since a 5-1 decision over Montreal on May 18.

Osorio and Laryea have missed TFC's past seven games while away with Canada. Laryea, meanwhile, has seen just 81 minutes of action with Toronto this season because of a hamstring injury that required surgery.

Their return means Herdman can finally see "a bit of depth" in his squad.

"You can start looking at two games ahead," he said. "Miami's always going to be a tough

game on the road, but we've got a six-point match on the Saturday against Montreal. That's a massive game given where both teams are in the standings.

"So for us, we're excited. There's a lot of energy in the building, particularly with the two Canadian lads returning and returning with a bit of glory and some records that they've been able to make. And bringing that energy in. But the team is pretty upbeat after the weekend as well."

Miami (14-4-5 47 points) sits second in the East and the Supporters' Shield standings and had occupied first before its last outing, a 6-1 drubbing July 6 at FC Cincinnati that caused the teams to swap places in the standings.

Toronto will avoid two of Miami's biggest stars.

A distraught Lionel Messi exited in the 64th minute of Sunday's Copa America final with an apparent ankle injury. The 37-year-old Argentine icon still got to hoist the trophy after the World Cup champions edged Colombia 1-0.

Asked about the possibility of Messi being available to face Toronto, Miami coach Gerardo (Tata) Martino said, through an interpreter: "I think there is none, based on how I see the ankle."

Former Barcelona star Sergio Busquets is suspended after being sent off in the 62nd minute of the Cincinnati loss, shown a second yellow card after complaining about the first.

Missing five starters, Miami conceded six goals for the first time in club history in Cincinnati.

Still, Miami leads the league with 51 goals, averaging 2.22 a game, compared with Toronto which ranks 22nd at 1.33 goals a game. Miami has scored 28 of those goals at home.

"We know they'll score goals at home regardless of who goes there," Herdman said. "So this is a tough match. Even without their DPs [designated players], they've been able to show a cutting edge in their home matches."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Southgate stepping down as England manager, says it is 'time for change'

JAMES ROBSON

After eight years, four tournaments and two finals, Gareth Southgate announced he was stepping down as England manager on Tuesday, saying it was "time for change."

Sunday's 2-1 loss to Spain in the European Championship final proved to be his last game in charge of the national team.

"As a proud Englishman, it has been the honour of my life to play for England and to manage England. It has meant everything to me, and I have given it my all," he said. "But it's time for change, and for a new chapter."

Southgate's contract was due to expire this year and his announcement comes after months of uncertainty surrounding his future.

Mikel Oyarzabal's 86th-minute winner in Berlin was a painful way to end his reign after he transformed the fortunes of England's underperforming national team.

Hired in 2016, he led England to back-to-back finals at the Euros and to the semi-finals of the World Cup in 2018. But, ultimately, he was unable to end the nation's decades-long wait for a first major trophy since the World Cup in 1966.

Southgate said before the European Championship that it would likely be his last tournament if England did not win.

During it, he faced fierce criticism for the team's early performances and some fans threw plastic beer cups toward him at the end of the 0-0 draw with Slovenia in the group phase.

But he achieved what no other England manager has by leading his team to two finals, including the first final on foreign soil.

"Gareth has made the impossible job possible and laid strong foundations for future success. He is held in the highest regard by the players, the backroom team, by everyone at the FA and across the world of football," said Mark Bullingham, chief executive of the English Football Association.

Before Southgate's arrival England had won only seven knockout games at tournaments since 1966. The team won nine during his tenure.

England was also in the top five of FIFA's rankings for six years under Southgate. Previously its longest run had been seven months.

Now thoughts will turn to finding his successor and the FA said the process was already under way.

Southgate was not an obvious choice to take over when hired after Sam Allardyce's one-match reign came to an end after just 67 days in charge.

He didn't have a stellar managerial career — with a three-year

FRENCH FEDERATION FILES COMPLAINT AFTER 'RACIST' REMARKS BY ARGENTINA PLAYERS AFTER COPA AMERICA WIN

PARIS The French soccer federation pledged Tuesday to file a complaint with FIFA over "racist and discriminatory remarks" by Argentina players in postmatch chants about France's team after their Copa America title win.

Argentina beat Colombia 1-0 on Sunday at Miami Gardens, Fla. A video posted on Instagram by Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernández, who plays for Chelsea, and widely viewed on X showed Argentina players appearing to sing about French players with African heritage.

One of Fernández's Chelsea teammates, France defender Wesley Fofana, posted the Argentina team video on his social-media accounts Tuesday and called it "uninhibited racism."

Fofana, who has family ties to Ivory Coast, is among several French players who are Black in the Chelsea first-team squad.

The same chants — by some Argentina fans — emerged before France and Argentina met in the World Cup final two years ago, which Argentina won.

"Given the seriousness of these shocking remarks, which are contrary to the values of sport and human rights, the FFF president has decided to contact its Argentinian counterpart and FIFA directly to file a legal complaint for racist and discriminatory remarks," the French soccer federation said in a statement on Tuesday.

The derogatory chants single out France players of African heritage, from several countries, and holding a French passport.

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spell at Middlesbrough his only job in club soccer.

England had not advanced to a semi-final since Euro 96 and hadn't reached that stage of a World Cup since 1990.

At the Euros in 2021, Southgate went one better by leading his team to the final, which it lost to Italy in a penalty shootout.

England was tied 1-1 with Spain in the final on Sunday before Oyarzabal's late winner.

"We look back at Gareth's tenure with huge pride — his contribution to the English game, including a significant role in player development, and in culture transformation has been unique," Bullingham said.

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After Canada's Copa success, Marsch intends to expand talent horizons

DANIEL RAINBIRD MONTREAL

Canada coach Jesse Marsch hopes his team's success at Copa America will have dual nationals thinking twice about playing for a different country.

Hired in May as John Herdman's successor, Marsch helped Canada to a sensational run at the Copa — his first tournament as manager.

Canada defeated Venezuela on penalty kicks in the quarter-final before falling 2-0 to eventual champions Argentina and Lionel Messi in the semis. The Canadians then gave heavily favoured Uruguay a run for their money in the consolation final, but lost 4-3 on penalties after giving up an injury-time equalizer to Luis Suárez.

"I think that now that we've shown that we can compete, the recruitment process, I think, will



Coach Jesse Marsch, second from right, says Canada's success at Copa America should help convince dual players to choose to play for his up-and-coming roster. CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

hopefully be a little bit easier and cleaner," Marsch said Tuesday at Centre Nutrilait, CF Montreal's training facility

"[We can] say: 'Come to Cana-

da and we can really make some big waves in the World Cup in 2026.'"

Canada gains automatic entry to the next World Cup as a co-host

with the United States and Mexico. Marsch said he's identified "up to 10" dual nationals to evaluate as he looks to build the strongest roster possible for 2026.

The 50-year-old American didn't divulge any names, but that list likely includes striker Daniel Jebbison of Premier League side AFC Bournemouth, winger Luca Koleosho of England's Burnley and fullback Mohamed Farsi of Columbus Crew in Major League Soccer, among others.

There's also the case of Vancouver Whitecaps captain Ryan Gauld. The 28-year-old is a Scottish footballer but has not been cap-tied by the national team. He could apply for Canadian citizenship by 2025 and eventually get a call-up to Canada's team.

Helped also by getting to the 2022 World Cup, Canada has done a better job attracting dual nationals in recent years. The side Marsch is managing is full of them, including marquee Cana-

dians Alphonso Davies (Liberia), Jonathan David (United States) and Stephen Eustáquio (Portugal).

Luc de Fougerolles, an 18-year-old born in England to a father from Montreal, won his first Canadian cap against Uruguay.

Marsch said he'll call on Canada Soccer general secretary and chief executive officer Kevin Blue and Canada's top players to help recruit even more.

Marsch is also focused on discovering more players at home after witnessing little-known 24-year-old Moïse Bombito hold his own at centre back against some of the world's best.

He said his "day job" is to help make the national team better, but "my passion project is to develop the sport in this country and create better infrastructure at youth levels, so that we're developing players faster and better."

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VANCOUVER WHITECAPS BUOYED BY KEY RETURNEES AHMED AND ADEKUGBE

VANCOUVER Ali Ahmed wasn't about to let distance and time zones keep him from cheering for his teammates.

While the 23-year-old wing-back spent the past several weeks with the Canadian men's soccer team at the Copa America, the Vancouver Whitecaps were never far from his mind.

"I was on the East Coast sometimes, so [I was] staying up, just watching the games, seeing the guys fight and stay

together," Ahmed said.

What he saw was a Whitecaps (10-7-5) team in solid form. Vancouver is unbeaten in its past five games across all competitions (4-0-1), including a 1-0 victory over Canadian Premier League side Pacific FC in the first leg of the Canadian Championship semi-final last week.

The club will look to extend the streak Wednesday when it hosts Sporting Kansas City (6-13-5) in Major Soccer League

action. The two sides have already faced off once this season, with the Whitecaps taking a 2-1 road win back on May 29.

Vancouver got off to a poor start in that game before buckling down defensively, Whitecaps captain Ryan Gauld said.

"I think we were strong defensively," said the attacking midfielder, who scored twice against SKC. "I think we're going to need to be like that tomorrow against a good team that's started pick-

ing up results."

Head coach Vanni Sartini will have options when it comes to selecting his starters on Wednesday. After weeks of juggling a limited roster, Ahmed and Andrés Cubas have returned from international duty, while other players, including Sam Adekugbe, are back from injury.

Injuries have plagued Adekugbe this season, but after recovering from a calf strain, the 29-year-old Canadian defender

came off the bench in the Whitecaps' 4-1 rout of St. Louis City in Missouri on Saturday.

Re-adding Adekugbe to the roster is a huge boon for the Whitecaps, Sartini said, calling the left-footed fullback one of the best players in the league at his position.

"He's powerful, technical, can defend," the coach said. "So when he's back 100 per cent, he can help a lot."

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Jones's defensive acumen didn't translate into success

The Elks fired the head coach and general manager after an 0-5 start to the season

DAN RALPH

ANALYSIS

The innovations and schemes that earned Chris Jones a reputation as a defensive guru didn't translate into success as the Edmonton Elks head coach and general manager.

The Elks fired Jones on Monday after an 0-5 start to the season. Over two-plus seasons under Jones, Edmonton compiled an 8-33 record.

The axe fell during an Edmonton season that's been plagued by costly turnovers, untimely penalties and an inability to finish.

Jones was in his second stint as Edmonton head coach, having taken on his first CFL head-coaching job with the club after the 2013 season. He rewarded the franchise with a Grey Cup title in 2015 before leaving to become the Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach/GM a week later.

Jones had previously served as a defensive line coach/defensive co-ordinator with the Montreal Alouettes (2002-07) and defensive co-ordinator with both the Calgary Stampeders (2008-11) and Toronto Argonauts (2012-13). He was also the Stamps' assistant director of player personnel and Argos assistant GM before rejoining the Double Blue in 2021 as a defensive consultant.

Before leading Edmonton to its last Grey Cup title, Jones earned championship rings in 2002, '08 and '12. And he also spent time as a senior defensive specialist with the NFL's Cleveland Browns



Garry Peters of the B.C. Lions, back left, intercepts a pass intended for the Edmonton Elks' Eugene Lewis on a two-point conversion attempt during CFL action in Vancouver on June 27. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

(2019).

But it was during his time as a defensive assistant that Jones's innovation kept CFL offensive coordinators up at night. He could draw up schemes to pressure the quarterback involving just the defensive front, allowing him to drop eight defenders back into coverage.

Jones could further complicate matters by blitzing some of his linebackers or defensive backs. But because he didn't necessarily have to, predicting exactly where the added pressure was coming from was often difficult.

And Jones wasn't opposed to dropping a defensive lineman into coverage and either bringing a linebacker or defensive back — or no one at all — to create confusion and give his unit an advantage.

Yet that prowess and knowledge didn't really help the Elks this time around, in part because of the relative youth of the franchise's roster. Edmonton lost a lot of experience and production when it sent veteran defensive lineman Jake Ceresna (22 combined sacks in 2022-23) to Toronto in the deal to acquire Canadian receiver Kurlleigh Gittens Jr.

When Jones returned to Edmonton, he was also its defensive co-ordinator, but he relinquished that role this season to protégé Jason Shivers.

Edmonton's defence enters this week's action ranked eighth in both offensive points allowed (30.4 per game) and offensive yards (402.2) and last in offensive touchdowns surrendered (17). The Elks are tied for fifth in sacks

(nine) but rank last in pass knockdowns (36) and defensive penalties (19).

As a team, Edmonton is ranked eighth in penalties (43).

Still, Edmonton has been close to winning games this season as its five losses have been by a combined 20 points. The Elks dropped their season opener 29-21 to Saskatchewan after being outscored 21-3 in the fourth quarter.

Edmonton's next four losses were all by three points each, with the last three coming via walk-off field goals. On Sunday night, Dakota Prukop's one-yard TD run with eight seconds left tied the score but Boris Bede's kickoff out of bounds helped set the stage for Lewis Ward's game-ending 38-yard boot.

Ottawa starter Dru Brown

through for 480 yards and two TDs. Receivers Kalil Pimpleton (four catches, 153 yards, TD), Dominique Rhymes (seven receptions, 131 yards) and Justin Hardy (five catches, 110 yards, touchdown) all cracked the 100-yard plateau.

Edmonton's defensive struggles were evident last season as it finished last in the West Division with a 4-14 record. The Elks were seventh in offensive yards allowed (375.7 per game), second-last in sacks (39) and last in rushing yards allowed (136.6) and turnovers forced (25).

The Elks also were last overall in offensive points (18.9 per game) and second-last in passing (221.1 yards) but seemingly had a rising star in Canadian quarterback Tre Ford, who led the franchise to all four of its wins despite starting the year well down on the depth chart. Still, Jones opted to sign veteran McLeod Bethel-Thompson to a one-year deal this off-season while also tasking the two-time Grey Cup champion with tutoring Ford.

Bethel-Thompson sports a solid 71.7-per-cent completion average with 1,497 passing yards, nine TDs and five interceptions. Three times he has thrown for 300 or more yards this season.

Edmonton has also scored 15 offensive TDs (third overall) but is averaging 26.2 offensive points (sixth-best). While the Elks boast the CFL's fourth-ranked passing attack (299.4 yards per game), they're second-last in rushing (66 yards).

What's more, interim head coach Jarious Jackson is on a short week as Edmonton visits Ottawa on Friday. And time is of the essence as the Elks are four points behind Calgary (2-3) and Winnipeg (2-4) for third in the West Division standings.

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MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	58	38	604	—
New York	58	40	592	1
Boston	53	42	558	4½
Tampa Bay	48	48	500	10
Toronto	44	52	458	14

CENTRAL DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	58	37	611	—
Minnesota	54	42	563	4½
Kansas City	52	45	536	7
Detroit	47	50	485	12
Chicago	27	71	276	32½

WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	52	46	531	—
Houston	50	46	521	1
Texas	46	50	479	5
Los Angeles	41	55	427	10
Oakland	37	61	378	15

Tuesday
2024 MLB All-Star Game
 At Arlington, Texas
 National vs. American Leagues

Friday
 Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
 Detroit at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
 San Diego at Cleveland, 7:10 p.m.
 Baltimore at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
 Chi. White Sox at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
 L.A. Angels at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.
 Houston at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.
 Boston at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

2024 MLB DRAFT

BLUE JAYS AND CANADIANS

Sunday-Tuesday
 (With round, overall pick, name, position, hometown and current team):
CANADIANS
First Round — 27. Philadelphia Phillies, Dante Nori, OF, Toronto, Northville HS (Mich.)
Second — 58. Tampa Bay Rays, Emilien Pitre, 2b, Repentigny, Que., University of Kentucky
Third — 94. Tampa Bay Rays, Nathan Flewelling, c, Innisfil, Alta., St. Joseph HS (Alta.)
Fourth — 105. Kansas City Royals, L.P. Langevin, rhp, Quebec City, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Sixth — 166. Oakland Athletics, Josiah Romeo, rhp, Milton, Ont., Mayfield SS (Ont.)
12th — 355. Cleveland Guardians, Sean Heppner rhp, Tsaowassen, B.C., University of British Columbia; 364. Miami Marlins, Connor Caskenette, c, Duncan, B.C., Purdue; 366. Tampa Bay Rays, Jack Lines, ss, Okotoks, Alta., TNXL Academy, Ocala, Fla.
14th — 406. Oakland Athletics, Ryan Magdic, lhp, Beamsville, Ont., Missouri; 429. Baltimore Orioles, Cohen Achen, rhp, Calgary, Lindsay Wilson College.
17th — 497. Kansas City Royals, Dane Burnum, lhp, Dryden, Ont., Prosper (Texas); 514. Miami Marlins, Micah McDowell, of, Coldbrook, N.S., Oregon State.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	62	34	646	—
Atlanta	53	42	558	8½
New York	49	46	516	12½
Washington	44	53	454	18½
Miami	33	63	344	29

CENTRAL DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	55	42	567	—
St. Louis	50	46	521	4½
Pittsburgh	48	48	500	6½
Cincinnati	47	50	485	8
Chicago	47	51	480	8½

WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	56	41	577	—
San Diego	50	49	505	7
Arizona	49	48	505	7
San Francisco	47	50	485	9
Colorado	34	63	351	22

Tuesday
2024 MLB All-Star Game
 At Arlington, Texas
 National vs. American Leagues

Friday
 Arizona at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
 Cincinnati at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets at Miami, 7:10 p.m.
 San Diego at Cleveland, 7:10 p.m.
 St. Louis at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
 San Francisco at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
 Boston at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

19th — 561. St. Louis Cardinals, Brendan Lawson, ss, Toronto, Ontario Blue Jays; 569. Cincinnati Reds, Owen Potem rhp, Sherwood Park, Alta., Sylvan Lake Vicars (WCBL); 570. San Diego Padres, Giclaré Domingo, rhp, Vancouver, University of British Columbia.
20th — 611. Atlanta Braves, Eric Hartman, of, St. Albert, Alta., Canadian Junior National Team/Okotoks.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS
First Round — 20. Trey Yesavage, rhp, East Carolina; **Second** — 59. Khal Stephen, rhp, Mississippi State; **Third** — 95. Johnny King, lhp, Naples HS (Fla.); **Fourth** — 125. Sean Keys, 3b, Bucknell; **Compensation** — 136. Nick Mitchell, of, Indiana; **Fifth** — 158. Jackson Wentworth, rhp, Kansas St; **Sixth** — 187. Aaron Parker, c, UC Santa Barbara; **Seventh** — 217. Austin Cates, rhp, UNLV; **Eighth** — 247. Eddie Micheletti Jr., of, Virginia Tech; **Ninth** — 277. Colby Holcombe, rhp, Mississippi St.; **10th** — 307. Carter Cunningham, of, East Carolina; **11th** — 337. Troy Guthrie, rhp, Parrish Community HS (Fla.); **12th** — 367. Carson Messina, rhp, Summerville HS (S.C.); **13th** — 397. Brock Tibbitts, c, Indiana; **14th** — 427. J.R. Freethy, 2b, Nevada; **15th** — 457. Jonathan Todd, rhp, West-ern Carolina; **16th** — 487. Colby Martin, rhp, Southeastern U.; **17th** — 517. Gavin Smith, ss, Valley Christian HS (Ariz.); **18th** — 547. Holden Wilkerson, rhp, VMJ; **19th** — 577. D/Marion Terrell, 1b, Thompson HS (Ala.); **20th** — 607. Bryce Martin-Gruzdzielanek, ss, San Diego.

ATP TOUR

HAMBURG EUROPEAN OPEN

Tuesday
At Hamburg, Germany
 Purse: €1,891,995
MEN'S SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
 Holger Rune (2), Denmark, def. Fabian Marozsan, Hungary, 6-4, 6-4.
 Sebastian Baez (3), Argentina, def. Dominik Koepfer, Germany, 6-2, 6-3.
 Arthur Fils (5), France, def. Jaume Munar, Spain, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.
 Luciano Darderi (7), Italy, def. Nick Hardt, Dominican Republic, 6-1, 2-6, 6-0.
 Zhang Zhizhen (8), China, def. Thiago Seyboth Wild, Brazil, 7-6 (6), 6-0.
 Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, def. Felipe Meligeni Alves, Brazil, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3.
 Marco Tringitelli, Argentina, def. Sebastian Ofner, Austria, 6-1, 4-3, ret.
 Hugo Gaston, France, def. Facundo Diaz Acosta, Argentina, 7-6 (4), 1-6, 6-4.

DOUBLES — ROUND OF 16
 Edouard Roger-Vasselin and Fabien Reboul (3), France, def. Dustin Brown, Jamaica, and Daniel Masur, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.
 Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Lloyd Glasspool (7), Britain, def. Pedro Martinez, Spain, and Francisco Cerundolo, Argentina, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

HALL OF FAME OPEN

Tuesday
At Newport, R.I.
 Purse: \$661,585
MEN'S SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
 Arthur Rinderknech (7), France, def. Shintaro Mochizuki, Japan, 6-3, 7-6 (5).
 Mackenzie McDonald, United States, def. Rinky Hijikata (8), Australia, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2.
 Billy Harris, Britain, def. Gabriel Diallo, Montreal, Canada, 7-6 (4), 7-5.
 Eihan Quinn, United States, def. Marc Polmans, Australia, 6-3, 6-7 (3), 6-1.
 Alex Bolt, Australia, def. Jakub Mensik, Czechia, 6-2, 6-4.

NORDEA OPEN

Tuesday
At Bastad, Sweden
 Purse: €579,230
Surface: Red clay
MEN'S SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
 Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, def. Roman Safiullin (6), Russia, 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
 Nuno Borges (7), Portugal, def. Andrea Pellegrino, Italy, 6-2, 7-6 (3).
 Thiago Monteiro, Brazil, def. Federico Coria, Argentina, 6-1, 6-3.
 Ugo Agustin Tirante, Argentina, def. Jaime Faria, Portugal, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.
 Denis Yevseyev, Kazakhstan, def. Alexandre Muller, France, 7-5, 7-5.
 Duje Ajdukovic, Croatia, def. Luca van Assche, France, 6-3, 6-3.
 Timofey Skatov, Kazakhstan, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-7 (7), 6-2, 7-6 (4).

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Cincinnati	23	15	5	3	43	29	48
Miami	23	14	4	5	51	37	47
Columbus	21	12	3	6	45	19	42
N.Y. Red Bulls	23	9	4	10	37	28	37
N.Y. City F.C.	23	11	9	3	33	27	36
Charlotte	23	10	8	5	27	24	35
Orlando	23	9	6	3	35	37	30
Toronto	24	8	13	3	32	44	27
Nashville	23	6	9	8	26	33	26
Montreal	23	6	9	8	32	46	26
Atlanta	23	6	11	6	31	33	24
D.C.	24	5	11	8	32	48	23
New England	21	7	13	1	21	41	22
Chicago	23	5	17	2	28	40	22
Philadelphia	23	4	10	9	37	41	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Los Angeles F.C.	22	13	5	4	44	29	43
Salt Lake City	23	12	4	7	48	30	43
L.A. Galaxy	24	12	5	7	44	32	43
Colorado	24	11	8	5	45	38	38
Portland	24	10	8	6	48	39	36
Vancouver	22	10	7	5	38	30	35
Seattle	23	9	7	7	32	26	34
Houston	22	8	7	7	30	27	31
Minnesota	23	8	9	6	36	38	30
Austin	23	8	9	6	25	32	30
Dallas	27	7	11	5	34	37	26
Kansas City	24	6	13	5	39	49	23
St. Louis	23	4	9	10	31	43	22
San Jose	23	4	17	2	31	58	14

Wednesday
All Times Eastern
 Charlotte at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
 Chicago at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.
 Montreal at N.Y. Red Bulls, 7:30 p.m.
 New England at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
 New York City F.C. at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Toronto at Miami, 8:30 p.m.
 Austin at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 D.C. at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
 Orlando at Nashville, 8:30 p.m.
 Colorado at L.A. Galaxy, 10:30 p.m.
 Houston at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
 Kansas City at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.
 St. Louis at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.
 Salt Lake City at L.A. F.C., 10:45 p.m.

CPL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Ottawa	14	8	2	4	26	13	28
York	14	7	5	2	21	20	23
Hamilton	13	6	3	4	23	19	21
Victoria	14	5	4	5	13	12	19
Vancouver	14	5	4	5	19	25	19
Calgary	14	3	8	14	13	17	13
Halifax	12	2	6	4	14	17	10
Winnipeg	13	3	9	1	12	23	10

Thursday
All Times Eastern
 Winnipeg at Halifax, 6 p.m.

Saturday
 York at Vancouver, 6 p.m.

Sunday
 Winnipeg at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
 Hamilton at Calgary, 5 p.m.

CEBL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	Pct	GB
Niagara	17	12	5	.706	—
Scarborough	15	8	7	.533	3½
Ottawa	15	6	9	.400	5
Brampton	16	6	10	.375	5½
Montreal	16	4	12	.250	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE					
	GP	W	L	Pct	GB
Vancouver	16	11	5	.688	—
Edmonton	18	11	7	.611	1
Calgary	16	9	7	.553	2
Winnipeg	15	7	8	.467	3½
Saskatchewan	16	6	10	.375	5

Tuesday
 Montreal at Scarborough

Wednesday
All Times Eastern
 Brampton at Niagara, 7 p.m.

Thursday
 Scarborough at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
 Edmonton at Saskatchewan, 9:30 p.m.
 Winnipeg at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

LEAVE DOUBT IN THE DUST.

ANDRE DE GRASSE, ATHLETICS



SCAN TO HEAR
ANDRE DE
GRASSE'S
STORY



BRAVE IS UNBEATABLE



Dallas Wings guard Arike Ogunbowale, centre, drives to the basket against Kia Nurse, left, and Aari McDonald of the Los Angeles Sparks during Saturday's game in Arlington, Tex. TONY GUTIERREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WNBA's best set to face Team USA in all-star game

Matchup will potentially be one of the toughest for the American squad in coming weeks as it heads to Olympics

DOUG FEINBERG NEW YORK

The WNBA heads into its month-long Olympic break after this weekend's highly anticipated all-star festivities.

The Olympic team's matchup with Team WNBA featuring Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese will be one of the toughest games the American squad will potentially play over the month.

In 2021, the WNBA all-star team beat Team USA behind the MVP performance of Arike Ogunbowale. It was the only loss the Americans had en route to winning their seventh straight gold medal.

"We will not forget that," U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve said of the loss in 2021. "We will see what we can do, given the challenges of time. They don't have time together either. There's a lot of talent over there and it should be an incredible game."

Ogunbowale is back for this year's all-star game as well as Jonquel Jones. Both played on that winning team in 2021. Jones remembered there was a tone before the game from the all-stars that was different than other exhibition contests.

"It felt more serious at the start like we're going to go win this," Jones said. "It definitely had more of that real game at the beginning of the game versus that fun you expect to see at all-star."

The weekend could have more intrigue to it if Clark and defending three-point champion Sabrina Ionescu enter Friday night's

MATTEL HONOURS SUE BIRD WITH SIGNATURE BARBIE

EL SEGUNDO, CALIF. WNBA great Sue Bird has been honoured with a signature Barbie doll.

Mattel announced Tuesday the collectible tribute doll was modelled for Bird, who is a "basketball legend who pioneered the way for growth in the women's league with her record-breaking legacy and

courageous voice that forever changed the game."

The doll is dressed in a No. 10 jersey, Bird's number in the WNBA.

The doll is part of Mattel's Role Model series as the company celebrates Barbie's 65th anniversary and the company's summer of sports initiative.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

skills competition. The league hasn't announced the participants yet.

Ionescu, who set a record in the contest last year hitting 20 straight shots en route to scoring 37 of a possible 40 points, said she hasn't decided yet whether she'll compete.

"First off, I have a lot going on. The one I had at the WNBA all-star, not sure I'm ever going to top that," she said. "That's one of those moments in sports where you are like I can't believe that happened. Every time I see that video it brings me back to that time."

AP WNBA POLL

New York remains in the top spot in this week's AP WNBA power poll with Las Vegas moving back into second. Connecticut, Seattle, Minnesota and Indiana were the next four. Phoenix and Chicago were seventh and eighth. Washington and Los Angeles followed. Atlanta and Dallas rounded out the poll. Each team has one game left before break.

CAITLIN CORNER

Clark's streak of double-figure assists ended at five, but the Indiana

Fever still beat the Minnesota Lynx for their fourth win in the past six games. Clark now leads the league in assists per game at 7.8. Before the all-star weekend festivities, the Fever close out the first part of the season in Dallas on Wednesday.

ROOKIE WATCH

Rickea Jackson continues her strong play with Los Angeles. She had a season-best 23 points in the Sparks' 87-81 win over Dallas on Saturday. Jackson is averaging 11.2 points while shooting nearly 46 per cent from the field this season.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

A'ja Wilson earned AP Player of the Week honours for the second consecutive week. The Aces forward continued her dominating play as she averaged 28.3 points, 18.3 rebounds and 3.7 blocks to help Las Vegas go 3-0. Sabrina Ionescu of New York also received votes.

GAME OF THE WEEK

U.S. Olympic team vs. WNBA all-stars, Saturday.

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Porter asks court for permission to play in Greece with NBA off limits

TIM REYNOLDS

Jontay Porter, who has been banned from the NBA after admitting that he helped bettors by intentionally underperforming in games, asked a U.S. federal court Wednesday for permission to resume his playing career in Greece.

Porter, in a letter sent by attorney Jeff Jensen, is asking that some conditions of his bond be modified so that he can get his U.S. passport back, be allowed to

travel in Europe and to reside in Patras, Greece. Jensen told the court that Porter would play for the Greek club Promitheas BC.

Prosecutors have no opposition to the request, Jensen wrote.

"The proposed modification would allow Mr. Porter to pursue a very fortunate – and quickly diminishing – opportunity to earn income through his primary skillset," Jensen wrote.

Porter, 24, pleaded guilty last month to a federal conspiracy crime in the scandal that got him

banned from the league. He is free on US\$250,000 bond while awaiting sentencing set on Dec. 18 and prosecutors have estimated that he could be facing a range from just under 3½ years in prison to a little more than four years.

Porter told the court he has undergone in-patient rehab for a gambling problem and remains in therapy, which is being done virtually and wouldn't be affected by a move to Greece, Jensen said.

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CANUCKS SIGN GOALTENDER SILOVS TO TWO-YEAR CONTRACT

VANCOUVER The Vancouver Canucks have signed goaltender Arturs Silovs to a two-year contract, the NHL club announced Tuesday.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed by the Canucks.

The 23-year-old Silovs, from Riga, Latvia, appeared in 10 playoff games for the Canucks last season after starting nemesis Thatcher Demko sustained an undisclosed injury in Game 1 of Vancouver's first-round series with Nashville.

He went 5-5 with a 2.91 goals against average and an .898 save

percentage as Vancouver lost in seven games to Edmonton in the second round.

The 6-foot-4, 203-pound goaltender had 3-0-1 record with a 2.47 goals against average and an .881 save percentage with Vancouver in the regular season.

He went 16-11-6 with a 2.74 GAA and a .907 save percentage in 34 games with the American Hockey League's Abbotsford Canucks.

Silovs has an NHL record of 6-2-1 with a 2.62 goals against average and an .898 save percentage since being selected by

the Canucks in the sixth round, 156th overall, at the 2019 NHL draft.

"Arturs helped us out a lot when called upon last year as he continues to grow and develop as a goalie," Canucks general manager Patrik Allvin said in a release. "We expect him to come into training camp and battle for a full-time position with the big club. Our group will continue to work with him to help sharpen his skills and provide him with all the tools necessary to take another step forward in his young career."

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Woods relishes opportunity to push back against criticism at British Open

DOUG FERGUSON TROON, SCOTLAND

ANALYSIS

Tiger Woods is playing all four majors for the first time since 2019, which at the start of the year would have been cause for great optimism.

The results paint a different picture. He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut at Augusta National. And then he was gone by the weekend at the PGA Championship and the U.S. Open. He hasn't broken par since a 69 in the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship, and he needed that simply to make the cut.

His performance is starting to raise questions of how much longer he will play – how much longer he should play – to avoid lasting memories of a great champion slapping it around.

Leave it to Colin Montgomerie to put those thoughts into words found in a Times of London interview ahead of the British Open, when he said at one point, "What the hell is he doing?"

The entirety of what Montgomerie told the Times: "I hope people remember Tiger as Tiger was, the passion and the charismatic aura around him. There is none of that now. At Pinehurst he did not seem to enjoy a single shot and you think, 'What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and he won't enjoy it there, either."

Woods already has enjoyed one aspect of his stay at Royal Troon. That came Tuesday when he was asked about Montgomerie's comments. Woods relishes a chance to push back on criticism, particularly when the source is someone known for never winning a major.

"Well, as a past champion, I'm exempt until I'm 60," Woods said, speaking to his time at the British Open. "Colin's not. He's not a past champion, so he's not exempt. So he doesn't get the opportunity to make that decision. I do."

It brought up memories of an Open tradition some 20 years ago. Stewart McDougal was the press officer at the time, and he would ask Open champions who came into the press centre to sign the table. At the end of the week, McDougal auctioned off the table for charity.

Montgomerie came in one day, saw all the signatures on the table and reached for pen.

"I'm sorry, Colin," McDougal told him. "It's only for Open champions."

Poor Monty.

The questions are fair enough, but there is something to be said about golfers being able to decide when their time is done. And given all that Woods has done in the game, it's probably not the best idea to show him the door no matter what numbers he is posting.

His 82 in the third round of the Masters was his highest in a major. The 78 on the Old Course two years ago in what likely will be his final time at St. Andrews.

He still draws the biggest crowd and generates the loudest buzz. And two numbers worth remembering are four and 15. He had four surgeries on his lower back, the last one to fuse his spine, and two years later he won his 15th major at the Masters.

Another number worth noting is 59 – the age of Tom Watson when he was an eight-foot par putt away from winning the British Open at Turnberry in 2009. The year before, Greg Norman was 53 when he had the 54-hole lead at Royal Birkdale.

Courses for the U.S. majors might be getting too big for the 48-year-old Woods, whose body is held together by hardware. But there is something about links golf that is timeless.

"The older you get, the less you can carry the golf ball," Woods said. "But over here, you can run the golf ball 100 yards if you get the right wind and the right trajectory. ... You can play on the ground. You can burn it on the ground with a 1-iron, 2-iron, 3-wood, whatever."

"I think that's one of the reasons why you see older champions up there on the board because they're not forced to have to carry the ball 320 yards."

Woods always will be linked with Augusta National because of his watershed win at the age of 21 when he won the 1997 Masters by 12 shots, and it is the major he has won the most times. But for all his power as a younger man, no one hit irons like Woods. The flight of his shots was ideal for links golf. It still is.

Woods showed up Tuesday wearing shorts, with a black compression sleeve covering his right leg. That was a clear reminder that age isn't as big an issue as health. Woods has been forthright in explaining his dilemma. His body won't allow him to play a full schedule, and when he shows up at the majors, he has to deal with competitive rust.

He could play more and risk not playing where it matters. That's something he will have to sort out. And it was telling that the PGA Tour created an exemption category exclusively for him to play in the US\$20-million signature events by adding him to the field – he wouldn't be taking a spot away from another player.

How much he plays next year will be worth watching. In the meantime, Woods has been at Royal Troon since Sunday. He has high hopes. Maybe they are unrealistic based on the scores he is posting, but they are his hopes.

"There is a time for all sportsmen to say goodbye, but it's very difficult to tell Tiger it's time to go," Montgomerie said. "Obviously, he still feels he can win. We are more realistic."

The truth is probably somewhere in between. But perhaps Woods still feels he can win because unlike Montgomerie, he has done it before.

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Tiger Woods works on his game on during Monday's practice round for the British Open. Woods last broke par with a 69 on Day 2 of the 2022 PGA Championship. PETER MORRISON/AP

Choinière focused on CF Montreal – for now

Central midfielder's name is circulating in transfer rumours after he reportedly requested a trade from the club

DANIEL RAINBIRD MONTREAL

Back from his appearance at the Copa America, Canadian international Mathieu Choinière is focused on giving his best effort for CF Montreal – as long as he's here.

The central midfielder's name is circulating in transfer rumours after he reportedly requested a trade from the club in May because of an impasse in contract negotiations.

"I am here in Montreal, I have a contract here, and I will continue to play my matches. If the coach calls on me, I will be there," Choinière said Tuesday at Centre Nutrilait, CF Montreal's training facility.

"For now, I'm here and will give it my all."

GiveMeSport's Tom Bogert reported Monday that Choinière still wants out of Montreal and that plenty of Major League Soccer clubs are interested as the transfer window opens in North America. The Canadian transfer period opened Friday, while United States-based teams can start making transactions Thursday.

Choinière, from Quebec City, is under contract through the end of the season and Montreal holds a club option for 2025, but the homegrown talent who had a US\$250,000 base salary last year appears to be seeking a raise.

The 25-year-old's profile has grown in recent years, and weeks. Choinière was named Montreal's MVP last season after a breakout campaign of five goals and five assists in 28 MLS games. This year, he has two goals and three assists in 15 games.

He also played 90 minutes against world-class midfielders and scored in the shootout Saturday during Canada's 4-3 penalty kicks loss to Uruguay in the Copa America's third-place game.

Despite the rumours, Montreal head coach Laurent Courtois confirmed Choinière will play in his return from the Copa on Wednesday as Montreal (6-9-8) visits New York Red Bulls (9-4-10). Fellow Canadians Samuel Piette and Joel Waterman also rejoined the club this week.

Courtois said Choinière is an essential piece to his team.

"He wants to give everything for his club, and I need Mathieu, not only for his versatility but also for the mentality and identity we want to have here," Courtois said.

Choinière is open about eventually hoping to bring his talents to Europe.

"It's my dream," he said.

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Sports in brief

ALMONDO SEWELL RETURNS TO EDMONTON ELKS AS THEIR DEFENSIVE LINE COACH

EDMONTON Almondo Sewell is back with the Edmonton Elks. Sewell rejoined the CFL franchise Tuesday as its defensive line coach. He replaces Nate O'Neal, who resigned. Sewell's return to Edmonton comes after Chris Jones was fired as head coach and general manager on Monday. Offensive co-ordinator/quarterback coach Jarious Jackson was named interim head coach while assistant GM Geroy Simon takes over general manager duties, also on an interim basis. Sewell was a defensive lineman with Edmonton 2011-2019 and helped the club win a Grey Cup under Jones in 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SINGER INGRID ANDRESS SAYS SHE WAS DRUNK DURING HOME RUN DERBY ANTHEM PERFORMANCE, WILL GET TREATMENT

After a widely panned performance of the U.S. national anthem at the MLB Home Run Derby, country singer Ingrid Andress apologized Tuesday and said she was drunk. "I'm checking myself into a facility today to get the help I need," she wrote in an Instagram post. "That was not me last night. I apologize to MLB, all the fans, and this country I love so much for that rendition." The MLB is not commenting, spokesperson Matt Bourne said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMBERS OF ROCK BAND TRAGICALLY HIP NAMED HONORARY GRAND MARSHALS FOR HONDA INDY

Members of Canadian rock band The Tragically Hip have been named honorary grand marshals for the upcoming Ontario Dealers Honda Indy, organizers of the Toronto IndyCar race announced Tuesday. Guitarists Paul Langlois and Rob Baker, bassist Gord Sinclair and drummer Johnny Fay will be on the starting grid as part of pre-race festivities and will give the order for drivers to start their engines. The Honda Indy runs Sunday at Toronto's Exhibition Place. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BLUES' TOREY KRUG COULD MISS SEASON AFTER PREARTHRTIC CHANGES DIAGNOSIS IN LEFT ANKLE

ST. LOUIS St. Louis Blues defenceman Torey Krug is in danger of missing the entire 2024-25 NHL season after being diagnosed with prearthritic changes in his left ankle. The team announced Tuesday that Krug will work to rehabilitate the injury without surgery over the next six to eight weeks before being re-evaluated. If an operation is needed, the 33-year-old would be out for the season. Krug is considered out indefinitely. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOE (JELLYBEAN) BRYANT, THE FATHER OF KOBE BRYANT, DIES AT 69

PHILADELPHIA Joe (Jellybean) Bryant, the father of the late Basketball Hall of Famer Kobe Bryant, has died, his alma mater announced Tuesday. Bryant, who spent eight seasons in the NBA with three different franchises, was 69. The Philadelphia Inquirer, citing La Salle coach Fran Dunphy, reported that Joe Bryant recently had a massive stroke. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CF MONTREAL SIGNS RIGHT BACK DAWID BUGAJ THROUGH AT LEAST 2026

MONTREAL CF Montreal signed Norwegian-Polish fullback Dawid Bugaj to a contract through 2026 on Tuesday. The deal includes two additional option years for 2027 and 2028. Bugaj joins from Italian third-division club SPAL. The 20-year-old made his professional debut with Norway's Molde FK 2 before signing with SPAL in 2020. The six-foot right back was lent to second-division Polish club Lechia Gdansk in July, 2023, and had two assists in 27 games last season. The signing comes after Montreal added left back Tom Pearce when the Canadian transfer window opened on July 12. The secondary transfer window runs through Aug. 8 in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LINDSEY HARDING WILL BE LOS ANGELES LAKERS' FIRST FEMALE ASSISTANT COACH, AP SOURCE SAYS

LOS ANGELES Lindsey Harding is joining JJ Redick's coaching staff with the Los Angeles Lakers, a person with knowledge of the decision told the Associated Press on Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Lakers haven't publicly announced Redick's first coaching staff, which also includes former NBA head coaches Nate McMillan and Scott Brooks. Harding will be the 17-time NBA champion team's first female assistant coach. The 40-year-old Harding was the G League's coach of the year last season with the Stockton Kings, becoming the first woman to win the award. AP

RAPTORS SIGN OHIO STATE FORWARD JAMISON BATTLE

The Toronto Raptors have signed Ohio State forward Jamison Battle, who is coming off a superb season in the Big Ten. The 6-foot-7 Battle, a native of Robbinsdale, Minn., averaged 15.3 points, 5.2 rebounds and 31.4 minutes in 35 games as a fifth-year senior at Ohio State last season. Battle shot .469 (179-of-382) from the field and a career-best .433 (91-of-210) from beyond the arc, which ranked second in the Big Ten and ninth nationally. Battle also led the Big Ten in free-throw percentage at .926 (88-of-95). THE CANADIAN PRESS

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

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MELISSA EMERSON

Melissa Emerson, born in 1941, died peacefully, with her family at her bedside on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston, Ontario.

Melissa, devoted and loving wife of Garfield Emerson, was mother of Melissa Hylton and of Taylor Emerson; "Nana" to grandchildren, Slater, Minnie and Harriet Hylton; and sister of Ann Turner. Melissa's life was attuned to the eternal verities and values of human existence. Her first care was for her family. Her familial loyalty to her parents, Dr. Alan Taylor and Wilhelmina Taylor (née Slater) of Windsor, Ontario, extended beyond their passing. Following her first high school dates with Garfield in 1958, she pursued her own career and graduated from Toronto General Hospital as a nurse in 1963. Following their marriage in 1964 and working as a senior nurse at Sick Kids Hospital in ophthalmology, she supported Garfield as he pursued his legal education to graduation. On the birth of daughter, Melissa, and then son, Taylor, Melissa left a promising nursing career to become an at-home mother to raise her children. Her thoughts never wandered from maternal concerns for the welfare and wellbeing of her children and grandchildren to the time of her passing. "When's Missy coming?" "Where's Taylor?" "What are the grandchildren doing?" she would inquire almost daily.

Melissa's personality was joyful. She welcomed life's unfolding adventures and tribulations with positivity, optimistic cheerfulness, inquisitiveness, and steadfast determination, always with a natural, unpretentious friendliness to all. While not an extrovert, she enjoyed social and fun gatherings. Family birthdays and Christmas celebrations were extravagant occasions. Outside her family, Melissa became close friends with many with whom she associated, numerous of whom confided in her for her frankness and commonsense approach. Humanity, humour, generosity, and life enjoyment founded her many personal relationships with her diverse friends and those she met.

Urban born, raised and educated, with childhood summers at Muskoka's Lake Rosseau, Melissa's life changed culturally when Garfield bought a windswept 100-acre agricultural farmstead in Mulmur Township with a sole tree and a solitary 19th-century Victorian brick house standing starkly in the open fields. Without hesitation, she accepted the challenges. An active member of the Toronto Garden Club, Melissa transformed the arable fields into country estate property over the next 43 years. Extensive gardens were designed to surround the main buildings. Thousands of trees, more than 40 species, were planted, springs released, ponds dug, and dry-stone walls positioned. With the main home re-reconstructed and furnished with her interior design talents, a second house was built for family. The dismantled barn foundation, first converted into a stonewalled garden, was, with the coming of grandchildren, repurposed at her direction into a pool house and inground swimming pool for their enticement and enjoyment.

During her final year, Melissa welcomed, without unease, the personal and loving attention she received from her several caregivers, to whom she expressed her warm thankfulness daily. Melissa, from her wheelchair, regularly asked, them, "How can I help?"

Melissa Emerson was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto, at a private family graveside ceremony officiated by Timothy Eaton Memorial Church. A reception to honour her and her memory will be held at the York Club, Toronto, on the afternoon of Friday, September 20, 2024.

Melissa's family has endowed the Melissa Emerson Horticulture Fund to promote horticultural community activities and research and to provide scholarships, bursaries, and awards to students enrolled in horticulture and related courses at Canadian educational institutions. In remembrance of Melissa, tax-receipted donations may be made to the Fund at www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/102830.

DEATHS

HELEN MARY BANFILL

April 30, 1938 - May 14, 2024

With sadness, her family advises of the passing of Helen Banfill on May 14, 2024, at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, due to Parkinson's Disease.

Helen was predeceased by her parents, Joan and Ewart Marston of Port Hope, Ontario; her sister, Joyce Marston; and her son, Paul. Helen is survived by her husband of 56 years, John; her brother, Donald Marston; her daughters, Tara and Amy; many grandchildren and extended family.

Helen had many interests and a lifelong love of learning. She enjoyed travel, the family cottage, lawn bowling and most of all, spending time with family and friends.

Cremation has taken place. A funeral service will be held on July 24th at 11 a.m. at St. Clement's Church, 70 St. Clements Avenue, Toronto.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to a charity of your choice in Helen's name would be appreciated.

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FUNERAL SERVICES



TUESDAY
GERWITZ, David - 11:00 Pardes Chaim Cemetery.
SUNSHINE, Teena - 11:00 Mount Sinai Memorial Park.
SYLVER, Allan - 12:30 Chapel.

WEDNESDAY
WEINSTEIN, Dyllon Elvis - See www.benjamins.ca for updates.
PARDO, Tania Anna - 10:00 Chapel.
WELLMAN, Barry - 2:00 Holy Blossom Memorial Park.

UPCOMING SERVICES
BLISS, Pam - See www.benjamins.ca for updates.

SHIVA
BAIN, Dr. Jerry - 235 Strathallan Wood.
GERWITZ, David - 295 Glencairn Avenue.
SUNSHINE, Teena - 1131 Steeles Ave. W, Event Room.
SYLVER, Allan - 69 Gustav Crescent.

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DEATHS



ELIZABETH HENTSCHEL
"Ellie"
1994 - 2024

With broken hearts we announce the death of Elizabeth (Ellie) Hentschel, who lost her long battle with addiction on July 7, 2024. Ellie was deeply loved by her parents, Betty DelBianco and Paul Hentschel, and her brother Eric. They will remember a brilliant, beautiful, talented and loving young woman who fought with courage and strength against the cruelty of lifelong mental health problems. Her loyalty, compassion and wicked sense of humour will be missed by her extended family - Bonnie DelBianco and Richard Peirce, Eric and Maria Hentschel, Andy and Gina DelBianco, Rob DelBianco, and cousins Kirsten, Meredith and Peter Hentschel and Mallore, Olivia, Evan and Sarah DelBianco and Carson and Cole Peirce - as well as her loyal and cherished friends. A private service will take place at a later date. Those who wish to do so are invited make a donation to the Toronto Humane Society.

MARIAN VICTORIA NELSON (NEE GRYS)

August 14, 1945 - July 12, 2024

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of Marian Victoria Nelson, on July 12, 2024. Marian died peacefully at her home in Toronto, surrounded by her family.

Marian was born in downtown Toronto, to Polish parents, John and Jenny Gryś, who owned a local grocery store, on Niagara Street. The Gryś family lived above the grocery store, where Marian and her two brothers, Henry Gryś and Ted Gryś, grew up.

Marian attended St. Joseph's College, and pursued secretarial studies, that led her to become a private secretary, to the Director of the Ontario Catholic Teachers' Association, a position she proudly held.

Marian married Paul Nelson, in 1967. Together they raised two loving children, Jeff and Linnea. Marian had a close relationship with her daughter-in-law, Anna, and adored her grandchildren, Isabella and Jaxson, who affectionately called her Babi ("babcia" meaning grandmother in Polish).

Marian will be remembered for her warm and friendly nature, for being a loving and devoted mom, and for the joy she received from her dear friends. She was very much loved and will be deeply missed. The family will hold a private memorial, at Mount Pleasant Funeral Centre, to honour Marian's life. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to the Odette Cancer Centre. Marian's family wishes to extend their gratitude to the medical team who provided exceptional care during her illness.

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MARTY PAVELICH

PRO ATHLETE, 96

FORWARD WON FOUR STANLEY CUPS WITH DETROIT RED WINGS DYNASTY

He was regarded as one of the best checking forwards of his era, an energetic and fast-skating left winger whose assignment it was to keep rivals off the scoresheet

TOM HAWTHORN

For hockey stars of the 1950s, the only thing clingier than their hockey sweater was Marty Pavelich.

Mr. Pavelich, who has died at 96, was regarded as one of the best checking forwards of his era, an energetic and fast-skating left winger whose assignment it was to keep rivals off the scoresheet.

The forward won four Stanley Cup championships with a Detroit Red Wings dynasty remembered for the scoring of Gordie Howe, the defensive play of Red Kelly and the goaltending of Terry Sawchuk.

While Mr. Pavelich was overshadowed by teammates, he revelled in his role as a shadow of opposing scorers, most notably as an ardent foe of Maurice (Rocket) Richard of the Montreal Canadiens. The pair — a little-known role player versus hockey's most dynamic player — conducted a long-running feud. The checker knew he faced a determined scorer in the Rocket.

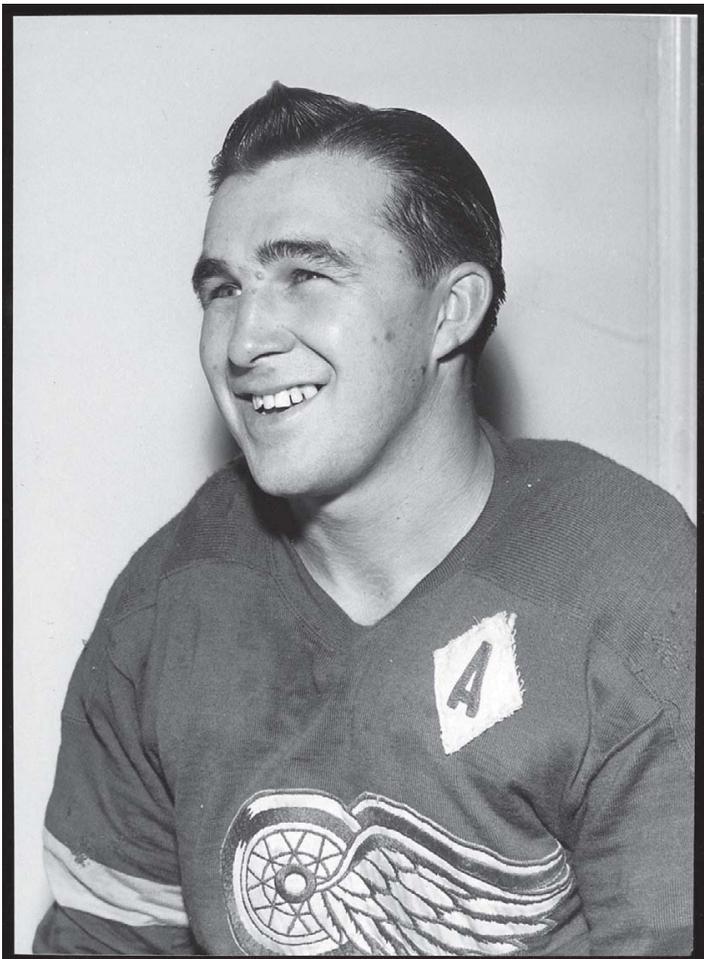
"He had arms and forearms on him like steel and his eyes flashed when he streaked to the net," Mr. Pavelich told Tom Keenan of the Sault Star newspaper in 2010. "It was my job to stop him, and I worked all my life to hone my skills."

A top goal scorer himself in junior hockey, Mr. Pavelich was assigned checking duties when promoted to the Red Wings during the 1947-48 season. He quit after 10 seasons when management threatened a demotion to the minors as part of a purge of players seen to be in favour of a union. Mr. Pavelich then went on to have success as a supplier of plastic products to the automotive industry in the Motor City.

Martin Nicholas Pavelich was born on Nov. 6, 1927, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., to the former Zora Stilin, known as Rose, and Matthew Pavelich, a miner born in what is now Croatia. When Marty was aged 9, his father suffered a serious injury in the Parkhill Gold Mine when his drill caused dynamite left behind by others to explode. His face was peppered by rock fragments, and he suffered serious head injuries. He died 19 months later. Rose Pavelich remarried and Marty grew up in a blended family.

Marty Pavelich was educated at Sault Technical School, where he was known as a skier and hockey player. He later became a well-known catcher, third baseman and occasional pitcher as playing manager of the Lock City Beverages senior baseball team.

Signed to the Red Wings organization



Marty Pavelich scored 93 goals with 159 assists in 633 NHL games and was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. THE GLOBE AND MAIL

while still a teenager, he played junior hockey for three seasons in Galt, now part of Cambridge, Ont. A prolific goal scorer, he was promoted to the minor-league Indianapolis Capitals. After just 26 games, he was promoted again to the parent club to replace an injured Eddie Bruneteau as a utility forward, making his National Hockey League debut a month after his 20th birthday.

The 5-foot-11 (180 centimetre), 168-pound (76 kilogram) forward scored his first NHL goal in just his second game after batting a loose puck past Chicago's

Emile (The Cat) Francis when a Gordie Howe pass bounced off a Chicago defender.

In 1952, Detroit coach Tommy Ivan placed Mr. Pavelich on a line with centre Glen Skov and right winger Tony (Mighty Mouse) Leswick. The trio became the league's most formidable checking unit, assigned to play against the other team's top line, as well as handling penalty kills.

Since all three had been solid scorers in junior hockey, they not only stifled rivals but occasionally scored important goals themselves, notably Mr. Leswick's winner

against Montreal in overtime of Game 7 to settle the 1954 Stanley Cup championship.

Mr. Pavelich was part of eight Red Wings teams to win the Prince of Wales Trophy as the top team in the NHL regular season. He won the Stanley Cup with Detroit in 1950, '52, '54 and '55.

Management made a series of trades and demotions after they learned players, led by Detroit's Ted Lindsay, were trying to form a union. When Mr. Pavelich was offered a contract in which he could be returned to the minors, he decided to retire from hockey instead. The two players were partners in the Lindsay-Pavelich Corporation, a plastics firm that supplied the automotive industry.

In 633 NHL games, he scored 93 goals with 159 assists. He had another 13 goals and 15 assists in 91 playoff games.

He was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Pavelich's younger brother, Matt, began a long career as an NHL linesman in 1956, making them what is believed to be the first player-official brother combination in the NHL. Two months later, the NHL hired Mr. Pavelich's linemate's brother, Art Skov, as a linesman.

Mr. Pavelich died on June 27 in Flower Mound, Tex. Earlier this year, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was predeceased by his second wife, Marjorie, who died in 2015, at the age of 84. He was also predeceased by his first wife, the former Anna Jean Eberlein, known as Jake, who died in 1970, at the age of 39, as well as by two sisters and a brother. He leaves three adult children, three grandchildren and two brothers, including Matt Pavelich, the first linesman to be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

At the time of his death, Mr. Pavelich was the last living member of the 1950 Red Wings championship team. He was also the second oldest former NHL player behind 101-year-old Steve Wochy, who played 19 games for the Red Wings the season before Mr. Pavelich made his debut.

He retired to Montana in the early 1990s to indulge a passion for skiing and fly-fishing. After church on Sunday, he would go skating on a small outdoor rink. Over time, a grassroots organization raised funds for a large outdoor rink with players' benches, overhead lights and a second-hand Zamboni. It was named the Marty Pavelich Ice Rink in honour of the hockey player who hung up his skates only four years ago at the age of 92.

Special to The Globe and Mail

PETER BUXTUN

PUBLIC-HEALTH WORKER, 86

Whistle-blower revealed U.S. let Black men go untreated for syphilis

MIKE STOBBE NEW YORK

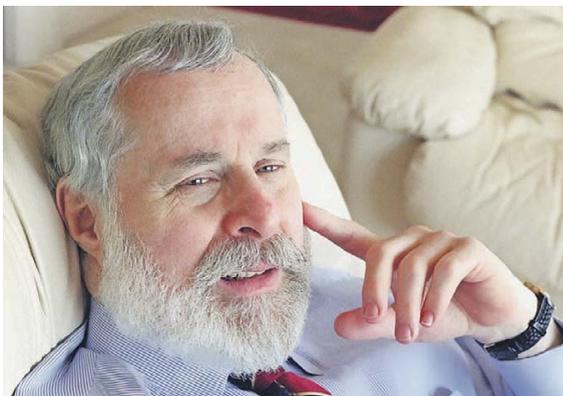
Peter Buxtun, the whistle-blower who revealed that the U.S. government allowed hundreds of Black men in rural Alabama to go untreated for syphilis in what became known as the Tuskegee study, has died. He was 86.

Mr. Buxtun died May 18 of Alzheimer's disease in Rocklin, Calif., according to his lawyer, Minna Fernan.

Mr. Buxtun is revered as a hero to public-health scholars and ethicists for his role in bringing to light the most notorious medical research scandal in U.S. history. Documents that Mr. Buxtun provided to the Associated Press, and its subsequent investigation and reporting, led to a public outcry that ended the study in 1972.

Forty years earlier, in 1932, federal scientists began studying 400 Black men in Tuskegee, Ala., who were infected with syphilis. When antibiotics became available in the 1940s that could treat the disease, federal health officials ordered that the drugs be withheld. The study became an observation of how the disease ravaged the body over time.

In the mid-1960s, Mr. Buxtun was a federal public-health employee working in San Francisco when he overheard a co-worker talking about the study. The research wasn't exactly a secret — about a dozen medical journal articles about it had been published in the previous 20 years.



In his complaints to federal health officials, Peter Buxtun drew comparisons between the Tuskegee study and medical experiments Nazi doctors had conducted on Jews and other prisoners. LIZ HAFALIA/AP

But hardly anyone had raised any concerns about how the experiment was being conducted.

"This study was completely accepted by the American medical community," said Ted Pestorius of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, speaking at a 2022 program marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the study.

Mr. Buxtun had a different reaction. After learning more about the study, he raised ethical concerns in a 1966 letter to officials at the CDC. In 1967, he was summoned to a meeting in Atlanta, where he was chewed out by agency officials for what they deemed to be impertinence. Repeatedly, agency leaders rejected

his complaints and his call for the men in Tuskegee to be treated.

He left the U.S. Public Health Service and attended law school, but the study ate at him. In 1972, he provided documents about the research to Edith Lederer, an AP reporter he had met in San Francisco. Ms. Lederer passed the documents to AP investigative reporter Jean Heller, telling her colleague, "I think there might be something here."

Ms. Heller's story was published on July 25, 1972, leading to Congressional hearings, a class-action lawsuit that resulted in a US\$10-million settlement and the study's termination about four months later. In 1997, president Bill Clinton formally apol-

ogized for the study, calling it "shameful."

The leader of a group dedicated to the memory of the study participants said they are grateful to Mr. Buxtun for exposing the experiment.

"We are thankful for his honesty and his courage," said Lille Tyson Head, whose father was in the study.

Mr. Buxtun was born in Prague in 1937. His father was Jewish, and his family immigrated to the U.S. in 1939 from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, eventually settling in Irish Bend, Ore., on the Columbia River.

In his complaints to federal health officials, he drew comparisons between the Tuskegee study and medical experiments Nazi doctors had conducted on Jews and other prisoners. Federal scientists didn't believe they were guilty of the same kind of moral and ethical sins, but after the Tuskegee study was exposed, the government put in place new rules about how it conducts medical research. Today, the study is often blamed for the unwillingness of some African Americans to participate in medical research.

"Peter's life experiences led him to immediately identify the study as morally indefensible and to seek justice in the form of treatment for the men. Ultimately, he could not relent," said the CDC's Mr. Pestorius.

Mr. Buxtun attended the University of Oregon, served in the U.S. Army as a combat medic and psychiatric social worker

and joined the federal health service in 1965.

Mr. Buxtun went on to write, give presentations and win awards for his involvement in the Tuskegee study. A global traveller, he collected and sold antiques, especially military weapons and swords and gambling equipment from California's Gold Rush era.

He also spent more than 20 years trying to recover his family's properties confiscated by the Nazis and was partly successful.

"Peter was wise, witty, classy and unceasingly generous," said David M. Golden, a close friend of Mr. Buxtun's for more than 25 years. "He was a staunch advocate for personal freedoms and spoke often against prohibition, whether it be drugs, prostitution or firearms."

Another longtime friend Angie Baillie said she attended many of Mr. Buxtun's presentations about Tuskegee.

"Peter never ended a single talk without fighting back tears," she said.

Mr. Buxtun himself could be self-effacing about his actions, saying he did not anticipate the vitriolic reaction of some health officials when he started questioning the study's ethics.

At a Johns Hopkins University forum in 2018, Mr. Buxtun was asked where he got the moral strength to blow the whistle.

"It wasn't strength," he said. "It was stupidity."

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