

## Zelensky says goal in Kursk to create buffer as Ukraine hits two bridges

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Sunday the daring military incursion into Russia's Kursk region aims to create a buffer zone to prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border.

It was the first time Mr. Zelensky clearly stated the aim of the operation, which was launched earlier this month. Previously, he had said the operation aimed to protect communities in the bordering Sumy region from constant shelling.

"It is now our primary task in defensive operations over all: to destroy as much Russian war potential as possible and conduct maximum counteroffensive actions," Mr. Zelensky said in his nightly address. "This includes creating a buffer zone on the aggressor's territory — our operation in the Kursk region."

This weekend, Ukraine destroyed a key bridge in the region and struck a second one nearby, disrupting supply lines as it pressed a stunning cross-border incursion that began Aug. 6, officials said.

Pro-Kremlin military bloggers acknowledged that the destruction of the first bridge on the Seim River near the town of Glushkovo will impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces repelling Ukraine's incursion, although Moscow could still use pontoons and smaller bridges. Ukraine's air force chief, Lieutenant-General Mykola Oleshchuk, released a video on Friday of an air strike that cut the bridge in two.

■ BUFFER, A7

## Ontario's legal regulator can take years to hear cases against lawyers

MARIYA POSTELNYAK

People who complain to the Law Society of Ontario about lawyers alleged to have acted unethically, unlawfully or who were incapable of providing proper counsel can wait more than 2½ years before their case is argued in front of a panel.

A law society committee report provided to The Globe and Mail shows that serious and complex cases can take 940 days on average to be referred for regulatory action, which can involve a hearing and may include disbarment.

In addition, the report also shows sizable backlogs for all complaints received, with the number rising to 6,488 in 2023 from 5,813 in 2022.

For those cases with evidence of significant risk to the public, the law society has made efforts to implement interim suspensions while investigations are in progress. But delays can mean that the lawyers in question are able to continue to practise without potential repercussions, and those who complain are often left in limbo, raising questions about the effectiveness of the regulatory body.

In 2023, out of 130 matters referred to the proceedings authorization committee, which deals with serious and complex cases, just eight were authorized for interim licence suspension.

The law society's disciplinary procedures are in the spotlight in the wake of the death of Arash Missaghi.

■ BACKLOG, A15



A woman lights candles in Amritsar, India, on Sunday in honour of a 31-year-old resident doctor who was found dead at a hospital in Calcutta earlier this month with extensive injuries and signs of sexual assault. NARINDER NANU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## MEDICAL WORKERS RALLY FOR REFORM

Indian women lead tens of thousands in call for greater protections in health care after resident doctor's rape and killing exposes systemic issues ■ A3

### SECRET CANADA

## How transparent is your city? Audit of access requests finds vast differences

TOM CARDOSO  
ROBYN DOOLITTLE  
YANG SUN  
MAHIMA SINGH

Trash pickup. Bus routes. Snow clearing. Libraries, pools, parks.

The municipal governments behind Canada's cities, towns and villages play an outsize role in people's day-to-day lives. A federal immigration policy change can take years to be felt in a community, after all, but if the garbage truck doesn't show, you're likely to notice.

Much like their federal and provincial counterparts, municipalities across the country must adhere to freedom of information (FOI) laws, which are intended to promote transparency by allowing individuals to request documents from public institutions. These laws require institutions to disclose requested information with limited exceptions.

But a Globe and Mail audit of Canada's 53 largest municipalities has found vast



Former Edmonton FOI director Kristan Cook says municipalities follow the same access rules as higher levels of government. MEGAN ALBU/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

differences in how local governments perform on FOI. While they completed access requests in 25 days, on average — twice as fast as provincial and territorial ministries, and more than three times as quickly as federal departments — some cities

still took much longer, including Edmonton (69 days), Hamilton (66) and Greater Sudbury (50). The audit also reveals that some municipalities apply redactions much more heavily than others. Mississauga, for instance, released 78 per cent of its files in full — that is, without any redactions whatsoever. Halifax, by comparison, released just 2 per cent of its files in full.

To assemble this national picture of municipal access performance, The Globe filed requests to every municipality in Canada with a population of at least 100,000 people, asking for data on FOIs completed between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. The findings reflect the performance of 53 municipalities across eight provinces. (Three additional cities — Thunder Bay, Lévis, Que., and Ajax, Ont. — were excluded from the analysis because they said they had no FOI tracking system, claimed they could not produce the requested information or provided incomplete data.)

■ MUNICIPALITIES, A8

## Ready to roll: Artificial turf is taking root on schoolyards, and even winning over some skeptics

JOE FRIESEN  
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REPORTER

Grass holds a special place in the imagery of education. Picture a schoolyard or a university campus, and it's likely that mental snapshot includes a lush, well-kept, green lawn. The grass is a canvas for the games of childhood, a place where kids can run and play.

Today, there's a growing chance the orderly green space in the schoolyard is not grass, but artificial turf.

A little more than a decade ago, Richard Christie, the senior manager responsible for sustainability at the Toronto District School Board, was asked to look into artificial turf. He assumed he'd be against the idea.

The handful of turf fields already built at local schools at that point were perceived by administrators as a costly luxury pushed by wealthy parents. And from an environmental perspective, replacing natural grass with a plastic carpet, no matter how grass-like, just seemed like a bad idea.

But his view soon changed. The board was spending a lot on maintenance at the 30 or so schools where grass

never seemed to grow, he recalled. Barren fields would get fresh sod and be fenced off and unusable for months. Once the fences came down, the fields would be bald again in no time.

"We kept going back to the same 30 to 40 schools," Mr. Christie said. "It made no sense."

He decided that artificial turf, despite the environmental drawbacks and upfront cost, could be part of the solution. Once installed, the new artificial turf fields attracted a huge amount of use, inside and outside school hours.

■ TURF, A6

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Explore our national database of freedom of information requests [SecretCanada.com](https://www.secretcanada.com)

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## MOMENT IN TIME

NEWS PHOTO ARCHIVE



CP PHOTO/COC

1968: MIGHTY MOUSE  
WINS THREE MEDALS

For more than 100 years, photographers and photo editors working for *The Globe and Mail* have preserved an extraordinary collection of news photography. Every Monday, *The Globe* features one of these images. This month, we're showcasing Canadians at the Summer Olympics.

Generations before Canadian teenager Summer McIntosh lit up the Olympic swimming pool, there was Elaine Tanner. Ms. Tanner, nicknamed Mighty Mouse because of her just-over-5-foot frame and competitive nature, won practically everything in international swimming before the 1968 Mexico City Games and

therefore carried extra baggage of being Canada's top pick for a gold medal. She was 17. In her first race, the 100-metre backstroke, she felt crushed by the pressure of not wanting to let Canada down. She finished second – by 0.05 seconds – to win the silver. In the women's 4x100-metre, her team won bronze. And in the 200-metre backstroke final, she won another silver. She didn't let Canada down. Three medals at an Olympics – against the world's best – are worth celebrating, as Ms. Tanner is doing in the photo above. How would Ms. Tanner fare against Ms. McIntosh and other Canadian swimming phenoms now? Likely not very well, but then again she is 73.

PHILIP KING

## COLUMNISTS

DEBRA  
THOMPSON

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OPINION



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OPINION

Our border agency wants to increase import taxes. This will hurt Canadian trade ■ B4

## CORRECTION

A Saturday news article about the limited access to Toronto Island Park incorrectly stated that the provincial government owns part of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport's land. The city owns part of the airport land and the federal government, the rest.

Toronto area sees record-setting downpour,  
Montreal braces for potential flooding

IAN BICKIS

Several Southern Ontario communities saw more rain on Sunday and braced for still more wet weather a day after a storm soaked the region and broke at least one precipitation record.

Heavy rainfall warnings from Environment Canada remained in effect for a region that includes the Greater Toronto Area, with more than 100 millimetres of precipitation expected in some places. In Toronto, the agency said the ground has little ability to absorb further rainfall after torrential downpours drenched the city on Saturday.

Saturday's downpour dumped 128.3 mm of rain at Toronto Pearson Airport. That topped the 2013 record of 126 mm recorded at the airport, which is on tap for its rainiest summer ever. "It's fair to say that this has been a record-breaking season," said Environment Canada meteorologist Trudy Kidd.

Ms. Kidd said seasonal data aren't always complete, but available numbers already make the outcome clear. The previous record for summer rainfall stood at 396.2 mm, but Ms. Kidd said the airport has already seen 475.7 mm this season.

The weekend rain in the region



People shelter under a tent at Woodbine Racetrack to escape heavy rain that resulted in the cancellation of part of the King's Plate in Toronto on Saturday. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE CANADIAN PRESS

is part of a larger storm system that wreaked havoc in Southern Ontario on Saturday.

The rain triggered numerous road closings in the Toronto area and stranded several vehicles in deep water, Toronto police said.

Toronto Pearson Airport said airlines are still recovering from Saturday's storms, flights delayed and terminals bustling with carry-over passengers from the day before.

The city of Mississauga saw localized flooding owing to the rain on Saturday, with the weather

disrupting traffic and causing the closing of some local parks and trails.

Meanwhile, more heavy downpours were expected in Montreal and other parts of Quebec that are still recovering from record-breaking rainfall nine days ago.

Environment Canada says the heavy rain could cause flooding in low-lying areas already saturated from the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby that hit the province earlier this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Canada expels Uganda's top diplomat

High commissioner Ruth Acheng required to leave by Wednesday after confrontation with protesters in Ottawa, Ugandan official says

GEOFFREY YORK  
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF  
JOHANNESBURG

Canada has ordered the expulsion of Uganda's top diplomat in Ottawa after she angrily confronted a group of protesters near Parliament Hill and threatened to call the police on them, Ugandan media say.

Ruth Acheng, the Ugandan high commissioner to Canada, will be required to leave the country by Wednesday, according to a Ugandan cabinet minister, Henry Okello Oryem, who was quoted in New Vision, a leading state-owned newspaper.

He said Canada had declared Ms. Acheng persona non grata —

effectively requiring her departure — because of “many unresolved issues.” Her shouting match with the Ugandan protesters in Ottawa was the final factor that led to the expulsion, he told New Vision, adding that he was “extremely disappointed” with the Canadian decision.

Canada's Global Affairs Department did not confirm or deny the report, citing the need to protect “confidential state-to-state communications.”

Global Affairs Canada spokesperson John Babcock, in response to questions from The Globe and Mail, declined to discuss the matter, but said: “A decision to declare a foreign representative ‘persona non grata’ is not one that is taken lightly.”

Ms. Acheng was appointed to her diplomatic post by the government of President Yoweri Museveni, who has ruled Uganda for more than 38 years after seizing power in a military rebellion. His police and security forces have become notorious for crushing protests and jailing and killing opposition supporters.

In a video that went viral on Uganda's social media, Ms. Acheng is seen furiously shouting at a dozen supporters of a Ugandan opposition party, the National Unity Platform (NUP), on a street in downtown Ottawa, across from Parliament Hill, earlier this month.

[Ruth] Acheng was appointed to her diplomatic post by the government of President Yoweri Museveni, who has ruled Uganda for more than 38 years after seizing power in a military rebellion.

At one point in the confrontation, she tells the protesters that she will “send for the police to kick you out of here.”

The protesters respond to her: “Do it. This is not Uganda.”

At another point, the

protesters tell Ms. Acheng that opposition activists in Uganda are being abducted — a reference to the disappearance and death of a number of activists.

The high commissioner shouts at them: “The problem is that you abduct yourselves. ... Stop abducting yourselves, stop killing yourselves.”

The protesters respond to this by bursting into laughter.

Ms. Acheng later posted an excerpt from the video on her own social-media account, showing one of her supporters arguing with the protesters, along with a separate video of her marching in the official yellow colours of Uganda's ruling party. “We are ready for hooligans and liars, Canada is not your place,” she wrote in another post on the same day.

A Uganda opposition MP, Nkunyinyi Muwada, said the NUP welcomed the Canadian decision to expel Ms. Acheng. Speaking to journalists on the weekend, he criticized the high commissioner for “engaging in partisan politics” and causing “diplomatic embarrassment.”

In recent years, the Ugandan government has sparked global criticism by criminalizing homosexuality and approving an anti-gay law that authorizes lengthy prison terms and even the death penalty for “aggravated homosexuality.”

After the law was passed last year, the Canadian government denounced it as “a blatant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms” of LGBTQ Ugandans. The law could expose gay Ugandans to systematic persecution and violence, Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said at the time.

Mr. Babcock, while not commenting directly on the reported expulsion of the Ugandan diplomat, said Canada's relationship with Uganda remains unchanged.

“We will continue to engage constructively with Uganda on a broad range of issues such as promoting human rights, including the rights of LGBTQI+ Ugandans, democratic governance, supporting refugees in the region, and promoting regional security and stability,” he told The Globe.

## Famine looming in Yemen as hunger surges among children, report warns

SAMY MAGDY CAIRO, EGYPT

Famine is looming in four Yemeni districts after instances of hunger have rapidly surged among children in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, a report by international experts said.

All 117 districts in government-controlled areas are expected to suffer from “serious” levels of acute malnutrition. Among them, the four districts — Mawza and Mocha in Taiz province, and Hays and Khawkhah in Hodeida province — are projected to slip into famine between July and October this year, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC.

The report reflects the worsening food insecurity in the poorest Arab nation that plunged into civil war in 2014, when Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels took control of the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, forcing the government to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March, 2015, backed at the time by the U.S., in an effort to restore the internationally recognized government to power. The war has killed more than 150,000 people including civilians and combatants, and in recent years deteriorated largely into a stalemate and caused one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

About half of the country's population — or 18.2 million people — are in need of humanitarian aid this year, according to the United Nations.

The number of acutely malnourished children has increased by 34 per cent compared with last year, the report said. They include more than 18,500 children under 5 who are projected to be severely malnourished by the end of this year, it said. Additionally, the report found about 223,000 pregnant and lactating women are expected to be malnourished in 2024.

“The report confirms an alarming trend of acute malnutrition for children in Southern Yemen,” said the UNICEF representative to Yemen, Peter Hawkins. “To protect the most vulnerable women, girls and boys, an investment in and scale-up of prevention and treatment efforts are more critical than ever.”

The report attributed the sharp rise of malnutrition to the combined effects of cholera and measles outbreaks, high food insecurity, limited access to safe drinking water, economic decline and inadequate humanitarian aid — all are direct and indirect results of the decade-old war.

The IPC is a global partnership of 15 UN agencies and humanitarian organizations working in Yemen and funded by the European Union, the U.S. and Britain.

A famine is declared in an area when one in five people or households severely lack food and face starvation and destitution that would ultimately lead to critical levels of acute malnutrition and death.

“These findings should be a wake-up call that lives are at stake,” said Pierre Honnorat, the World Food Program director in Yemen. “It is critical to step up support to the most vulnerable who could sink deeper into food insecurity and malnutrition if current low levels of humanitarian funding persist.”

The report didn't address hunger conditions in the Houthi-controlled area apparently because of a lack of access. The rebels have in recent months launched a crackdown on United Nations agencies and aid groups, detaining dozens of workers.

Addressing the UN Security Council earlier this month, Lisa Doughten, a senior UN humanitarian official, said the Houthi measures negatively affected aid operations in areas under their control.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Displaced Yemenis affected by recent floods receive humanitarian aid on Friday. KHALED ZIAD/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Doctors shout slogans during a protest rally in New Delhi on Sunday, demanding justice after the rape and killing of a 31-year-old resident doctor at a hospital in Calcutta. PRIYANSHU SINGH/REUTERS

## Indian health care workers call for reform after rape and killing of doctor

NEHA BHATT NEW DELHI

The rape and killing of a 31-year-old resident doctor at a hospital in the West Bengal capital of Calcutta has sparked widespread outrage, mobilizing tens of thousands of medical trainees and doctors across India to demand justice and reform.

The incident prompted a 24-hour national strike by doctors, who withdrew all non-essential services at medical institutions on Saturday. Women led massive rallies, candlelight vigils and midnight marches, as slogans of “Reclaim the Night” and “We Want Justice” echoed through the streets, with protests spreading to London and New York.

The resident doctor was found dead in the early hours of Aug. 9 with extensive injuries and signs of sexual assault in a seminar room at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Calcutta where she was resting at night after a 36-hour shift.

The police have arrested a civic volunteer linked to the incident. However, the parents of the victim, who cannot be identified under Indian law, have alleged to the media that some of her colleagues were involved.

The attack has exposed underlying problems with India's medical training system, significant gaps in security for health care workers, and serious lapses in safety for women.

The Indian Medical Association has called it “a crime of barbaric scale” that has “shocked the conscience of the nation.” The IMA is urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene and implement measures to meet its demands, such as a total overhaul of working and living conditions for resident doctors, and additional infrastructure to ensure hospital-security protocol is “no less than an airport.”

Since India lacks a federal law to protect health care workers from violence, medical bodies such as the IMA, Federation of Resident Doctors' Association and the Junior Doctors' Network are demanding swift

implementation of legislation on the issue, which has been in limbo since it was introduced in parliament in 2022.

The incident has also highlighted the difficult conditions under which medical students and resident doctors work in India. A study by the IMA has found that more than 75 per cent of doctors have faced some form of violence at work.

“Next to nurses, resident doctors are the workhorses of the medical community,” R.V. Asokan, national president of the IMA, told The Globe and Mail. “They work long shifts, face patient mistrust and the constant threat of violence. A doctor being attacked on duty is not even news any more because it is so commonplace.”

Medical trainees are also increasingly vulnerable to taking their own life because of stress, and there is a pressing need to cap working hours and ensure proper rest and security for doctors, he added.

Rajsmitta Bhattacharjee, an assistant professor at a government medical college in the Punjab city of Mohali said the attack was even more horrifying because it happened in the resident's place of work.

“The conditions under which resident doctors work in government hospitals are deplorable,” she said. “There are no clean washrooms. Whatever areas are available to rest are infested with bed bugs and rats.”

“Resident doctors are often overburdened especially in emergency wards, with one doctor looking after more than 10 patients on a 24-hour-duty shift. I now fear for my sister's safety too, who works in a government hospital and does two night shifts a week.”

With a growing sense of insecurity, particularly among female doctors who make up about 65 per cent of the profession, there are greater demands for better monitoring of sexual harassment and violence in health systems.

There has also been an outpouring of stories from doctors

and medical students.

Kanika Sharma, a general surgery resident in Chennai, recalled many past experiences of harassment and stalking during her medical training in India.

“I am deeply saddened by women suffering such intense violence in this country,” she said. “The Calcutta tragedy has instilled fear in the hearts of my fellow women doctors. When nearly all of us have faced some level of perceived danger in the workplace at some point, we're always looking over our shoulders, hoping we're not next. The scariest fact is that the predators are amongst us.”

“Doctors are asking for basic human rights. While medical training is expensive worldwide, India is unique wherein even post-graduate training courses entail hefty tuition fees in return for meagre stipends. They don't feel respected or rewarded,” added Dr. Sharma.

But she hopes the outcry that has followed the attack will help.

“It is a traumatic time for women, but the projection of our collective outrage is important. It might herald the change we desperately hope for,” she said.

After the widespread demands for reform, India's Health Ministry has set up a committee to examine measures to protect doctors. It has directed heads of medical institutions to file a report within six hours of any incident of violence against health care workers on duty.

While the majority of health care workers in India are women, only 25 per cent hold leadership roles, according to the collective, Women in Global Health. It has called for better representation of women in health care leadership.

The West Bengal government, meanwhile, announced measures including a mobile app with an alarm connected to local police stations and a plan to deploy female private-security personnel at government institutions.

Special to The Globe and Mail

# Realtor celebrated before disappearance

Markham, Ont., police continue to search for Yuk-Ying Mui, who was praised for being one of her firm's top agents

MARIYA POSTELNYAK  
FATIMA RAZA

Markham, Ont., realtor Yuk-Ying (Anita) Mui, whose mysterious disappearance on Aug. 9 has baffled police and colleagues, was a high-flying agent celebrated among her firm's top performers a day before she went missing.

"She's good at what she does," said Eric Tang, who's known Ms. Mui professionally for nearly 20 years. He said he spoke to her at the event for leading agents and praised her on a deal worth upward of \$10-million.

"She did a nice big transaction – I congratulated her," he said.

The next day, Ms. Mui, 56, was reported missing by her family after she left her home in Markham that morning and never returned. Her vehicle, a white 2024 Mercedes SUV, was found in a plaza parking lot a 15-minute drive

from her home that afternoon, according to York Regional Police.

In a press release, the police expressed concern about her well-being and said her disappearance is being treated as suspicious.

Last Tuesday, investigators descended on a 10-acre wooded property in a sparsely populated part of Stouffville, Ont., east of Markham.

York Regional Police Constable Lisa Moskaluk said a property on Vandorf Sideroad near Highway 404 was identified as a location Ms. Mui was due to visit on Aug. 9. Marine and canine units were deployed to the vast property but Ms. Mui's whereabouts remain unknown as of Sunday afternoon.

While the search on that site has died down, police cruisers are still stationed in front of the farm-style lot at 3821 Vandorf Sideroad, surrounded by dense woods and shallow ponds.

Brian Serroul, who lives across the road from the property, said Ms. Mui's disappearance has the usually quiet and peaceful community on edge.

"All the neighbours are a little nervous, especially because they haven't found anything yet," he

said, adding that the neighbourhood mostly consists of families.

According to Mr. Serroul, 3821 Vandorf Sideroad has stood vacant since he moved in across the road 10 years ago, with the exception of a farmer who rents out the field.

"They're growing watermelon. They pick their own peas, green beans, corn, stuff like that," he said. "It's a huge property."

But the house at the centre of the 10-acre lot – a four-bedroom, three-bath, sidesplit – has stood empty for most of the time Mr. Serroul has lived nearby and he's never seen a "For lease" or "For sale" sign. Property records show that the house was last sold in 2016.

Mr. Serroul describes the neighbourhood as having the atmosphere of a campground or a farm – "You can hear the roosters, the crickets, all kinds of stuff."

But the daytime tranquility can become disquieting in the night.

"It gets really dark because there's no streetlights. You can see all the stars," he said. "It's really quiet – you just sit down and you can hear the owls."

While Mr. Serroul didn't know of any tenants living at the prop-

erty, he's spoken to people who appeared to be prospective renters visiting the lot over the years. Records show that the house had been previously listed for lease but is currently off market.

Mr. Tang said he believes that Ms. Mui might have been showing the property to a prospective renter. Though there's no record she was the listing agent, Mr. Tang said it's not uncommon for agents to show properties listed by others.

In Markham, Ms. Mui's colleagues continue to hold onto hope that she will soon be found. "I'm deeply concerned about her safety and pray for Anita's safe return," said Sunny Song, a colleague at Century 21 Atria, where Ms. Mui was an agent and broker.

"It's a huge shock for all of us," said Matthew Lee, another colleague of Ms. Mui's, adding that she was well-known for being among the firm's top 10 agents in Canada. An Instagram account connected to Ms. Mui shows her listings for luxury homes and condo units alongside industrial and commercial properties. In January, Ms. Mui shared on her social media an award from Century 21 Atria, placing her in the top percentile at her firm for sales

performance.

But Ms. Mui's high-profile job may have also brought her legal troubles. In four court cases reviewed by The Globe and Mail, someone by the name of Anita Mui was identified, thrice as a defendant. The full records were not immediately available, and The Globe could not confirm how or if these cases were resolved.

While Mr. Lee feels that Ms. Mui's disappearance was "totally random," he added that it was strange that so many people have been going missing in Markham.

In March of last year, 53-year-old Markham real estate lawyer Isabella Dan went missing under what police called "suspicious circumstances." Her whereabouts are still not known.

Last month, 57-year-old Markham woman Ying Zhang also disappeared. York Regional Police later charged a 26-year-old man with second-degree murder and indignity to a dead body in connection to Ms. Zhang's disappearance.

In a press conference last Monday, Constable Moskaluk said that there is nothing to suggest, at this time, any link between Ms. Zhang's and Ms. Mui's disappearances.



RCMP Commissioner Michael Duheme says the example of Surrey, B.C., has taught the force that the transition to a municipal police force is a complicated effort to engineer change. DAVE CHAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

## RCMP ready to facilitate end of contract policing: commissioner

IAN BAILEY OTTAWA

The commissioner of the RCMP says it will be better able to facilitate the end of contract-policing relationships with communities that want to create their own local forces based on lessons from the move by Surrey, B.C., to replace the Mounties with a new service.

Still, Michael Duheme says he expects his senior officers to make the case for contract policing when communities approach the force to explore the possibility, now also under way in the northwestern Alberta city of Grande Prairie.

He said the example of Surrey has taught the force that the transition to a municipal police force is never easy, but rather a complicated effort to engineer change.

"The lessons learned in Surrey, we've been sharing it with the management team in Grande Prairie as well as with the province to ensure that Grande Prairie is much smoother than what we saw in Surrey," Commissioner Duheme said in a Friday interview with The Globe and Mail at his Ottawa office.

In 2018, Doug McCallum was re-elected mayor of British Columbia's second most populous city on a commitment to replace the RCMP with a new municipal force. He said the latter would be more responsive to local concerns than the former, which has provided service on a contract.

Mr. McCallum's successor, Mayor Brenda Locke, sought to block the transition after winning power in 2022, suggesting the

move would be too expensive. But this past June, Ms. Locke announced she was standing down and that the replacement would proceed.

Meanwhile, the city council in Grande Prairie voted in March, 2023, to end its policing contract with the RCMP after almost nine decades and phase in a new municipal force over five years in a bid to increase local oversight and reduce policing costs.

At the time, Alberta's public safety minister said he expected other communities in the province would follow in creating their own police forces. More recently, the UCP government has enacted legislation to provide it with the authority to create a provincial police force.

Commissioner Duheme was sanguine about the RCMP departing both communities, noting that policing contracts are managed by the federal public safety department, not the Mounties.

"All we can do is manage the process because the decision is not with us. The decision is really with the municipality or province to keep us or not," he said.

"We come to the table and provide all the information they want, and then they can make the informed decision, and then I think it's just professional on our part to ensure that smooth transition as we move out of there."

Still he said there is a place for the national force to make a counter argument: "There is a sales pitch to be done on why you should stay with the RCMP," he said.

"My expectation would be for

commanding officers to explain to the people the benefits of having the RCMP and the work that providing, but the bottom line is it's not our decision. It's a municipal or provincial decision."

Commissioner Duheme said the RCMP offers its clients more than just the officers in a particular location. Comprised of 19,000 regular members across Canada, the national force can be relied on to offer expertise and service as required, he said.

The RCMP provides contract-policing services to eight provinces – excluding Ontario and Quebec, which have their own provincial police – the three territories and 150 Canadian municipalities under agreements that expire on March 31, 2032.

Federal Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc said in a letter to his provincial and territorial counterparts disclosed earlier this summer that Ottawa is committed to the contract-policing operations even as the RCMP's federal policing wing is more empowered to focus on major investigations such as foreign interference, money laundering and cybercrime.

The cost-sharing ratio for provinces and territories is 30 per cent for the federal government, and the provinces and territories pay 70 per cent.

For municipalities, the costs vary. Those with a population under 15,000 people pay 70 per cent, while the federal government pays 30 per cent. Municipalities with more than 15,000 people pay 90 per cent, while the federal government covers 10 per cent.

## CPKC workers union issues 72-hour strike notice as CN prepares to lock out staff

The union representing thousands of workers at Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. said Sunday it had served a 72-hour strike notice to the railway.

The Teamsters Canada Rail Conference said in a press release that unless the parties can reach a last-minute agreement, workers will be off the job as of 12:01 a.m. Thursday.

The Teamsters said CPKC has served notice it will lock out its members as well as change the terms of collective agreements, which the union said forced it to serve a strike notice to protect workers.

The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment. CPKC said this month it could lock out employees early Thursday if union leadership and the company are unable to come to a negotiated settlement or agree to binding interest arbitration.

Meanwhile, Canada's other major railway company, Canadian National Railway, on Sunday night issued a formal notice to the Teamsters that it intended to lock out employees at 12:01 Thursday unless an agreement or binding arbitration was achieved by then.

"Despite negotiations over the weekend, no meaningful progress has occurred, and the parties remain very far apart," CN said in a release.

On Thursday, federal Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon rejected a request from CN to impose binding arbitration.

This is the first time Canada's two main railway companies have been on the verge of simultaneous labour stoppages, which could have a devastating impact on the economy.

Contract talks between the union and companies usually take place a year apart, but in 2022, after the federal government introduced new rules on fatigue, CN requested a year-long extension to its existing deal. This meant both companies' labour agreements expired at the end of 2023 and talks have been continuing since.

Both railways, which move grain, autos, coal and potash, among other goods, have been halting shipments in preparation for potential work stoppages by a combined 9,300 workers. The Teamsters represent locomotive engineers, conductors, train and yard workers and rail-traffic controllers at the two companies in Canada.

CPKC has a U.S. and Mexican network which it said will operate normally. CN also said trains on its U.S. network will run.

That said, a strike will still lead to shipment disruptions south of the border. Both operators and some of their U.S. competitors have begun to refuse certain cross-border cargoes that would rely on the CN and CPKC networks.

CPKC has said it would halt new rail shipments originating in Canada, and new U.S. shipments destined for Canada starting Tuesday if talks with the Teamsters union in Canada fail to progress.

The union said CPKC wants "to gut the collective agreement of all safety-critical fatigue provisions," meaning crews will be forced to stay awake longer, boosting the risk of accidents.

CPKC said its offer maintains the status quo for all work rules, "fully complies with new regulatory requirements for rest and does not in any way compromise safety."

The Teamsters say CN wants to implement a forced relocation provision, which would see workers ordered to move across Canada for months at a time to fill labour shortages.

CN says it has made four offers this year on wages, rest and labour availability while remaining fully compliant with government-mandated rules overseeing duty and rest periods.

Under the federal labour code, Mr. MacKinnon can order the sides to enter binding arbitration or introduce back-to-work legislation, as the federal Conservative government did in 2012 to end a walkout by CP workers.

However, the current minority Liberal government, which is supported by the union-friendly New Democratic Party through a supply-and-confidence agreement, has shown little interest in such a move in past disputes, preferring the sides to focus on negotiations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS and REUTERS  
with reports from Sean Silcoff

## CALGARY PIPE ISSUES DEMONSTRATE THE STATE OF INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MUNICIPALITIES GROUP SAYS

CALGARY The condition of infrastructure across the country is dire and action needs to be taken now to prevent the kind of massive water pipe break that continues to plague Alberta's biggest city, says the president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Geoff Stewart was in Calgary as part of the federation's annual general meeting in June when the break occurred, leading to months of water restrictions and other onerous measures.

Montrealers wore to their own infrastructure failure Friday when a break in a major under-

ground water main near the Jacques Cartier Bridge unleashed what nearby residents described as a "wall of water." Streets and homes were deluged, forcing the evacuation of nearby buildings and leading to a boil-water advisory for 150,000 homes.

"Our infrastructure is aging

across this country. It's getting to a crisis where we're going to have to do some very extensive work on infrastructure from one end to another," Mr. Stewart said.

Most restrictions in Calgary had been lifted earlier this month when Mayor Jyoti Gondek announced an analysis had

found more trouble spots along 10 kilometres of pipe in north-west Calgary.

The line is to be shut down starting Aug. 26 until late September so it can be dug up and reinforced with concrete in those areas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Harris and Trump's paths cross in Pennsylvania

All four members of the two parties' tickets were in the state over the weekend, which one expert says is a 'natural battleground'

DAVID SHRIBMAN PITTSBURGH

## ANALYSIS

It turns out that the route to the White House, and the route that Kamala Harris and Tim Walz are taking to the Democratic National Convention, both run through this part of southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Democratic ticket began its trip to the DNC conclave, set to begin Monday in Chicago, with a stop the day prior at Pittsburgh International Airport, where Ms. Harris and her running mate embarked on a bus tour through this region.

That decision – and the fact that Republican nominees Donald Trump and J.D. Vance are also making appearances in the swing-state of Pennsylvania – should be no surprise.

"It's the pathway to victory – the biggest prize of the states that are up for grabs and it is a most essential one for the Democrats," said Berwood Yost, director of the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., in an interview.

"The demographic makeup of the state – a range of urban, rural and suburban communities, age and educational diversity, and a fair share of moderate voters – makes it a natural battleground."

The bus tour that the Harris team began in Pittsburgh was designed as something of an introductory tour for a candidate whose name is known, but whose character, views, inclinations and political style remain a blur after four years in the Senate and another four as Vice-President.

The larger purpose of her appearance here – as it will be in even more important appearances in Chicago and in a vital Thursday night acceptance speech – was to begin to define herself for the electorate in a positive light before Mr. Trump, who has begun referring to her as "Comrade Kamala," does it in a searing negative impression.

Indeed, the race to define Ms. Harris is, in some ways, a proxy



The campaign bus of Democratic presidential candidate and U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris and her running mate Minnesota Governor Tim Walz is seen in Moon Township, Pa., on Sunday during their bus tour. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

for the broader campaign. Mr. Trump is at work trying to portray her as a loony leftist and "lunatic" with limited experience, intelligence and competence. Speaking in the northeastern part of the state Saturday, the former president said Ms. Harris would "ruin" Pennsylvania.

To set up her appearance at the DNC – and to counter Trump campaign charges that the Vice-President is avoiding setting out specific policy ideas – Ms. Harris on Friday delivered what her campaign described as a major economic speech in Raleigh, N.C. She emphasized controlling health care costs, a federal ban on what she called "price gouging on food," subsidies for first-time home buyers, tax breaks for construction companies that build homes for first-time buyers and an expansion of the child tax credit.

The latest Financial Times/Michigan Ross poll showed that 42 per cent trusted Ms. Harris on the economy, as opposed to 41 per cent for Mr. Trump. Though that is basically a statistical tie, it represents a seven-percentage-point improvement for the Democrats from a month earlier, when President Joe Biden was still the par-

ty's presumed nominee. (The poll was conducted Aug. 1-5 with 1,000 registered voters and had a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3.1 percentage points.)

Meanwhile, the latest Franklin & Marshall College poll gave Ms. Harris a 46-to-43-per-cent advantage over Mr. Trump in Pa. when third-party candidates are included. That edge is just within the margin of error of plus-or-minus 3.8 percentage points and is roughly in line with the two other polls conducted at about the same time. (The poll was conducted between July 31 and Aug. 11 with 920 registered voters.)

All four members of the two parties' tickets were in Pennsylvania over the weekend, with Mr. Vance in Lower Burrell Township, 39 kilometres from where the Democrats spoke, and with Mr. Trump in Wilkes-Barre, a one-time coal centre in Luzerne County. The two Republicans are also set to return to the state on Monday.

The venues for the campaign visits underline the two parties' matching strategies. Although the Democratic team scheduled a stop in Beaver County, which Mr. Trump carried by 17 percentage points four years ago, both tick-

ets have decided to inspire their political bases more than try to persuade the few remaining undecided voters.

The latest Wall Street Journal poll found that only 15 per cent of the electorate was "up for grabs" in July, down from 28 per cent a month earlier. (The poll was conducted July 23-25 with 1,000 registered voters, with a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3.1 percentage points.)

That explains why the Democratic team began its Sunday in Allegheny County, which Mr. Biden carried by 20 points in 2020. Meanwhile Mr. Vance appeared over the weekend in Westmoreland County, which Mr. Trump carried by 28 percentage points, and the former president appeared in Luzerne County, which he carried by 14 percentage points.

"They will be in the state physically and in the state through various advertising media," Prof. Yost said.

The campaigns are running both ground games and air games. Thus far, the Harris campaign, with seven field offices in the western part of Pa. and with 36 Democratic offices across the state, has organized more thor-

oughly than the Trump team, which is concentrating its effort in the more diffuse rural areas in the central part of the state.

Since Mr. Biden withdrew from the race last month, the Harris and Trump teams have spent US\$42-million, split almost evenly between the two campaigns, in Pa. That is more than double the US\$17.8-million spent in Georgia. The spending here is the most per electoral vote in any of the swing states.

In recent days, the two campaigns announced a total of US\$190-million in advertising in the swing states before Labour Day, with Pa. and its 19 electoral votes targeted for the largest share. The Harris campaign plans a digital and cellular advertising offensive, and said its purchase of television advertisements would be twice what Mr. Biden spent in Pa. in 2020.

But for four consecutive nights at the DNC, the Harris team has the attention of a slice of the electorate through what political professionals call "free media." If they make effective use of their convention, they could continue their upward swing.

Special to The Globe and Mail

## Pro-Palestinian delegates to push for Israel arms embargo at Democratic convention

ANDREA SHALAL CHICAGO

Dozens of Muslim delegates and their allies, angry at U.S. support for Israel's offensive in Gaza, are seeking changes in the Democratic platform and plan to press for an arms embargo this week, putting the party on guard for disruptions to high-profile speeches at its national convention in Chicago.

Calling itself "Delegates Against Genocide," the pro-Palestinian group says it will exercise its freedom of speech rights during main events at the four-day Democratic National Convention convening on Monday to formally nominate Vice-President Kamala Harris for president in the Nov. 5 election against Republican former president Donald Trump.

Group organizers declined to give details but said they would offer amendments to the party platform and use their rights as delegates to speak on the convention floor.

President Joe Biden is due to speak on Monday, and Ms. Harris on Thursday.

Pro-Palestinian delegates say they deserve a bigger role in the writing of the party platform. The convention takes place in Chicago, which has the largest Palestinian-American population of any U.S. city.

The group wants to include language backing enforcement of laws that ban giving military aid to individuals or security forces that commit gross violations of human rights.

"We're going to make our voices heard," said Liano Sharon, a delegate who signed an alternative platform along with 34 other delegates. "Freedom of expression necessarily includes the right to stand up and be heard even when the authority in the room says to shut up."

The Harris campaign declined

to comment.

The party's draft platform calls for "an immediate and lasting ceasefire" in the war and the release of remaining hostages taken to Gaza during an Oct. 7 attack by Islamist militant Hamas fighters.

The platform does not mention the more than 40,000 people that Palestinian health authorities in Gaza say have been killed in Israel's subsequent offensive. Nor does it mention any plans to curtail U.S. arms shipments to Israel.

The United States approved US\$20-billion in additional arms sales to Israel on Tuesday.

Mediators, including the U.S., have sought to broker a truce between Israel and Hamas based on a plan Mr. Biden put forward in May but so far have not succeeded.

The Israel-Hamas war reduced support for Democrats among Muslim and Arab-American voters, who represent crucial votes in election battleground states like Ariz., Mich. and Pa.

While the activists make up a tiny fraction of convention delegates, disruptions inside the hall and large protests outside could mar the party's plan to unify Democrats around Ms. Harris after Mr. Biden dropped out of the race on July 21 under pressure from fellow Democrats.

Pro-Palestinian activists say Ms. Harris has been more sympathetic to Gazans than Mr. Biden has been. Her national security adviser said on X this month that she does not support an arms embargo on Israel.

But after meeting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last month, Ms. Harris told reporters not only that Israel had a right to defend itself but also in reference to Gaza: "We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to the suffering, and I will not be silent."

REUTERS



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## Turf: Artificial fields are almost always playable but can pose higher injury risk

■ FROM A1

“The big complaint about young people is that they’re on screens all the time, right? They’re not getting adequate physical activity,” Mr. Christie said. “This enables the teachers to take the kids out all the time.”

Even some parents who had been skeptical about a plastic playing field were won over, he said. The fields became a gathering point for the community.

“That was the eureka moment,” he said. “The term I use is social infrastructure. It’s just massively beneficial from a social-infrastructure point of view.”

A little less than 10 per cent of the nearly 600 elementary and high schools in the TDSB, Canada’s largest school board, now have turf fields, according to Mr. Christie. They’re also increasingly common in other school divisions and as municipal playing fields, boosted by their popularity for soccer, the country’s largest participation sport.

Turf fields across the country, whether run by schools, municipalities or private operators, are often full to capacity, booked from early morning to late at night for organized play.

Unlike grass, which suffers with the weather or as seasons change in early spring or late fall, turf is almost always playable. It also has a consistency of ball roll prized in games such as soccer, which makes it popular with young players frustrated by long grass and dry, bumpy pitches common in Canadian climates.

Johnny Misley, chief executive officer of Ontario Soccer, said the sport is growing rapidly and has a pressing need for new facilities. He said there are only about 25 indoor artificial turf fields in the province, a few hundred outdoor turf fields and thousands of grass fields.

Turf fields cost more to rent, but clubs appreciate the longer season they afford and the consistency of the playing surface, Mr. Misley said.

“The quality of the pitch on turf doesn’t change. Of course, you pay extra for the luxury,” he said.

But plastic pitches have downsides that have engaged fierce opposition. They’re costly to install, roughly \$500,000 for an elementary-sized field and perhaps \$2-million for a secondary school. They get very hot, sometimes twice as hot as grass. They can pose a higher injury risk for some athletes, and after about 12 years of use the old carpet usually just ends up in a landfill.

The story of artificial turf is usually traced to the construction of the Houston



Monarch Park Collegiate Institute is one high school in the Toronto District School Board that now has a turf field. It costs roughly \$500,000 to install an elementary-sized turf field and could require \$2-million for a secondary school. GALIT RODAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Astrodome in the mid-1960s, a venue for pro sport. It didn’t make real inroads as a playing surface for amateurs until the 2000s, but was met with skepticism as ath-

letes worried about higher injury risk and the risk of exposure to chemicals in the turf and its infill, which can be made of crumb rubber or other materials. (At TDSB fields they use coated sand.)

Opinion on the subject is divided. Experts tend to weigh whether the benefits of increased physical activity outweigh the potential risks associated with possible chemical exposures from the pitch materials.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota surveyed the public on their preferences and most prefer to use natural grass in most cases, with the exception of those interested in playing orga-

nized sports, where there was no significant difference.

At the University of Guelph’s Turfgrass Institute, researchers study the characteristics of field surfaces.

Professor Eric Lyons said turf fields have some advantages in the Canadian context, but in his view grass is still far preferable. It’s cheaper up front, and it’s better for the environment, he said. But it takes expertise and work to do it well, Prof. Lyons said.

For a soccer field in particular, grass should be short, and usually that means mowing at least once or often twice a week. Most municipal mowing regimes favour cutting the grass every 10 days, Prof. Lyons said.

But pledging proper maintenance and irrigation of an existing grass field isn’t as

eye-catching for civic leaders as touting the construction of a new artificial turf field, Prof. Lyons suggested.

“It’s not a shiny new thing you can hang your hat on,” Prof. Lyons said. Even at his own university, the use of artificial turf pitches has expanded in recent years.

The TDSB retains a strong preference for grass, but when it’s impossible to grow real grass, turf is a viable option, Mr. Christie said.

A turning point for the TDSB, Mr. Christie said, was when they hired a “grass guy,” a former Turfgrass Institute student named Brian Bennett. His expertise has made growing grass possible in more schools where it had proved difficult in the past, Mr. Christie said.

If he were given unlimited funds, Mr. Christie said his preference would only be to add one or two turf fields a year over the next five years.

“I don’t think we want to go crazy on artificial turf,” he said.

Turf fields across the country, whether run by schools, municipalities or private operators, are often full to capacity, booked from early morning to late at night for organized play.



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[ INDONESIA ]

## Taking festivities to new heights

People climb a four-metre-high pole smeared with oil to collect prizes at the top as part of Indonesia's 79th Independence Day in Palembang, South Sumatra, on Sunday

AL ZULKIFLI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## Buffer: Consolidating its gains inside Russia would be risky for Ukraine, analysts say

■ FROM A1

Less than two days later, Ukrainian troops hit a second bridge in Russia, according to Lt.-Gen. Oleshchuk and Russian regional Governor Alexei Smirnov.

As of Sunday morning, there were no officials giving the exact location of the second bridge attack. But Russian Telegram channels claimed that a second bridge over the Seim, in the village of Zvanoe, had been struck.

According to Russia's Mash news site, the attacks left only one intact bridge in the area. The Associated Press could not immediately verify these claims. If confirmed, the Ukrainian strikes would further complicate Moscow's attempts to replenish its forces and evacuate civilians.

Glushkovo is about 12 kilometres north of the Ukrainian border, and approximately 16 kilometres northwest of the main battle zone in Kursk. Zvanoe is located another eight kilometres to the northwest.

Kyiv previously has said little about the goals of its push into Russia with tanks and other armoured vehicles, the largest attack on the country since the Second World War, which took the Kremlin by surprise and saw scores of villages and hundreds of prisoners fall into Ukrainian hands.

In his remarks on creating a buffer zone, Mr. Zelensky said Ukrainian forces "achieved good and much-needed results."

Analysts say that although Ukraine could try to consolidate its gains inside Russia, it would be risky, given Kyiv's limited resources, because its own supply lines extending deep into Kursk would be vulnerable.

The incursion has proven Ukraine's ability to seize the initiative and boosted its morale, which was sapped by a failed counteroffensive last summer and months of grinding Russian gains in the eastern Donbas region.

For his part, Russian President Vladimir Putin said while visiting China in May that Moscow's offensive that month in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region was aimed at creating a buffer zone there.

That offensive opened a new front and displaced thousands of Ukrainians. The attacks were a response to Ukrainian shelling of Russia's Belgorod region, Mr. Putin said.

On Saturday, Mr. Zelensky urged Kyiv's allies to lift remaining restrictions on the use of Western weapons to attack targets deeper in Russia, including in Kursk, saying his troops could deprive Moscow "of any ability to advance and cause destruction" if granted sufficient long-range capabilities.

"It is crucial that our partners remove barriers that hinder us from weakening Russian positions in the way this war demands. The bravery of our soldiers and the resilience of our combat brigades compensate for the lack of essential decisions from our partners," Mr. Zelensky said on the social platform X.

Russia's Foreign Ministry and pro-Kremlin bloggers alleged U.S.-made HIMARS launchers have been used to destroy bridges on the Seim. These claims could not be independently verified.

Moscow also appears to have increased attacks on Kyiv, targeting it on Sunday with ballistic missiles for a third time this month, according to the head of the municipal military administration. Serhii Popko said in a Telegram post the "almost identical" August strikes on the capital "most likely used" North Korean-supplied KN-23 missiles.

Another attempt to target Kyiv followed at about 7 a.m. Mr. Popko said, this time with Iskander cruise missiles. Ukrainian air defences struck down all the missiles fired in both attacks on the city, he said.

Russian ally Belarus, meanwhile, has massed "nearly a third" of its army along its border with Ukraine, according to authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Mr. Lukashenko told Russian state TV that Minsk was responding to the deployment of more than 120,000 Ukrainian troops to the 1,084-kilometre frontier. Belarus's professional army numbers upward of 60,000.

Ukrainian border force spokesman Andrii Demchenko said Sunday it had not observed any sign of a Belarusian buildup.

Mr. Lukashenko, in power for three decades, has relied on Russian support to suppress the biggest protests in Belarus's post-Soviet history after his 2020 re-election, widely seen as a sham both at home and abroad. He allowed Russian troops to use Belarus's territory to invade Ukraine and let Moscow deploy some tactical nuclear weapons on its soil.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

### THREE PEACEKEEPERS INJURED IN EXPLOSION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, UNIFIL SAYS

Three peacekeepers on patrol were "lightly injured" when an explosion occurred near their clearly marked United Nations vehicle in the village of Yarine in southern Lebanon, UNIFIL spokesperson Andrea Tenenti said on Sunday.

"All peacekeepers in the patrol returned safely to their base," the spokesperson said, without giving further details of the nature of the explosion.

"We are looking into the incident. We are strongly reminding all parties and actors of their responsibility to avoid harm to peacekeepers and civilians."

REUTERS



Displaced Palestinians watch as shells fired from Israeli tanks hit an area near a residential complex in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday. BASHAR TALEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Blinken to renew push for ceasefire in Gaza

Talks to strike a deal for a truce between Israel and Hamas now at an 'inflection point'

HUMEYRA PAMUK TEL AVIV

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Tel Aviv on Sunday on a Middle East tour aimed at intensifying diplomatic pressure to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza this week to end the bloodshed between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

On his 10th trip to the region since the war began in October, Mr. Blinken will meet on Monday with senior Israeli leaders including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a senior State Department official said. After Israel, Mr. Blinken will continue onto Egypt.

The talks to strike a deal for a truce and return of hostages held in Gaza were now at an "inflection point," a senior Biden administration official told reporters on the way to Tel Aviv, adding Mr. Blinken was going to stress to all parties the importance of getting this deal over the finish line.

"We think this is a critical time," the official said.

The mediating countries – Qatar, the United States and Egypt – have so far failed to narrow enough differences to reach an agreement in months of on-off negotiations, and violence continued unabated in Gaza on Sunday.

Hamas said on Sunday that a new proposal meant to bridge the gaps between Israel and the Islamist armed group over a Gaza

ceasefire was too close to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent positions. It said that the new proposal was aligned with Mr. Netanyahu, who refuses to end the war and withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza, including from the border with Egypt, two conditions the group sees as the basis for any agreement.

"We hold Netanyahu fully responsible for thwarting the mediators' efforts, delaying the agreement, and for the lives of his prisoners who are exposed to the same danger as our people due to his ongoing aggression and systematic targeting of all aspects of life in the Gaza Strip," Hamas said, adding that it was fully committed to the previous July proposal.

Mr. Netanyahu's office said on Sunday that he still insists Israeli forces remain on a border strip that runs between Gaza and Egypt known as the Philadelphi Corridor, in order to prevent weapons being smuggled into Gaza.

Mr. Netanyahu was responding to an Israeli TV news report which said that in a meeting with the negotiators the prime minister was urged to show more flexibility on some of the issues.

His office said Mr. Netanyahu would continue to work toward advancing a deal that maximizes the number of living hostages released and allows for Israel's war objectives to be achieved, including not allowing Hamas to retain control of Gaza.

A strike killed at least 21 people including six children in Gaza on Sunday, Palestinian health authorities said. The children and their mother were killed in an Israeli air strike on a house in the central town of Deir Al-Balah,

health officials said. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The Israeli military said it destroyed rocket launchers used to hit Israel from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, the scene of intense fighting in recent weeks, and killed 20 Palestinian militants.

In the occupied West Bank, where violence has escalated since the war in Gaza broke out in October last year, an Israeli man died from wounds sustained in an attack, according to a hospital spokesperson.

The talks toward a ceasefire are set to continue this week in Cairo, after a two-day meeting in Doha last week. Mr. Blinken will try to reach a breakthrough after the U.S. put forward bridging proposals that the mediating countries believe would close gaps between the warring parties.

There has been increased urgency to reach a ceasefire deal amid fears of escalation across the wider region. Iran has threatened to retaliate against Israel after the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31.

The war erupted on Oct. 7 when Hamas militants rampaged into Israel, killing around 1,200 people and seizing around 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's subsequent military campaign has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to Palestinian health authorities, and reduced much of Gaza to rubble. Israel says it has killed 17,000 Hamas combatants.

REUTERS

### ISRAEL INVESTIGATING ABUSE OF PALESTINIAN PRISONER

Israel is conducting a "robust investigation" of suspects accused of sexually abusing a Palestinian prisoner and is committed to upholding international legal standards regarding the treatment of detainees, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said on Sunday.

The United Nations special rapporteur on torture on Friday condemned what she called a "particularly gruesome" case of

the alleged sexual abuse of a Palestinian prisoner by Israeli soldiers and said the perpetrators must be held accountable.

On Tuesday, the Israeli military said prosecutors have requested that soldiers accused of abusing a Palestinian detainee be placed under house arrest with their detention extended to next Thursday. Israeli media reports said the soldiers have been accused of

sexually abusing a member of an elite Hamas unit at the Sde Teiman detention facility in the Negev desert in southern Israel.

The UN says it has received multiple reports of alleged torture against Palestinians detained since Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants stormed Israel in a shock assault that killed some 1,200 people.

REUTERS

# Municipalities: Timeliness of response comes down to records management practices, former FOI director says

■ FROM A1

The audit was conducted as part of Secret Canada, a national Globe and Mail investigation that examined the country's dysfunctional access systems and found that public institutions are routinely breaking access laws. These institutions violate statutory time limits, overuse redactions and claim no records exist when they do – and face few, if any, consequences for ignoring the precedents set by courts and information commissioners. Last year, a Secret Canada audit of FOI requests to federal, provincial and territorial ministries found that they managed to complete only half of their requests within 30 days. (By default, most jurisdictions require a file to be completed within this time frame, though FOI laws allow for time extensions in certain circumstances.)

The Globe chose to audit municipal governments' FOI performance because of their close relationship to the public.

To Kevin Walby, a criminology professor at the University of Winnipeg who also studies freedom of information, some of the audited municipalities' performance was "just abysmal – like, their FOI offices should be put into receivership, or something like that."

"Some of the lack of compliance is just totally wild," he continues. "There aren't a lot of sites where you get great compliance. Great compliance, I think, would be where you have most of the records released in full, and most of the disclosures released within 30 days, or in a reasonable time." Prof. Walby says the findings are evidence that some municipalities haven't adequately resourced their FOI offices. "It's a really contradictory message for an apparatus of the state to be sending: You guys comply with all these other laws, but we don't have to follow the laws that pertain to us."

"How do they expect Canadians to want to believe in the legitimacy of the state and believe in these kinds of transparency initiatives when you see this kind of lack of compliance across the board?"

Kristan Cook, a former FOI director for Edmonton, says municipalities make decisions that "actually affect" people's day-to-day lives. "It's people wanting to know, why is my bus route changing? How much did this bridge cost? Why is the train going through my yard?"

Ms. Cook, who is now the director of privacy at PBC Solutions, a health benefits technology company, says that Canada has thousands of municipal governments across the country, and despite their varying sizes, they follow the same access rules as higher levels of government. "Whether you're a government administration of three people or 300, that three-person government administration still has to provide the same service under FOI."

Municipalities handle FOI very differently from provincial or federal governments: City clerks usually act as ranking officials on FOI matters, and local governments tend to have fewer layers of review – that is, fewer people who need to approve the release of a document – before an FOI response goes out the door, which likely speeds up the process, Ms. Cook says.

The FOI requests received by municipalities are also very different from those going to the provinces or federal government. "So many dog bites, like, an incredible number of dog bites," Ms. Cook says. "Fire inspections, that's a big one. And then requests about infrastructure, things like bridges and buildings and mass transit – those have a very municipal flavour."

The Secret Canada website, which allows users to search through hundreds of thousands of completed FOI requests across the country, was recently

updated to include summaries for requests at the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal level. To browse the database and learn more about the Secret Canada project, visit [www.secretcanada.com](http://www.secretcanada.com).

Here are some highlights from The Globe's municipal FOI audit.

## TIMELINESS

While audited municipalities took an average of 25 days to respond to a request, coming in under the 30-day benchmark The Globe used last year for its examination of federal and provincial ministries, the timeliness of individual municipalities varied greatly.

Quebec City and Longueuil, Que., both closed FOI files within 12 days, and managed to complete virtually all requests they received within a 30-day period. Edmonton (69 days), Hamilton (66), Greater Sudbury, Ont. (50) and Toronto (49), meanwhile, were the slowest.

Unsurprisingly, the municipalities that took the longest, on average, to respond to requests also managed to close a much smaller share of their requests within 30 days. Despite taking an average of 37 days to close their requests, Richmond, B.C., completed just 36 per cent of its FOIs within a month, meaning nearly two-thirds of requests took longer than the benchmark.

Ms. Cook says that these contrasts in timeliness often come down to records management practices.

"If you don't know where your records are, then you can't locate them and you can't respond to an FOI request," she says.

"Organizations of a significant size have hundreds of systems that store records. Some of these systems talk to each other, and some of them don't. So it really depends on where the information is stored and how easy it is to gather the information and put it into the form that an applicant is seeking."

## EXTENT OF REDACTIONS

After assembling the documents relevant to a request, FOI offices read through the records to identify information that must be redacted under access law. Some responses are released as-is, without redactions, while others can be withheld in their entirety. The final status of an FOI package, also known as its "disposition," is a useful indicator of how much information a public institution is actually releasing.

Mississauga released 78 per cent of its FOI responses without any redactions whatsoever, the highest full disclosure rating for any major Canadian municipality. Halifax, meanwhile, released just 2 per cent of its files in full.

(Some of these disclosure statistics are complicated by the types of FOIs they are processing. Winnipeg, for instance, also processes files for the Winnipeg Police Service, and police requests often carry personal information redactions. The Globe's analysis aimed to measure how municipalities were responding to their requests, so it kept the request data it received mostly as-is, removing only FOIs that were abandoned or transferred to another public institution.)

Ms. Cook says that the variation in how extensively local governments redact records could be read many ways. Take a city that has high full disclosure rates: "Maybe it's an organization that believes in transparency, or maybe it's an organization that isn't paying attention," she says. Meanwhile, a municipality with high redaction rates may be "more on the cautious side of releasing information."

## LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, COMPARED

Over all, municipal governments outperformed federal, provincial

## How Canada's municipalities performed on FOI

The Globe requested data on completed freedom of information requests from every municipality in Canada with a population of at least 100,000 people. The resulting analysis, spanning from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, offer a snapshot of how each local government has performed on FOI.

MUNICIPALITY	PROVINCE	NO. OF REQUESTS RECEIVED	▼ AVG. DAYS TO CLOSE A REQUEST	% COMPLETED WITHIN 30 DAYS	% RELEASED IN FULL	% RELEASED IN PART
<b>Overall</b>		<b>22,874</b>	<b>25</b>	79	38	34
Edmonton	Alta.	341	69	49	13	70
Hamilton	Ont.	89	66	40	19	40
Greater Sudbury	Ont.	123	50	64	7	78
Toronto	Ont.	1,653	49	47	33	42
Branford	Ont.	94	48	42	26	47
Ottawa	Ont.	580	47	58	29	51
Clarington	Ont.	42	46	71	26	62
Vancouver	B.C.	468	44	44	22	56
Burnaby	B.C.	109	43	46	28	57
Chatham-Kent	Ont.	106	43	69	22	58
Windsor	Ont.	134	41	59	43	40
Richmond	B.C.	129	37	36		
Calgary	Alta.	250	34	68	15	66
Sherbrooke	Que.	95	34	47	52	29
Richmond Hill	Ont.	47	34	66	34	36
Burlington	Ont.	66	34	56	32	24
Coquitlam	B.C.	130	33	48	23	66
Saguenay	Que.	188	33	40	25	36
Winnipeg	Man.	1,595	32	47	7	64
Brampton	Ont.	161	32	66	27	52
Barrie	Ont.	71	32	68	10	73
Markham	Ont.	206	31	73	45	20
Langley	B.C.	108	31	70		90
Whitby	Ont.	55	28	85	15	64
Terrebonne	Que.	756	26	66		
Delta	B.C.	71	26	66	44	56
Kitchener	Ont.	52	25	90	31	67
Oakville	Ont.	87	25	92	33	32
St. Catharines	Ont.	86	25	71	9	74
Guelph	Ont.	71	24	94	17	69
Surrey	B.C.	273	24	60	20	68
Laval	Que.	1,882	24	91	56	29
Waterloo	Ont.	185	24	78	49	36
Mississauga	Ont.	503	23	85	78	20
London	Ont.	160	23	79	18	68
Red Deer	Alta.	45	22	84	73	22
Kelowna	B.C.	82	22	78	22	50
Saskatoon	Sask.	165	21	94	38	34
Regina	Sask.	136	21	76	18	71
Halifax	N.S.	490	21	85	2	28
Vaughan	Ont.	191	21	90	29	43
Saanich	B.C.	164	21	78		
Trois-Rivières	Que.	1,772	20	84		
St. John's	N.L.	143	18	91	29	63
Cambridge	Ont.	42	17	93	50	43
Oshawa	Ont.	169	16	95	28	44
Montreal	Que.	4,958	15	88	48	4
Kingston	Ont.	58	15	84	49	42
Abbotsford	B.C.	368	15	88	36	37
Milton	Ont.	38	14	92	30	46
Gatineau	Que.	1,225	13	98	66	11
Longueuil	Que.	1,517	12	100		
Quebec City	Que.	345	12	98	61	21

The Globe requested data from 56 municipalities. Thunder Bay, Ont. declined, stating it doesn't track FOI requests. Lévis, Que., claimed it was unable to provide the requested data. Ajax, Ont., didn't provide information on completion dates, so none of its 40 requests could be analyzed. Richmond, B.C., Saanich, B.C., Longueuil, Que., Terrebonne, Que., and Trois-Rivières, Que., meanwhile, didn't provide information on dispositions. Langley, B.C.'s data didn't differentiate between full and partial releases.

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ROMAIN LASSER

and territorial ministries across all FOI metrics in the audit. They closed requests more rapidly – 25 days on average, compared with 47 provincially/territorially and 83 federally – and completed the lion’s share of their files within 30 days. Municipalities also released files in full much more frequently: 38 per cent of the time, compared with 20 per cent provincially and 24 per cent federally.

To Ms. Cook, these differences can be explained in large part by the complexity of a public institution’s bureaucracy. People empowered to make final FOI decisions – the ones given “delegations of authority” – often have more levels of oversight at the provincial and federal level, she says, slowing down the process considerably.

“In some delegations, the people who are actually the people that you’re talking to when you’re doing the access request, they have the authority to sign something and send it out to you themselves,” she says. “In other places, they don’t. So, any time you have that – more people, more levels – the amount of time that it’s going to take for you to get something is going to increase. That’s a really important difference between municipal, provincial and federal.”

**TRANSPARENT CITIES**

While several municipalities fared well in this audit, some stood out for how quickly and fulsomely they responded to requests. Red Deer, Alta., and Mississauga released more than 70 per cent of their files in full, and managed to do so while keeping FOI responses to an average of 22 and 23 days, respectively.

Nearly every request completed by Longueuil, Que., within the audit window was closed within 30 days – despite the municipality having completed more than 1,500 requests during the period.

Several Quebec municipalities achieved exceedingly fast completion times. Montreal wrapped up FOIs in an average of 15 days; Gatineau closed files in 13 days, on average, and Quebec City and Longueuil averaged 12 days.

Speaking for Gatineau, Cynthia Lauzon said the administration was “proud of this result,” and that it was “important to highlight the diligent work of all the people in the access to information unit who help respond to these requests.” Gonzalo Nunez with Montreal said that the city aimed for an “average processing time” of 18 days in 2023.

**OPAQUE CITIES**

Winnipeg and Greater Sudbury, Ont., both notched a particularly low full disclosure rate of 7 per cent – far short of the 38 per cent average across all municipalities.

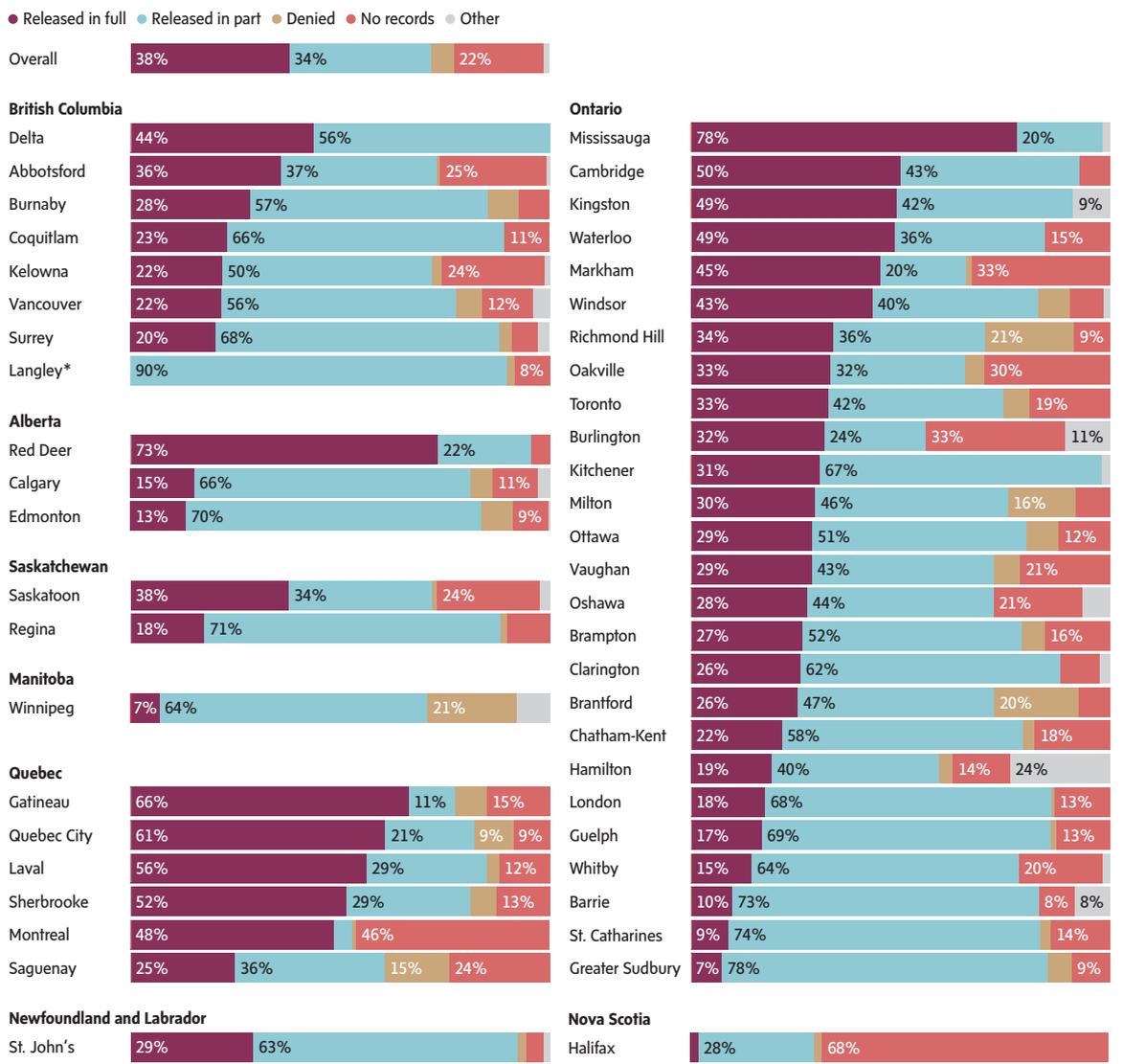
April Low, a spokesperson for the City of Greater Sudbury, largely attributed the city’s high rate of partial disclosures (78 per cent) to personal information redactions, particularly for requests regarding building permits, bylaw complaints and fire services.

A spokesperson for Winnipeg, meanwhile, said the municipality’s low full disclosure rate is tied to the fact the city processes requests for the Winnipeg Police Service. In an e-mail, David Driedger said that 50 to 70 per cent of the city’s FOIs are police-related, and that 90 per cent of those are “requests from individuals for copies of their police reports,” most of which carry some level of redaction.

While Halifax registered the lowest full disclosure rate, at 2 per cent, it also stood out on another metric: The east coast capital responded to more than two-thirds of its requests by saying there were no records whatsoever. The municipal average was 22 per cent.

Laura Wright, a Halifax

**Types of responses to FOI requests, by municipality**



\* Disposition data didn’t differentiate between full and partial releases.

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**How levels of government compare on FOI performance**

JURISDICTION	NO. OF AUDITED ENTITIES	AVG. DAYS TO CLOSE A REQUEST	% COMPLETED WITHIN 30 DAYS	% RELEASED IN FULL	% RELEASED IN PART
Federal	18	83	36	24	55
Provincial/territorial	205	47	55	20	48
<b>Municipal</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>

Provincial statistics exclude Ontario and Quebec’s environmental ministries. Federal and provincial/territorial figures are pulled from data assembled for The Globe’s 2023 audit; those figures rely on FOIs completed between July, 2021, and June, 2022.

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Regional Municipality spokesperson, echoed Greater Sudbury, pointing to personal information redactions. Ms. Wright said that a “no records” response didn’t necessarily mean there were no records whatsoever – only that there were no records responsive to what had been requested.

Hamilton had the second-slowest average response time (behind Edmonton), but it also ranked poorly across other metrics: It closed 40 per cent of its files within 30 days (third-worst, after Richmond, B.C., and Saguenay, Que.) and released 19 per cent of its files in full

(13th-worst).

In a e-mailed statement, Hamilton city clerk Matthew Tremnum said the municipality “takes its role as a steward and guardian of personal and confidential information very seriously,” and that Hamilton is “looking to invest in modernized freedom of information request tracking software to assist in managing timelines and more generally for project management.”



Explore our national database of FOI requests. [SecretCanada.com](https://secretcanada.com)

Send us a story tip: [secretcanada@globeandmail.com](mailto:secretcanada@globeandmail.com)

# 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

## The housing market shows its supply side

The cost to rent a home in Toronto and Vancouver is falling. At the same time, the construction of new homes – especially rentals – is in a multiyear surge, compared with before the pandemic.

This news doesn't mean it is suddenly cheap to rent in the two most expensive cities in the country or that there's enough new housing in Canada. But it does show a significant increase in the new supply can help ease prices. The market works.

The shift in Toronto is particularly striking.

The average cost to rent a one-bedroom is \$2,443, down 6 per cent from a year ago, according to Urbanation and rentals.ca. A two-bedroom is \$3,193, down 5 per cent. Meanwhile, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. data, Toronto saw 6,701 new rental homes completed in 2023 and the city is on pace for about the same this year. The annual rate of new rentals is almost triple that of the five years before the pandemic. More broadly, more new homes of all types have been built in Toronto in the first seven months of this year – 30,116 – than were built in all of 2019 – 27,410.

The lesson is clear: new supply can make a difference in a housing market where the cost to rent and buy has shot into the stratosphere. But more supply is still needed. Governments must continue to do everything they can to speed the building of new homes, from loosening overly strict zoning rules and reducing too-high development taxes on the civic level to last year's federal move to cut the GST from new rental housing.

Opposition from existing homeowners remains a primary obstacle to overcome. That's why zoning for greater density is important, so builders don't have to go through long, expensive battles at city hall to get even small projects built. Two recent examples in Vancouver and Toronto illustrate the continuing problem.

Five years ago in Vancouver, a small five-storey rental building in Kitsilano, near downtown, was proposed. Twenty per cent of the units would be priced well below market rates. Local homeowners expressed their extreme opposition in 2019: "It's like dropping the ghetto in Kitsilano." City council eventually approved the project and the builder received a low-cost loan from the province. The apartments are finally ready next month. Opponents now criticize the market-rate apartments for being too expensive. It might have been different if the project wasn't dragged through unnecessary delays as the cost to build escalated during the pandemic.

In Toronto, a three-storey 11-home project close to a subway station, near downtown, didn't make it off the drawing board, as more than three dozen neighbours opposed it. The project required what's called a "minor variance" and was twice rejected by Toronto's Committee of Adjustment. The second no landed last week. The city sabotages itself.

Over the past several years, Toronto and Vancouver have somewhat reformed the strict zoning restrictions against new housing, yet it is not nearly enough. Old obstacles such as the Committee of Adjustment need to be completely overhauled or simply abandoned.

Amid the push to build more housing, there is the specific challenge of affordable housing. Government strategy in recent years, from Ottawa to provinces such as British Columbia, has been low-cost loans to private developers who promise to include a portion of lower-cost homes. This minimizes the bill for taxpayers and while it has helped get more homes built, it hasn't unleashed a torrent of affordable homes. A Globe analysis this year showed that many such homes cost more than what many renter households can afford.

The key policy pillar that supports lower-cost housing is allowing significant density across the entirety of cities such as Vancouver and Toronto. That does not yet exist. Among the ideas that remain on the shelf are numerous recommendations from a landmark Ontario housing report in early 2022, including buildings of up to 11 storeys along all streets with transit, without any special approval.

But the same report made it clear that an affordable housing strategy has to be deeper than relying on for-profit developers. That means money. One smart option is using public land to build, a move Ottawa has started to pursue.

Opponents of new housing have claimed new supply wouldn't rein in prices. They're wrong. The decline in rent in Toronto, amid a surge of supply, shows the central role for the market in housing.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ESCALATION

Re "No matter what happens next, Ukraine's attack on Russia is a win for Kyiv" (Opinion, Aug. 14): I am aghast that the land invasion of another country can be termed a "win." Ukraine has every right to defend itself against Russia's invasion, but invading the Kursk region is a blatant escalation of affairs. Why are "Ukrainian forces [controlling] dozens of settlements stretching over 1,000 square kilometres" a benefit for anyone? Vladimir Putin is an autocrat and a war criminal, and he should be punished, but civilians who suffer under him shouldn't, and certainly not by a brute-force invasion. The opinion article estimates that "by the end of this week, as many as a quarter-million Russians will have been evacuated." As the article points out, this violent escalation may lead Mr. Putin to take more desperate and dangerous actions. Ukraine's invasion of Kursk is not an act of heroism, but of militarism and needless violence.

■ Iain McInnes Ottawa

### WILDFIRE PREVENTION

Re "Vancouver narrowly dodged a fire disaster. But nowhere is truly safe" (Opinion, Aug. 13): From 2016-22 I was an appointed, volunteer member of the Climate Action Committee of the City of Port Moody. One of my primary concerns was the risk of a wildfire in the forest adjacent to my neighbourhood on the east side of Burnaby Mountain. The thick, second-growth forest is on the Burnaby side of the boundary between Port Moody and Burnaby.

To the best of my knowledge, the City of Burnaby does not have a wildfire prevention program as a component of its Community Safety Plan (2022). They will simply deploy firefighters and other resources to suppress a fire once it is raging. But the administration of Simon Fraser University, on top of Burnaby Mountain, was concerned enough about the wildfire risk that it commissioned a consultant to assess the risk and recommend mitigation measures.

The report provides advice about fuel management, improving suppression capacity and better access. All of these actions should be applied to the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area that rings SFU in order to protect the campus and adjacent residential neighbourhoods.

Metro Vancouver, the regional authority, needs to exercise its leadership by developing a regional urban forest management and wildfire prevention plan. The province needs to provide signif-

icant, long-term funding to implement these plans in order to avoid a conflagration.

■ Derek Wilson Port Moody, B.C.

### 'C' CHANGE

Re "Maple Leafs appoint Matthews as captain, replacing Tavares" (Sports, Aug. 15): How 'bout those Leafs? The naming of Auston Matthews as captain demonstrates the Leafs' historical lack of respect for their captains and upper management's lack of intelligence. To strip the "C" from John Tavares, who has served honorably and well as captain and who is entering the last year of his current contract, shows an utter lack of respect. Mr. Tavares is a very good player who has led with class, both on and off the ice. The Leafs' brain trust could have quietly spent this coming season coaxing him to declare free agency, be traded or retire with his dignity and self-respect intact.

There's no denying that Mr. Matthews is a great player and currently one of the best in the league. However, many other teams' best players have never been their teams' captain – Guy Lafleur and Bobby Orr come to mind. Great captains are very good players who command the respect of their mates and literally carry their teams on their backs to win championships – Mark Messier and Derek Jeter come to mind. In the eight seasons he's been a Leaf, Mr. Matthews has failed to do this.

At the press conference, Mr. Tavares said all the right things but looked sad and embarrassed. Mr. Matthews looked embarrassed and unconvincingly mumbled a few platitudes. Management tried to look prescient and optimistic. How 'bout those Leafs.

■ Gerard Shkuda Burlington, Ont.

### IN REVERSE?

Re "Tariffs on Chinese EVs are a no-brainer. Why is Ottawa dragging its feet?" (Report on Business, Aug. 15): We have spent an enormous amount on battery-building capacity and now we want to put tariffs on a solution that is environmentally friendly. Unfortunately, there seems to be insufficient investment in expanding the number of recharging stations. The tariffs and the lack of insufficient investment in EV charging stations will not help Canada reach its target of converting all vehicles sold in Canada to EVs by 2035. Perhaps it is time for a rethink?

■ Richard van der Jagt Ottawa

### PICK UP

Re "The first pay-phone patent" (Moment in Time, Aug. 13): I would contend that there is still a role for the payphone, in particular for chronically or momentarily disadvantaged persons or those fleeing domestic violence. Such persons are also those least likely to have a cellphone or even have funds to use a payphone.

In 2021, Australian telecommunications provider Telstra took the initiative to make domestic calls from any payphone in Australia free. At the time, the company noted: "We want to contribute to ... an Australia where people can reach out for help if and when they need to, or just connect if they feel like it."

Could Bell take a similar approach? The company gets great mileage from its Let's Talk program. Making payphones free would ensure that everyone can be part of such a program and get help and support as needed.

■ Michael O'Brien  
Beaconsfield, Que.

### GOOD POINT

Re "There's an apostrophe battle brewing among grammar nerds. Is it Harris' or Harris's?" (Aug. 14): Thank you for your excellent and important front page article about apostrophes and the U.S. Democratic contenders for 2024. However, an equally important point was missed. It is my firm belief that Ms should not have a period after it. Periods after Mr. and Mrs.? These are okay because the periods signify a contraction. Ms is different. Please inform Ms Harris's and Mr. Walz's campaign.

■ Cathy Harrop Canmore, Alta.

I enjoyed your attention to the placement of the apostrophe in your "Harris' or Harris's" article. More than 60 years ago my high-school English teacher, Mrs. Lazarus (who always got everything precise), informed us that both ways are correct and used her own name as an example: Mrs. Lazarus' class or Mrs. Lazarus's class.

Where many people misuse the apostrophe is by placing it in words that do not take one – words that are plural but not possessive. Now that is an article the grammar nerds would like to see.

■ Rosalind Cooper-Key Calgary

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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# The U.S. must correct its Ukraine policy

Vice-President Kamala Harris could be the one to secure a Ukrainian victory if she wins the presidential ticket

ANDERS ASLUND STOCKHOLM

OPINION

Author of *Russia's Crony Capitalism: The Path from Market Economy to Kleptocracy*

By providing Ukraine with early military, political and financial support, U.S. President Joe Biden's administration saved it from being overrun by Russia. Yet the conflict has been locked in a stalemate, which is not to Ukraine's advantage. If elected, Kamala Harris should make it an explicit goal to turn today's horrendous war of attrition into a Ukrainian victory. Ukraine's surprising offensive in Russia's Kursk region may be the beginning of a more promising development.

Ukraine's own goals are clear:

to restore full territorial integrity; to allow all displaced Ukrainian citizens – including the thousands of children kidnapped by Russia – to return; and to receive full compensation for the damage Russia has caused. By contrast, the United States currently has no strategy to speak of. The Biden administration merely claims that it will support Ukraine “for as long as it takes,” whereas Ms. Harris's Republican challenger, Donald Trump, promises to end the war in a day, implying complete capitulation to the Kremlin.

For Ms. Harris, the current impasse is an opportunity. Two-thirds of Americans are rooting for Ukraine's victory, and she has already dealt extensively with Ukraine, having met President Volodymyr Zelensky six times and led the U.S. delegation to the Ukraine Peace Summit in Switzerland in June. As Vice-President, she has followed Mr. Biden's lead, but as president, she could turn the war around and make Ukraine one of her big winning issues.

Doing so will require a comprehensive strategy backed by sufficient resources. The Biden administration's policy is to

defend Ukraine without provoking Russian President Vladimir Putin. But given that Mr. Putin would not survive a nuclear war, he is exceedingly unlikely to go down that path.

Another fundamental shortcoming of the Biden policy is the lack of any clear goal, which should be to provide Ukraine with enough support to defeat Russia. The Ukrainians are bravely fighting on their own. They are not calling for foreign troops, but they do need potent arms, the right to use them to target Russian bases and sufficient funding from the West.

Ukraine received about US\$100-billion in 2023 (half of it military assistance, and the rest budget support and humanitarian aid), and it is on track to receive around the same amount in 2024. While substantial, that is not enough to tip the balance. For an outright victory, Ukraine would probably need US\$150-billion a year, with a doubling of military support to US\$100-billion.

It is no secret where such funding can be found. The West has frozen US\$280-billion in Russian reserves, two-thirds of which are

held in the private Euroclear system in Belgium. The U.S. Congress has sensibly passed legislation authorizing the Department of the Treasury to seize frozen Russian assets, while demanding that the European Union do the same. But the EU has refused.

This European resistance makes no sense. With Russia violating international law on a daily basis, the Kremlin cannot credibly demand the protection of international law. Like the U.S., the EU needs to adopt legislation allowing for Russian funds to be seized and used to support Ukraine. Though only around US\$5-billion has been located in the U.S., that money can be seized and delivered to Ukraine immediately to set an example for the Europeans. True, in June, the U.S. persuaded other G7 members to lend Ukraine US\$50-billion by drawing on the future yields from frozen Russian funds. That was a good start. But Ukraine needs the money as soon as possible to defeat Russia.

After Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February, 2022, the U.S., Britain and Canada were Ukraine's primary sources of military aid and training. During the

war's early months, they were understandably reluctant to furnish the Ukrainians with the most sophisticated arms, for fear that Russia would seize them. But these fears were alleviated by the summer of 2022. For two years now, the U.S. could have been providing Ukraine with the weapons it needed to push the Russians back. Very little will happen unless America leads. The U.S. remains globally dominant in arms production and exports.

Finally, we come to the most absurd flaw in America's Ukraine policy: the prohibition against using U.S.-supplied weapons to hit Russian bases from which Ukraine is being attacked. This policy is not even in keeping with the right to self-defence enshrined in the UN Charter. It should be revoked immediately.

The war in Ukraine could be a boon for Ms. Harris, but she must correct Mr. Biden's mistakes and provide the additional resources Ukraine needs to defeat Russia. By seizing Russian sovereign assets and persuading U.S. allies to do the same, she can help Ukraine win without placing any additional budgetary burden on Americans.

## Republicans can't land a punch on Kamala Harris

DEBRA THOMPSON

OPINION

Contributing columnist for The Globe and Mail

The surprising, joyful, unbridled enthusiasm surrounding Kamala Harris's historic presidential campaign is making it hard not to feel a shimmer of optimism that Democrats might just be able to pull this off, after all.

The latest poll numbers indicate that things are looking up for the Democrats, with Ms. Harris now tied or with a narrow lead over her opponent Donald Trump in six battleground states. Polls can be misleading and it's always important to be aware of margins of error, but it seems that in a very short time Ms. Harris has consolidated Democratic support and, importantly, won over more than a few independents, putting states that might have swung Republican under President Joe Biden's leadership back in play.

Democrats, elites and masses alike have rallied around Ms. Harris. Her campaign events are packed and teeming with energy. Democratic voter registrations have surged in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Ms. Harris's campaign raised US\$310-million in July alone, with two-thirds coming from first-time donors. As the Democratic National Convention begins on Monday, the party looks like it has emerged stronger than ever from a chaotic debut to the summer campaign season.

Against this rising tide of Democratic support, the Republicans



Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris, right, seen with running mate Tim Walz during a rally in Glendale, Ariz., has raised US\$310-million through her campaign in July alone. JULIA NIKHINSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

and former president Donald Trump can't seem to land a solid punch against Ms. Harris.

The Republican campaign strategy against Mr. Biden was a simple, clear and effective portrayal of strength versus weakness. That is, the strength of Mr. Trump as a leader, the economy for at least some of his presidency (the economy falling off a cliff during COVID-19 notwithstanding), the imagined strength of America's reputation abroad, the feigned juxtaposition of a country that was becoming great again, held in contrast with a recalcitrant, incoherent Mr. Biden, weakened by his age and declining mental acuity, stewarding an economy battered by inflation

and the rising cost of being alive, unable to manage the out-of-control factions within his own party, including those who whispered among themselves that perhaps he was past his prime.

But now that he's pitted against the energetic novelty and uninhibited glee of the Harris campaign, it is Mr. Trump who appears to be the incoherent, blundering old man in the race.

The Trump campaign has been floundering for positive media attention lately. Mr. Trump had a disastrous appearance at the conference of the National Association of Black Journalists on July 31. His charge that Ms. Harris “turned Black,” and suggested that someone should “look into”

her racial identity fell flat in front of an audience that knows the history of the one-drop rule and the complicated determinants of multiracial self-identification within Black communities.

Then, at a news conference on Aug. 8, Mr. Trump tried to attack Ms. Harris for not granting interviews to the press, saying that “she's barely competent” and “she's not smart enough to do a news conference.” But it turns out that how Americans get information is (sometimes unfortunately) less important than the fact that we get it. Leaks and conjecture produce the news just as well as a *Meet the Press* interview.

Even Mr. Trump's recent interview with billionaire Elon

Musk was more newsworthy for the technical issues plaguing Mr. Musk's social-media platform X than the two hours of Mr. Trump's ramblings.

Mr. Trump is clearly annoyed that someone else is taking the media spotlight from him. It's a little understandable. The man was, after all, shot in the ear just a few weeks ago. In the before times, the attempted assassination of a former president and current presidential candidate might have dominated the news cycle for more than a minute.

There's also the possibility that this is the honeymoon phase of progressives' feelings about their new presidential candidate. New relationship energy always sparkles, and rarely lasts.

Or, it could be that being a relatively unknown entity has become, as Tony Keller recently wrote in *The Globe*, a powerful political attribute for Ms. Harris. Her presidential platform has been, thus far, a little vague on actual policy details. Stalwart Democrats are clearly already on board, but at some point, the Democrats will have to spell out what a Harris presidency will stand for if they want to bring out new voters and convince independents – as well as the Never-Trumpers in the Republican Party who have been ostracized by the conservative base – to vote blue in November.

Until that happens, Mr. Trump will likely keep lobbing personal attacks at Ms. Harris – something he said he's “entitled” to do at a news conference on Thursday – hoping that something might stick. It's a strategy that ostensibly worked against “Crooked Hillary” and “Sleepy Joe.” So far, though, it hasn't made a dent against Teflon Kamala.

## Why is the Trump campaign getting involved in the gender wars? They're reading the room

MICHAEL ADAMS  
DAVID JAMIESON

OPINION

Michael Adams is president of the Environics Institute and author of *American Backlash*, which was first published in 2005 and is being updated for 2025.

David Jamieson is chief scientist at Environics Research.

Joe Biden's frailty was an easy target for Donald Trump and the Republicans, but Kamala Harris's presumptive presidential nomination at the coming Democratic Party convention in Chicago means they must change tack.

Their critique might focus on her politics (she's a liberal Californian), her race (she is the daughter of a Black Jamaican father and an Indian mother), or even her childhood (she spent her formative years in Montreal, in socialist Canada). But perhaps none of these perceived

vulnerabilities are as politically risky as Ms. Harris's gender.

America has experienced a backlash against progressive modernity since the 1970s. A good part of that movement is the backlash against feminism, and the assertion that women should be treated equally to men. We can see that tension in responses to our survey question asking whether “the father of the family must be master in his own house,” a classic articulation of patriarchy.

At Environics, we have been tracking social values in Canada and the United States for decades. By the early 1990s, we found that Canada had seen a decline in support for the idea that “father must be master” from 42 per cent in 1983 down to 25 per cent in 1992. We wondered what we would find in the U.S., the country that has produced feminist icons such as Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem.

In 1992, 42 per cent of Americans said yes, the father should be master in his own house. The finding held up over time. By

2000, the proportion increased to 48 per cent. It peaked in 2004 at 52 per cent and has hovered at just under half ever since; in 2023, it was 49 per cent.

In short, support for patriarchy in the U.S., as measured by this survey item, has been stubbornly persistent over the past 30 years at around half the population. Not surprisingly, the belief that the father must be master aligns with political choice. Among Republican voters, six in 10 (59 per cent) agreed in 2023 that the father must be master, as compared with four in 10 Democrats (40 per cent).

Now in 2024, with the Democrats fielding another woman as their presidential candidate, it should be no surprise that the gender wars have returned. Mr. Trump's choice for vice-president, J.D. Vance, has criticized Ms. Harris for not having children, denouncing the stranglehold of bitter “cat ladies” on government (but clarifying that he has nothing against cats).

If Mr. Vance was aware of our polling, he might be heartened to

know that most Republican supporters – and substantial minorities of Democrats and independents – agree that the father of the family must be master in his own house. Maybe he's found his campaign's silver bullet?

Not that it matters to Americans, but things remain quite different here in Canada. The roughly two-to-one gap we first noticed in 1992 has continued over the past three decades. In 2023, Canadians were only half as likely as Americans to agree that the father should be the master in the house (24 per cent compared with 49 per cent).

Even with significant and long-standing immigration from countries that are often more religious and patriarchal than Canada has become, Canadians overall maintain a distinct perspective on gender equality. And that distinct outlook includes supporters of all political parties. About 30 per cent of Canadian Conservatives believe the father must be master – only about half as likely as their Republican cousins (and less likely than

Democrats, too) to think the father must be the boss.

Similar partisan patterns in both countries hold for the extremely divisive and vote-determining wedge issue of abortion.

The next few months will reveal whether an openly patriarchal appeal to U.S. voters is a winning move in America in 2024. It's not a slam dunk: Some Americans who believe Dad should be on top may nonetheless be put off by some of the harder edges of the conservative agenda.

But while the U.S.'s election result will inevitably influence Canada, Canadian politicians should be careful about borrowing from the gender-wars chapter of the U.S. playbook. The underlying values landscape in Canada is marked by more common ground, especially on social issues. Canadian leaders who aspire to be the boss in the House are wise to be circumspect about who's on top (if anyone) in our households.

KELLY CRYDERMAN will return.

# LIFE & ARTS

HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS | OPINION | PUZZLES | WEATHER

## What to do about COVID-19 booster shots

As cases rise in Canada and an updated vaccine is on the way, high-risk individuals may want to consider an extra dose, experts say

PAUL TAYLOR

**QUESTION:** I've heard that there's been a summer surge in COVID-19 cases. Should I get a booster shot now or wait until the fall for the new updated COVID vaccine?

**ANSWER:** It's true that there's been a recent rise in COVID levels in Canada, according to data from waste-water collection sites across the country as of the end of July.

Not so long ago, many medical experts assumed that COVID would eventually turn into a seasonal infection – similar to influenza.

The flu virus tends to spread more readily in the fall and winter months. That's why influenza shots are given during those seasons. It was expected that public-health providers would be able to administer flu and COVID vaccines together, making it easier for people to stay up-to-date with their inoculations.

However, with COVID, "there is no evidence that we are approaching anything that resembles seasonality," said Dawn Bowdish, a professor of medicine and a Canada Research Chair in Aging and Immunity at McMaster University in Hamilton.

"We have been seeing waves of COVID every three to six months and there is no reason to believe that this is going to stop any time soon," she added.

Bowdish said that each new wave is partly fuelled by the emergence of viral mutations or variants that are better able to evade the defences of the im-



Dawn Bowdish, a professor of medicine and a Canada Research Chair in Aging and Immunity at McMaster University, says there have been 'waves of COVID every three to six months' with no reason to believe the pattern will stop any time soon. MELISSA PHILLIP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

immune system.

Diminishing immunity within the population is also a factor. The protection you gain from a vaccination or an actual infection tends to wane after three to six months. For those who got a COVID vaccine this past spring, their immunity may already be starting to wane. The vaccine they received was designed to target the XBB variant, which was the dominant form of the virus last year.

This fall, public-health officials are planning to have an updated vaccine that will help guard against the current crop such as the JN and KP variants. But, so far, there have been no official announcements about when the new vaccines will be available to the Canadian public.

"It may be October, it may be November – we just don't know," said Fahad Razak, a Canada Re-

search Chair in Healthcare Data and Analytics at the University of Toronto.

In the meantime, those at risk of serious complications may want to consider getting an extra dose of the current vaccine, he said. Although the vaccine is no longer a perfect match for the variants in circulation, it's close enough to give a boost to the immune system.

"It would provide some additional protection until later this fall when the new vaccine is released," explained Dr. Razak, who is also an internal medicine physician at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

Based on the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), which provides advice to the provincial and territorial ministries of health, you should wait at least three months be-

tween vaccine doses.

High-risk individuals who could potentially benefit from a vaccine shot include adults over the age of 65, those with immune-compromising medical conditions, residents of long-term care homes or other congregate settings, as well as pregnant women.

Even those not considered at high risk may have good reasons to receive a dose.

"If you're planning a big holiday and you don't want to get sick while you're travelling, then this is something you can do to protect yourself," said Allison McGeer, an infectious disease physician at Sinai Health System in Toronto.

She noted there is currently a high level of COVID activity in parts of Europe and the United States. Consider the fact that U.S. President Joe Biden was recently

laid low by a bout of COVID.

Those who live with vulnerable individuals also have a sound rationale to get a shot. "You don't want to be responsible for taking COVID home," explained Dr. McGeer.

According to the latest statistics from June 30, just 18 per cent of people in Canada rolled up their sleeves for the vaccine that targets the XBB variant.

Bowdish sees no downside to people getting an extra shot of the current vaccine so long as it has been at least three months since their last dose.

"All the data suggests it helps prevent infections in vulnerable people," said Bowdish. "There is no reason to wait when rates are high."

Nonetheless, she has concerns that people must decide for themselves whether to get a shot. Neither public-health officials nor expert groups such as NACI have provided any advice or guidance yet.

To further complicate matters, there is a dearth of reliable information about the level of COVID activity in Canada. Routine testing has fallen by wayside. Statistics on the number of people in hospital with COVID are incomplete.

And, in Ontario, the provincial government as of August ended the innovative waste-water monitoring program, which provided evidence about the amount of virus being spread in the community.

"People are supposed to make decisions about their own health based on their level of risk. But how do they do that if they don't have any data? I think this is really frustrating for the public," said Bowdish.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Former Patient Navigation Adviser at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and former health editor of The Globe and Mail.

## Reap the physical and mental rewards of these three strength-building tactics

PAUL LANDINI

OPINION

PHYS ED



I'm usually skeptical of most fitness and health fads, but my interests have been piqued by the 75 Hard trend, which has gained traction both in the real world and online over the past year. Marketed not as a fitness challenge, but as "an Ironman for your brain" – in reference to the famously gruelling triathlon – its followers insist it's a life-changing experience, one that builds mental toughness and rock-solid discipline.

Created in 2019 by supplement entrepreneur and podcasting personality Andy Frisella, the rules for 75 Hard are simple, at least from a conceptual standpoint. Every day, for 75 straight days, participants must follow a structured diet plan of their choice (one that excludes alcohol), complete two 45-minute workouts (one of which must take place outside), drink one gallon of water (3.79 litres), read 10 pages of non-fiction (audiobooks don't count), and take a daily progress picture.

If any of these tasks are missed at any point, you have to start all over at Day 1. Like I said, simple, but definitely not easy. And that's the whole point of the program; much like the Navy SEALs physical screening test, 75 Hard is designed to break the will of all who dare make an attempt so that only those with the strongest mental fortitude survive.

What intrigues me most about this program is how it relates to the message that trainers and coaches often preach to the unconverted masses. Not everyone enjoys working out. To reach these individuals, fitness pros have to deliver a pitch that emphasizes the bigger picture, one that illustrates how getting in shape delivers much more than a slimmer waistline.

There is a catch, naturally. These life-changing benefits are really only achieved one way – through hard work on a daily basis. Going through the motions can be a helpful way to build momentum at first, but sooner or later you're going to have to make a serious commitment or else nothing will change at all.

Not your body, not your health, and most definitely not the circumstances that brought you to this point in the first place.

Using 75 Hard as a reference, I've narrowed down three specific tactics everyone can focus on to build the mental and



It's easy to stick to what you're good at when working out, but incorporating exercises outside of your comfort zone has its benefits. LI ZHONGFEI/GETTY IMAGES

physical strength that leads to powerful, long-term transformations. I'm referring to these tactics in context to physical training, but really they can be applied to almost any aspect of life. All that's required to reap the rewards is an honest effort each and every day.

### WORK YOUR WEAKNESSES

Our lives tend to revolve around our strengths. In the gym, most weightlifters congregate around the power racks and cable stacks without ever giving cardio machines a second glance. The same often applies to endurance athletes, many of whom see strength training as a waste of time. It's easy to do the things we're good at and enjoy, but as the cliché goes, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

I'm guilty of falling victim to this mentality. Resistance training has been my forte for decades, with cardio being something I reserved for bike rides and dog walks. But lately I've been adding a few 5K runs to my weekly routine and the resulting benefits have been immediate: better sleep, more energy throughout the day, and more stamina when I'm lifting.

### MASTER YOUR MIND

Typically, what we call "hard work" is more

mentally taxing than anything else. Of course physical effort takes its toll, but squatting double your body weight requires as much from the mind as it does the muscles.

This notion ties directly to my previous point: training needs to be hard – both physically and mentally – to be effective.

I've explored this idea in a past column, but it's worth restating: The ultimate goal of physical training is to strengthen your brain as well as your body. If you're not at least a little bit afraid of your workout plan, chances are it's not doing you any good.

### ADDRESS YOUR BAD HABITS

Do you drink too much? Do you binge on chips and chocolate whenever life gets stressful? Do you sacrifice solid sleep for screen time?

We all have our vices, and we all know how they hold us back one way or another. Imagine what your life would look like without any drugs or alcohol or junk food. If the image that comes to mind is frightening or altogether impossible to conjure, well, that's a good indication you need to address this habit by any means necessary.

Paul Landini is a personal trainer and health educator in Kitchener, Ont.

## Alien: Romulus chest-bursts its way to top of the box office

LINDSEY BAHR  
KAITLYN HUAMANI

**A**lien: Romulus, the latest instalment in the 45-year-old franchise, opened in first place at the North American box office. The 20th Century Studios release earned an estimated US\$41.5-million in its first weekend, where it was playing in 3,885 locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Including US\$66.7-million from international showings in 49 markets, Alien: Romulus boasted a US\$108.2-million global debut. The Walt Disney Co., which owns 20th Century Studios, claimed the top two spots on the charts, with Marvel's *Deadpool & Wolverine* now in its fourth weekend, taking second place with US\$29-million.

August can often be slow for the movie business, or, less charitably, a dumping ground. But while 2024 has lagged overall for the movie business, a string of recent hits including *Deadpool & Wolverine* and *It Ends With Us* helped build a momentum that put this late August weekend more than 30 per cent ahead of the same weekend last year. It's also up more than 10 per cent from August, 2019.

The romantic drama *It Ends With Us* landed in third place with US\$24-million, down just 52 per cent from its triumphant opening. The Sony movie starring Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni, who also directed, has made US\$97.8-million to date.

*Twisters* placed fourth in its fifth weekend with US\$9.8-million from 3,483 theatres. The Universal release has made more than US\$238.4-million domestically.

Rounding out the top five was a rerelease: *Coraline*, which Fathom Events put on more than 1,500 screens for its 15th anniversary where it made US\$11.3-million in four days and US\$8.6-million from Friday through Sunday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



ILLUSTRATION BY DREW SHANNON

# I resented the Fitbit that my son got me until I lost it

FIRST PERSON

I admit I actually missed the camaraderie the device and I were starting to develop,  
**Sylvie Leone** writes

This Mother's Day I had foisted upon me the gift of a Fitbit. One knows that as a mother, it behooves one to love, celebrate and be delighted by any gift a child presents. From the droopy dandelion bouquet picked by a toddler to a postmillennial gadget of questionable utility given with wild enthusiasm by a thirtysomething son.

My fitness-crazed son was beyond excited to get me started on the Fitbit, showing off the fast charge, setting up the corresponding phone app, encouraging me to "interface" with it so I could see all the cool functions it had.

Did I see that in addition to how many steps I took daily, it would give me no end of valuable information like how many hours I slept? My response was, "You mean I have to sleep with it?"

Not only that, I was informed that I should shower and swim with it, too. Now, I am someone who has to remove every piece of jewellery and any other attachment as soon as I get home in order to feel comfortable, and certainly before I get into bed. I was now expected to be managed to this electronic overseer 24/7. I didn't know how much longer I could feign enchantment.

I dutifully donned the apparatus and got on with my day knowing that some app techie somewhere across the planet was monitoring my activity levels and

bodily functions, and was even commenting on them. Buzzing my step counts, buzzing me to get up and move, buzzing me to ask what activity I was doing, buzzing me congratulations on achieving step milestones!

Oh, the indignity of it all. Well, after a couple of nights of my wrist buzzing me awake, I made the executive decision that I would not wear it to bed. Too bad if I developed atrial fibrillation in my sleep. Yes, apparently the Fitbit can diagnose arrhythmias, too. I'd just have to deal with my wayward heart in the morning.

I also had to relocate the Fitbit, heretofore also known as FB, from my bedroom at night since its buzzing of useless alerts disturbed my sleep, and I had not yet sufficiently interfaced with it to know how to deactivate said alerts.

So I left it in my study. After a few days, I kind of often forgot to put it on, risking the scolding the FB would give me for detecting suboptimal activity levels.

And then, this may be a Freudian subconscious thing, but after owning the FB for less than one month, I seemed to have lost it.

The thing is, I was performing in a theatre production that was dated in the 1920s. So, of course, I couldn't wear a Fitbit on stage. I removed it from my wrist at the dress rehearsal and remember deliberately placing it in what I deemed to be a safe and memorable location, which, for the life of me, I could not recall. I only noticed it was missing after the four-day run of the play and then summoned the whole cast and crew to a venue wide search for the

vanished Fitbit.

Was this intelligent instrument also sensitive to my indifference thus attaching itself to a more willing participant? In a huff it may well have deleted its "Find My Fitbit" feature and has since remained elusive, refusing any syncing attempts with my phone's FB app.

Maybe, I figured, that's what happens when you foist new age technology upon sixtysomethings with limited interfacing capability. My son was particularly dismayed by the FB's disappearance, and I admit I actually missed the camaraderie we were starting to develop.

Then, after 10 FB-free days, I found it! I conducted another even more comprehensive search, rummaging through every pouch, bag, and coat pocket – and, eureka! There it was, tucked into the breast pocket of a jacket I hardly ever wear, which I had dutifully put away in the armoire after one of the shows (I had gone out with a friend for a post-show cosmo, which may explain the memory lapse).

What a joyful reunion! The battery still had 12 per cent – like it had been waiting for me. I immediately informed my son who answered me in capital letters – "WHERE!" – was he rejoicing or reprimanding?

No matter, my FB and I will resume our fitness journey, happily ever after, stepping along into the sunset.

Sylvie Leone lives in Toronto.

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

After a couple of nights of my wrist buzzing me awake, I made the executive decision that I would not wear it to bed. Too bad if I developed atrial fibrillation in my sleep.

# Food combos that boost nutritional benefits

LESLIE BECK

OPINION



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, pulses, soybeans and nuts are excellent sources of vitamins and minerals, nutrients that keep our bodies running in high gear. (No surprise there.)

They also contain thousands of phytochemicals, plant compounds thought to help guard against chronic disease.

What you might not realize, though, is that some nutrients and protective phytochemicals aren't optimally absorbed if you eat these foods on their own.

Instead, pairing certain foods can provide a bigger nutritional bang for your buck. In other words, the whole is more powerful than the sum of its parts.

THE CONCEPT OF FOOD SYNERGY

Food synergy refers to the interactions between nutrients and other components in foods that make them better absorbed and used by the body.

Eating two or more foods together can deliver greater nutritional value – and potential health benefits – than if eaten alone. That's the reason why nutrition scientists now study dietary patterns – the overall combination of foods eaten on a regular basis – instead of the health effects of single foods or nutrients.

Dietary patterns capture the complexity of the nutrient interactions between foods.

POWERFUL NUTRIENT AND FOOD PAIRINGS

To enhance the nutritional value of your meals and snacks, consider the following nutrient synergies and food combinations.

## Plant-based iron + vitamin C

While spinach, prunes, tofu, chickpeas and pumpkin seeds are high in iron, this doesn't mean your body gets all of it.

That's because iron in plant foods, called non-heme iron, is poorly absorbed. Natural compounds called phytates bind to iron making it unavailable for absorption. (Heme iron in animal foods is highly absorbable.)

You can enhance the absorption of iron in plants by pairing it with vitamin C. The nutrient transforms non-heme iron into a form the body can more easily absorb.

Include at least 50 mg of vitamin C in plant-based meals to significantly enhance iron absorption. For example, toss one half-cup of sliced strawberries (50 mg vitamin C) into a spinach salad or add one cup of broccoli (81 mg) to a tofu stir-fry.

Enjoy hummus with red or yellow bell pepper sticks; half of a large red or yellow pepper has 100 and 170 mg of vitamin C, respectively.

## Carotenoids + fat

Leafy greens such as spinach, kale, Swiss chard and collard greens are exceptional sources of beta-carotene and lutein, potent antioxidants that belong to the carotenoid family.

Eating a diet high in carotenoid-rich vegetables and fruit is associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease.

And a higher intake of dietary lutein is thought to slow the development of age-related macular degeneration and benefit cognitive health.

Carotenoids are fat soluble, so you'll need some fat with your greens to absorb these antioxidants. As little as 3 to 5 g (about a teaspoon worth) will do the trick.

Sauté greens in extra-virgin olive oil, add hard-boiled eggs to a spinach salad (egg yolks are a good source of fat) or serve greens with an oily fish like salmon or

trout. Another benefit: Fat also enhances the absorption of leafy greens' brain-friendly vitamin E and bone-building vitamin K.

Other excellent sources of beta-carotene that will benefit from a little fat include sweet potato, carrots, butternut squash and pumpkin.

Note: Cooking your vegetables also makes it easier for your body to absorb beta-carotene and lutein.

## Turmeric + fat + black pepper

This bright yellow-orange-coloured spice has a centuries-long history of being used for medicinal purposes.

Today, turmeric is actively studied for its potential health benefits thanks to curcumin, the spice's active ingredient.

Curcumin has strong anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties and is thought to help ease arthritic joint pain, reduce the severity of non-alcoholic fatty liver and ease symptoms of depression.

While these studies involve supplements of curcumin extracts or turmeric powder, it's a healthy and tasty spice to add to your diet.

Turmeric, though, is poorly absorbed by the body. To enhance absorption, pair the spice with fat – add it to olive oil and vinegar salad dressings, scrambled eggs and omelettes or smoothies along with a little almond butter.

Pair turmeric with black pepper too. Black pepper's active ingredient, piperine, helps inhibit curcumin from being excreted by the body. As little as 1/20 of a teaspoon of black pepper can improve the body's use of curcumin.

Another trick to boost the absorption of turmeric is to heat it – chickpea curry or turmeric latte anyone?

Leslie Beck, a Toronto-based private practice dietitian, is director of food and nutrition at Medcan. Follow her on Twitter @LeslieBeckRD.

# Newfoundland folklore archive hopes to give mystery women their due

SARAH SMELLIE ST. JOHN'S

For decades, folklorists at Memorial University have had a Mrs. W. R. King to thank for sharing the local superstition that a lid left off a kettle as tea was steeping was a sure sign a stranger would soon come knocking.

But it was not until a project dubbed Missus Monday took off that researchers at the Newfoundland and Labrador university were able to put a full name to their mysterious source. They now know Mrs. King's first name was Myrtle, and she worked as a switchboard operator in St. John's.

The project of the university's Folklore and Language Archive aims to find the first names of women who contributed remedies, recipes and local beliefs, but were only credited as a "missus," with their husband's last name and often his first name or initials. Nicole Penney, an assistant archivist at the centre said men and unmarried women had their first and last names included, but the tradition was to identify married women with their husbands' names.

"We wanted to put it out there that these women had lost their names, basically," Penney said in a recent interview. "They're all amazing pieces of folklore, and these women deserve the recognition."

Newfoundland has a rich folklore tradition that began with the English and Irish fishermen who began settling on the island in the 17th century. Fascinated, an American anthropologist named Herbert Halpert established the folklore archive at Memorial in the 1960s.

Researchers and students began collecting tidbits from people across the province, writing them down on index cards along with the name of who supplied them and where they were from. Over the next three decades, more than 120,000 cards were filled out with wisdom and anecdotes from many of the far-flung fishing villages dotting Newfoundland and Labrador's shores.

The cards map out the beliefs, expressions and rituals that informed everyday life in these communities, helping scholars better understand the social history of the province.

Mrs. Lloyd Head of Carbonear said a spruce bow tied to a gatepost would ward off evil spirits and keep crops safe, according to a card from 1977. Mrs. L. Hynes of Bishop's Falls would make cough drops she called "bull's eyes" by boiling together molasses and Vicks VapoRub, according to another, from 1984.

Mrs. M. E. Breen in St. John's heard it was good luck to blow a kiss to a crow, said a card from 1985.

In 2019, wanting to know who these women were, staff at the folklore archive began posting the cards to Facebook and Twitter (now known as X), asking if anyone might be able to identify the "missus" in question. They posted the cards on Monday, and called the effort Missus Monday.

So far, they've posted 165 cards, and identified 21 contributors, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

2+	1-	24x			2+
1	5	3	2	4	6
2	4	1	6	5	3
11+	1-	5-	2+	8+	5+
5	2	6	3	1	4
6	3	4	5	2	1
12x	5-			13+	
3	1	2	4	6	5
4	6	5	1	3	2



[ BASKETBALL ]

## A Saskatchewan homecoming

At left, Canada's Paige Crozon signs autographs at Victoria Park in Saskatoon on Saturday, after she and her teammates hosted Singapore in a FIBA 3x3 Women's Series game. For the Olympian and native of Humboldt, Sask., it was her first time wearing the maple leaf in front of a home crowd. At bottom left, Ms. Crozon breaks a huddle Thursday at a community basketball camp at Walter Murray Collegiate



PHOTOS BY HEYWOOD YU/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



## Backlog: Delays in resolving complaints offer incentive to bad actors, security expert says

■ FROM A1

Mr. Missaghi's killing in June uncovered decades of alleged mortgage fraud schemes. The law society eventually disciplined five lawyers for assisting Mr. Missaghi, but a Globe investigation revealed that he quickly found new ones to work with.

After the story ran last week, the law society issued a notice indicating it had begun the process aimed at suspending the licences of two more real estate lawyers who worked with Mr. Missaghi more recently. The notice said that if the two are allowed to continue working, there would be "a significant risk of harm to members of the public."

Lawyers Frederick Yack and Shahryar Mazaheri will face hearings this week that will determine whether they can continue to practise law.

Lawyers for both men have denied wrongdoing by their clients.

Alisa Pogorelovsky, whose husband Alan Kats killed Mr. Missaghi after her family was allegedly defrauded by him of more than \$1-million in life savings, filed a complaint with her husband about the two lawyers earlier this year.

But the complaints involving lawyers for Mr. Missaghi are not the only ones that have highlighted the law society's delays.

Toronto lawyer couple Nicholas Cartel and Singa Bui had their law licences placed under interim suspension by the law society earlier this year as it investigates complaints of fraud by former clients.

The law society tribunal found strong evidence of "mishandling and/or misappropriation" of client trust funds by Ms. Bui and Mr. Cartel since at least 2023. But the couple were still able to keep working for months after an initial complaint with the society was filed. Mr. Cartel has appealed his suspension, though Ms. Bui has not. Neither the couple nor their representatives could be reached for comment.

In an e-mail statement, law society spokesperson Jennifer Wing said regulatory investigations can be affected by many factors, but that the failure of lawyers to cooperate with investigations is a significant reason for delays.

Christian Leuprecht, a security expert at Royal Military College and Queen's University, said the delays in resolving complaints provide incentives to bad actors.

Regulators "want to ensure due process, but this is too long," he said. "This is what the bad actors count on: to outrun the administrative clock."

Waiting times for these particular cases have risen to 940 days on average in 2023 from 699

in 2019. In its report, the Law Society of Ontario's professional regulation committee pointed to staffing shortages and a transition to a new case-management system as the reason behind the long waiting times and backlog in cases.

in 2019.

John L. Hill, a retired lawyer and professor of constitutional law at Osgoode Hall Law School who researched Ms. Bui and Mr. Cartel's case for Canadian law journal *Law360*, said the law society needs to take more intermediary steps when a complaint is initially filed.

"Lawyers, like everyone else, have a right to be presumed innocent of charges levelled against them," Mr. Hill said. "But where I see that falling apart is when it's seven months before investigators even showed up to start asking questions — there should be at least a telephone call to find out what the nature of the problem is, some sort of investigation; treat it with priority."

Ultimately, the province's attorney-general may have to weigh in on what is a reasonable length of time if the law society is unwilling or unable to come up with deadlines, Mr. Leuprecht said.

"Perhaps the legislator needs to step in and prescribe, by law, how long a process may take — not telling them how to run the process, but they can say, 'You know, you must have an initial finding within 90 days or whatever, so it's reasonable.'"

In its report, the Law Society of Ontario's professional regulation committee pointed to staffing shortages and a transition to a new case-management system as the reason behind the long waiting times and backlog in cases.

"Staff addressed the unanticipated workload of an additional 685 cases that were merged with existing cases" and "2,873 'ghost' cases where the complainant did not complete the online complaints form or was timed out," the report stated.

The law society made efforts to confront the backlog by adding at least two new full-time roles.

Michelle Gallant, a professor at Robson Hall Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba and a former commissioner of the Manitoba Law Reform Commission, said that while the law society is limited in how it can respond to complaints promptly without exposing its members to harm, the society should be able to warn its members internally.

"Law societies ought to have more flexibility, and ought to be able to respond in time, at least, to notify other lawyers," she said. "They can't communicate publicly, but it can communicate to its members."

Ms. Gallant said that if there's a trend that law societies are facing challenges in self-regulating, it can be damaging to the law profession and puts its ability to self-govern into question.

## Toronto needs to get over its fear of car-free streets

Improved transit and active transportation are the solutions to congestion, not adding roads or more lanes

ALEX BOZIKOVIC  
OPINION



ARCHITECTURE

On a recent Saturday afternoon, Market Street in downtown Toronto was alive with the buzz of conversation and the tang of barbecue smoke. A few hundred people milled around enjoying live music, buying tomatoes and enjoying each other's company. Only one thing typically found on the streets was missing: cars.

This scene, of a street closed temporarily to vehicles, is remarkably rare in Toronto. What is the city so afraid of?

Over the past decade, major cities across Europe and the Americas have embraced temporary "pedestrian zones" and, in some cases, closing certain streets permanently to vehicles. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this trend; certain cities, led globally by Paris, introduced major bike infrastructure.

Montreal, under Mayor Valérie Plante, has expanded its car-free streets program to 11 streets across seven neighbourhoods. Businesses, residents and tourists are generally thrilled.

Toronto dabbled with pedestrianizing streets, and then decisively backed away. Other than a few bike lanes, it's as if those summers of "slow streets" and raucous patio parties never happened.

The "ActiveTO" program, which opened Lake Shore Boulevard West to thousands of pedestrians and cyclists, was summarily executed in 2022. The Open StreetsTO program, run by the not-for-profit 880 Cities, seems to have vanished. The city's CaféTO patio program has come under attack.

There are only a handful of other open-streets projects, including Bellair Street in Yorkville. Toronto has 5,600 kilometres of roadway, but at this point, only

about one of them is car-free.

What happened? It seems that the old politics of the car have reasserted themselves. The city seems obsessed with traffic congestion. Mayor Olivia Chow's administration seems to have caved to conservative and suburban calls to make driving easier and faster, even by speeding up Gardiner Expressway construction.

This is understandable. Everyone in Toronto who drives is annoyed these days. Getting around the city by motor vehicle is significantly harder than it used to be, partly because of a rising population, and in large part owing to a series of public-works projects including the Ontario Line. Organizations such as the local Board of Trade hold firm in their belief that being able to drive with ease, everywhere, is critical to the functioning of the economy.

But here is some news: It will never get better. The Toronto region is projected to reach 10 million people by 2051. You cannot build enough roads or open enough lanes. The scholarship is clear that regional congestion cannot be fixed with cars; it can only be fixed by improving transit and active transportation. A person takes up far more space in a car than they do in a train seat. You can't argue with geometry.

Meanwhile, such tiny moves as the Market Street initiative generate huge social and economic benefits. Nobody much was driving down that one block anyway. The city has given away 18 street parking spots to generate a huge amount of social life, business and a scene that thrills out-of-town visitors. The local business improvement area has been pushing this effort; Councillor Chris Moise has fought hard to get it extended.

It shouldn't be this difficult to pedestrianize even the tiniest fragments of the public realm. A large metropolis will never be the easiest place to drive around. Toronto should keep this in mind and plan accordingly. Queen Street, in the centre of the city, will be closed to cars for a decade for Ontario Line construction; it should never reopen.

A few more cars won't make the city richer or happier, or even a better place to drive.

# THE CLIMATE EXCHANGE



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## Financial criminals use bankruptcy to skirt fines: watchdogs

JAMESON BERKOW  
CAPITAL MARKETS REPORTER

Dozens of financial criminals have managed to escape paying tens of millions of dollars in regulatory penalties by declaring bankruptcy, according to market watchdogs in British Columbia and Ontario.

When the Supreme Court of Canada ruled last month that criminals can use the bankruptcy process to erase punitive fines imposed by securities regulators, the case was about a single pair of pump-and-dump scammers. Now, as regulators and investor advocates renew calls for federal lawmakers to close what the BC Securities Commission calls an “escape hatch,” new data show that hatch has seen a lot of use.

Ottawa, meanwhile, appears to be in no hurry to make the legislative changes required for that hatch to be closed.

Since 2001, more than 40 individuals and companies, owing a total of roughly \$80-million to the BCSC, have had their fines wiped out through the bankruptcy process, according to BCSC data.

While the Ontario Securities Commission does not actively maintain similar data on Canada’s single largest market, OSC spokesperson JP Vecsi said the regulator is aware of more than 40 people and companies with outstanding fines who have been involved in bankruptcy proceedings since 2011, though he could not provide a dollar figure for the fines that ultimately went unpaid as a result.

The Supreme Court ruled that, to survive bankruptcy proceedings, fines issued by securities regulators must be directly linked to fraud, such as orders to repay money obtained through fraud, also known as disgorgement orders.

■ BANKRUPTCY, B6

## Online lender Nesto eyes market amid mortgage renewal surge

RACHELLE YOUNGLAI  
REAL ESTATE REPORTER

Fresh from gobbling up a much larger residential and commercial mortgage player, online lender Nesto Inc. has its eye on a larger slice of the mortgage market.

A slew of homeowners will soon be renewing their cheap pandemic-era mortgages at much higher interest rates and Nesto believes this will be the company’s opportunity to build its portfolio of residential loans.

“We call it the great renewal,” Nesto chief executive officer Malik Yacoubi said in an interview. “There will be a big wave of renewals, which could create some opportunities for us to grab market share.”

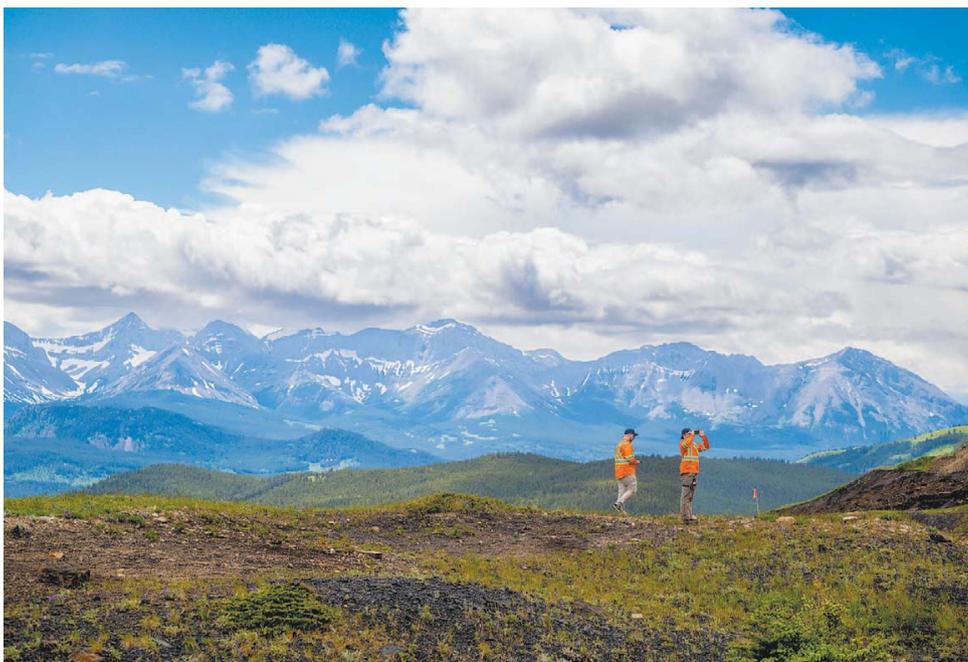
Since its founding in 2018, Montreal-based Nesto has grown rapidly. Its most recent spurt occurred in June with the acquisition of CMLS Financial Ltd., the country’s third-largest mortgage finance company.

The deal pushed Nesto into the big leagues of non-bank lenders as well as into the commercial mortgage sector. Nesto-CMLS has \$60-billion in outstanding mortgages, up from Nesto’s \$10-billion prior to the deal. The combined company has 1,000 employees in 10 offices across the country, compared with 300 Nesto staff.

The acquisition was backed by Nesto’s large investors including Sagard-backed Diagram Ventures, Portage and Power Corp. of Canada subsidiary IGM Financial.

■ NESTO, B5

[ MINING ]



## Revival of the Rockies’ coal sector clashes with those who say it will harm the land

New battleground emerges between industry and climate activists

EMMA GRANNEY  
ENERGY REPORTER

The wind rips across Grassy Mountain as the truck rumbles slowly along a crude track that, for decades, carried miners and coal around this part of Alberta’s Crowsnest Pass.

Remnants of the region’s coal industry, which dates back to 1900, litter the mountain; an old cart, twisted rusted metal, pockmarked buildings, weathered planks of wood and a mountaintop carved by decades of open-pit mining.

It’s also a battleground, pitting those who support coal development in the region against those who are firmly opposed.

A lead proponent is Northback Holdings

Corp., which owns a huge swath of land that was, until the 1960s, teaming with coal mines above and under the ground. It is one of the many companies owned by Hancock Prospecting Pty. Ltd, which is run by Australian billionaire Gina Rinehart – the country’s richest person.

Northback has three applications in front of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), seeking permission for a coal exploration program, a deep drill permit for Crown and private land, and a temporary diversion licence for 1.5 million litres of water. None of those are applications for a mine proper, but for the kind of exploratory activity that comes before developing a detailed plan to get to the veins of metal-making coal that run deep and plentiful across this part of southern Alberta.

■ COAL, B6

Northback Holdings is seeking permission from the Alberta Energy Regulator for a coal exploration program as the regulator also deals with objections to the project. GAVIN JOHN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

## ‘Is there any appeal to them whatsoever?’: First-time home buyers shun today’s shrinking condos

KELSEY ROLFE

Alec Dagenais, 21, is a few years out from being ready to buy his first home, but he already knows he doesn’t want a condo.

He sees some appeal to condo living: It would be less responsibility and, as someone living alone, he doesn’t need a huge amount of space.

But monthly condo fees make the units more expensive than their sale prices suggest, he says. And living in Gatineau, a still-affordable market, a condo is “a lot of the time not meaningfully cheaper,” says Mr. Dagenais, a wealth management associate. “I don’t see the point in going for something inferior, because historically they gain value at a lower rate than single-family homes.”

There are signs that first-time buyers are souring on condo living. A recent survey of

Canadian renters about their home ownership plans by real estate search portal Point2 found that – despite citing high home prices and the down payment as their top challenges to buying – 77 per cent of respondents wanted to buy a single-family home. Just 12 per cent want a condo, a figure that dropped to 8 per cent for respondents aged 18 to 24, and 9 per cent for those over 65.

Still, a condo is the only affordable option for many first-time buyers, particularly in Canada’s most expensive housing markets. More than a third of first-time buyers in British Columbia and just under one in six in Ontario bought a condo in 2019, according to Statistics Canada.

Ron Butler, a Toronto-based mortgage broker with Butler Mortgage Inc., says there’s a “high level of frustration and anger” toward the city’s condo market among the first-time buyers he works with.

The reason, he says, comes down to the square footage of available stock.

Ontario condos are 35 per cent smaller on average than they were 25 years ago, while detached homes are 25 per cent larger, according to October, 2022, data from Municipal Property Assessment Corp. The average square footage of a condo peaked in the mid-1990s at roughly 1,100 square feet; in 2022, the average was about 700 square feet, which is roughly the size of a large one-bedroom apartment.

Ontario isn’t the only province to see new condos shrink. Statscan data from 2019 found that the living area of B.C. condos built in 2016 and 2017 is more than 15 per cent smaller than for those built in the 1980s and 90s.

Rose Calvelo, a realtor with eXp Realty in Calgary, said many of the first-time buyers she works with are eager to own land.

■ CONDOS, B9



OPINION

The border agency’s plan to increase import taxes will hurt Canadian trade

■ B4

DAVID RYDER/REUTERS

ECONOMY

Inflation data likely to set stage for more rate cuts, analysts say ■ B3

PERSONAL FINANCE

Tips for setting up your student’s home without breaking the bank ■ B8

## [ TECHNOLOGY ]



## Ready to rumble

A child rides an electric-powered robot Sunday at an outdoor shopping mall during the summer holiday in Beijing

ANDY WONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Return to school puts Big Tech back in educators' sights

Experts expect renewed clash between tech and textbooks as schools and parents reckon with social media's impact

TARA DESCHAMPS

Back to school could mean back to the hot seat for Big Tech.

Social-media platforms TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat spent last school year embroiled in a lawsuit accusing them of disrupting learning, contributing to a mental-health crisis among youth, and leaving teachers to manage the fallout.

When students return to class this September, experts say, the clash between tech and textbooks will be reignited – and perhaps even ratcheted up – as schools and parents reckon with the effects social media is having on education.

“Back to school is happening at a different time this year than was true two years ago, three years ago, four years ago,” said Richard Lachman, a digital-media professor at Toronto Metropolitan University.

“It absolutely seems like as a society, we’re having more conversations about the harms of social media, but the companies themselves are in a position where they’re not necessarily doing more.”

Brett Caraway, a professor of media economics at the University of Toronto, said the situation the education system finds itself in this year is a consequence of the proliferation of mobile devices that began in 2007 with the advent of the iPhone. It has been exacerbated by camera capabilities, apps and social networks.

“I fully expect that this issue is going to persist because smartphone penetration among adolescents has not tapered off,” he said.

Just shy of 40 per cent of Canadian children between the ages of 2 and 6 used a mobile phone in April, 2022, Statista data show. That figure rose to 50 per cent for kids between 7 and 11 and was even higher for those between 12 and 17 – at 87 per cent.

That same year, 42 per cent of those between the ages of 15 and 24 reported to Statistics Canada that they were spending 20 hours or more a week using the internet for “general purposes,” which include using social media, browsing the web, online shopping and reading the news.

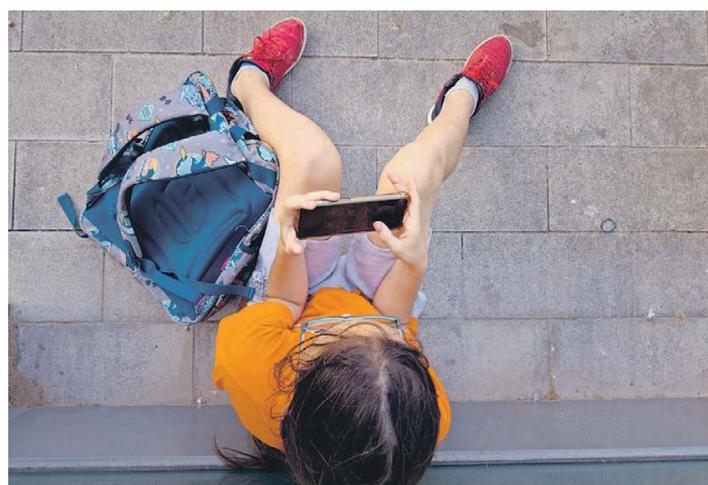
Much of those 20 hours are dedicated to the endless scroll of buzzy videos, posts and photos that come from the smattering of social-media networks that have become household names in recent years.

Dr. Caraway recently heard from a family friend about a 14-year-old who averages six hours a day on TikTok. He found it “mind-boggling.”

“I don’t understand how anybody has six hours a day to be on a smartphone like that, but this is what the platforms are designed to do,” he said.

“They make money by demonstrating to potential advertisers that they have high levels of user engagement. ... The platform is designed to literally capture the attention of the user and hold it for as long as possible.”

That can spell trouble for teachers still trying to get through a lesson, or students needing to study but constantly being drawn in by the allure of social media.



A lawsuit launched by four Ontario school boards last March against TikTok, Snap, and Instagram and Facebook’s owner has grown to 12 boards and two private schools seeking more than \$8-billion, lawsuit organizers have said. EMILIO MORENATTI/AP VIA CP

Studies have linked more time on social media to lower self-esteem and academic performance as well as more exposure to hateful, violent and mature content.

A 2018 study by the World Health Organization concluded 6.85 per cent of students were classified as having problematic social-media use, which is considered to be when behavioural and psychological symptoms of addiction to social media manifest. Some 33.14 per cent of students were at moderate risk for problematic social-media use and another 60 per cent faced low risk, the study found.

Four Ontario school boards decided to take the matter to court last March, suing TikTok, Snap Inc., and Instagram and Facebook owner Meta Platforms Inc. for \$4.5-billion. The suit accused them of negligently designing their products for compulsive use and rewiring the way children think, behave and learn.

By August, the group taking action against the tech giants had grown to 12 boards and two private schools seeking more than \$8-billion, lawsuit organizers School Boards for Change said. The allegations in the lawsuits have not been proven in court.

“Our children are literally falling apart and we have to spend extra resources in order to keep up with our obligation, which is to provide education,” Dr. Caraway said. “So this lawsuit is an attempt to make someone pay for this.”

Asked about the lawsuit and suggestions that the social-media companies aren’t doing enough to protect kids online, Snapchat spokesperson Tonya Johnson said her company’s app was designed to be different from other platforms because it tries not to put pressure on users to be perfect or popular.

“We care deeply about the mental health of young people, and while we will always have more work to do, we feel good about the role Snapchat plays in helping close friends feel connected, happy and prepared as they face the many challenges of adolescence,” she said in an e-mail.

Meta did not respond to a request for comment. TikTok declined to share a statement.

However, at a July safety session TikTok hosted for news media, it described several actions it has taken to protect young users. They include family pairing, which allows parents to link their accounts directly with their teens’ and ensure their kids’ TikTok settings are agreed upon as a family, and one-hour screen-time limits for users under 18 that can only be bypassed with a code.

Because students remain distracted despite the features, some provinces, including Ontario, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Alberta, will ban cellphones from classes this year.

But many say it’s not a panacea. Even if students can’t use phones in class, they are sneaking the use of them into “every nook and cranny” in their schedule, Dr. Caraway said. They power them up as soon as they are awake, check them between classes and then head back to them at home until bedtime.

Some teachers bristle at the idea of them being kept out of class, too.

“Banning phones and banning technology for me has never been the answer because you’re banning the discussion then in the classroom,” Joanna Johnson, the Ontario educator behind the popular @unlearn16 account, said at the TikTok safety session.

Dr. Lachman doesn’t like the “abstinence” approach provinces with bans have taken, but says the real issue is that social-media companies have a “business model ... to make us desire to be on as long as possible.”

“If you really cared to make something less addictive ... are you going to give young people a different interface? Are you going to give them a completely different algorithm?” he questioned.

“Are you going to give them something that is designed to be less appealing, less one click, less infinite scroll?”

## Minneapolis paper boosts its coverage, defying crisis in local news

KATIE ROBERTSON

Many metropolitan newspapers across the United States have narrowed their ambitions in recent years, closing regional bureaus and cutting back statewide coverage in an effort to trim costs.

The Star Tribune in Minneapolis, Minn., is taking the opposite tack.

The paper will now be called The Minnesota Star Tribune, its chief executive officer announced Sunday, and it will use an injection of money from its billionaire owner to expand its coverage beyond the Twin Cities into other parts of the state.

Steve Grove, the publisher and CEO, said the push, which includes hiring reporters in various parts of the state, was part of an effort to as much as triple the publication’s paid digital subscriptions over the next five years.

“It’s definitely a bet that Minnesotans care about what’s happening outside of their own local communities,” he said in an interview.

The expansion is a rare big bet in the newspaper industry. Local newspapers have been shrinking in recent years. A 2023 report from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern found that almost 2,900 U.S. newspapers had shut down since 2005.

The Star Tribune has remained a bright spot: It hasn’t made major layoffs in recent years, and its newsroom has remained around 225 people for years.

The Star Tribune is owned by Glen Taylor, a billionaire who also owns the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Minnesota Lynx. He bought the paper for about US\$100-million in 2014, several years after it filed for bankruptcy. The paper has been profitable every year since, but until now, Mr. Taylor had not invested more into the publication, Mr. Grove said.

Mr. Taylor declined to disclose how much he was investing. But he said in a statement that he had decided to inject capital because of “my belief in the team’s plan, and in our audience’s demand for quality, objective local news.”

“I’m incredibly excited by what our new leadership team has put into place at an important moment for our state,” said Mr. Taylor, who was once a Republican state senator.

Mr. Grove joined the Star Tribune in 2023, after working for four years as the state’s economic development commissioner under Governor Tim Walz, the Democratic candidate for vice-president. The paper said neither Mr. Grove nor Mr. Taylor directed coverage in the newsroom.

Mr. Grove’s mandate is to help the publication have a more digital focus. When he joined, the print newspaper generated 70 per cent of the company’s revenue, but subscriptions were falling 15 per cent a year. Digital subscriptions have hovered around 100,000, he said.

“You can’t manage decline toward a profitable future,” Mr. Grove said. “You’re going to have to at some point take a pretty big swing.”

Mr. Grove embarked on a tour last year across Minnesota to hear what people had to say about local news. He hired some new business leaders and directed an overhaul of the technology used to power the Star Tribune’s website and mobile apps and a redesign of the homepage.

He has also made plans to share content with hyperlocal news organizations across Minnesota. He is looking at possible subscription bundles and says he will start a philanthropic arm.

The expansion of reporting across Minnesota is a key part of the plan, Mr. Grove said.

Suki Dardarian, editor of the Star Tribune, said the paper had doubled its reporting team beyond the Minneapolis area, including adding a columnist and putting reporters into cities such as Mankato, Duluth and St. Cloud.

“The texture and the fabric that we’re getting in the stories is more authentic,” she said. “It’s not foreign correspondency; it’s not reporting about a place but from a place, so I think that resonates with readers.”

Ms. Dardarian said the paper had added some new local beats as well, including “the future of downtown,” to the newsroom and was putting more reporters in the suburbs of Minneapolis.

[ HOSPITALITY ]

## Don't drop your fork

Customers dine at an event in Warsaw, Poland, on Saturday run by Belgian-based restaurant service Dinner in the Sky, which uses a crane to hoist its guests, table and waiting staff 50 metres into the air

SERGEI GAPON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## July inflation data likely to set stage for more rate cuts: experts

Statistics Canada figures are expected to show a further slowing of price growth, forecasters say

NOJOU AL MALLEES OTTAWA

Canada's inflation rate likely took another dip last month, according to economists who expect the Bank of Canada to continue cutting interest rates throughout the fall.

Statistics Canada is set to publish its July consumer price index report on Tuesday and forecasters expect it will show inflation slowed to 2.4 per cent from 2.7 per cent in June.

James Orlando, Toronto-Dominion Bank director of economics, said that despite upward pressure from gasoline and food prices, he still expects the annual rate to fall because of base-year effects, which refer to how price movement from a year ago affects the calculation of overall inflation.

"This is occurring on the back of really strong unwinding of base [year] effects from last July, where inflation went up quite significantly," he said.

The marked slowdown in price growth this year has boosted confidence among economists and the Bank of Canada that inflation will continue to ease in the coming months, giving the central bank the green light to continue cutting its benchmark interest rate.

"We'd have to see something very different from what we've been seeing in this inflation reading to take any sort of rate cut in September off the table," said Tiago Figueiredo, a macro strategist at Desjardins.

He said Desjardins expects the annual inflation rate fell to 2.5 per cent in July.

The Bank of Canada, which has lowered its key interest rate at its past two meetings, has signalled it will continue cutting



Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem, seen in July, said the central bank is increasingly considering the risks associated with keeping interest rates high for too long. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

rates as long as price growth continues to ease.

The central bank's shift to rate cuts comes amid a sputtering economy as businesses and consumers pull back on spending.

Meanwhile, a chill has hit the labour market, pushing up the unemployment rate to 6.4 per cent in July.

Governor Tiff Macklem said at the Bank of Canada's last rate decision announcement that as inflation edges closer to its 2-per-cent target, the central bank is increasingly considering the risks associated with keeping interest rates high for too long.

"That need for growth to pick up was something that was part of our decision to cut the policy interest rate today," Mr. Macklem said at the postmeeting press conference on July 24.

Forecasters are now widely expecting the central bank to lower its policy rate at every rate meeting this year. Assuming the bank cuts by a quarter point at each meeting, it would bring its key interest rate down to 3.75 per cent.

"There's really not much in the economy that's making us think that inflation is going to pick up again right now. So I

think it just reinforces the expectation of rate cuts continuing at this meeting-by-meeting pace of 25-basis-point cuts," Mr. Orlando said.

The annual inflation rate has remained within the Bank of Canada's 1-per-cent to 3-per-cent target since January, a welcome development after a historic rise in price growth.

The bank is forecasting inflation will return to the 2-per-cent target next year.

Slowing inflation in Canada has been part of a larger global trend that's allowing central banks to cut or think about cutting interest rates.

In the United States, year-over-year inflation reached its lowest level in more than three years in July, the latest sign that the worst price spike in four decades is fading and setting up the U.S. Federal Reserve for a rate cut in September.

The annual U.S. inflation rate now stands at 2.9 per cent.

The European Central Bank began lowering its policy rate in June and the Bank of England delivered its first rate cut earlier this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Polish PM advises Nord Stream patrons to 'keep quiet' over pipeline attack

MAREK STRZELECKI WARSAW

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Saturday reacted to reports that revived questions about who blew up the Nord Stream pipelines in 2022, saying the initiators of the gas pipeline project should "apologize and keep quiet." That comment came after one of his deputies denied a claim that Warsaw was partly responsible for its damage.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that Ukrainian authorities were responsible for blowing up the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines in September, 2022, a dramatic act of sabotage that cut Germany off from a key source of energy and worsened an energy crisis in Europe.

Germany was a partner with Russia in the pipeline project. Poland has long said its own security interests have been harmed by Nord Stream.

"To all the initiators and patrons of Nord Stream 1 and 2. The only thing you should do today about it is apologise and keep quiet," Mr. Tusk wrote on X on Saturday.

Mr. Tusk appeared to be reacting specifically to a claim by a former head of Germany's foreign-intelligence agency, BND, August Hanning, who told the German daily Die Welt that the attack on the Nord Stream gas pipelines must have had Poland's support. Mr. Hanning said Germany should consider seeking compensation from Poland and Ukraine.

Mr. Hanning, who retired from his spy-chief job, did not provide any evidence in support of his claim. Some observers said that he served under former German chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who went on to work later for Russian state-owned energy companies, including Nord Stream.

In an interview Friday on the Polsat broadcaster, Krzysztof Gawkowski, a deputy Polish prime minister and the Minister of Digital Affairs, strongly denied reports that Poland and Ukraine had damaged the Nord Stream gas pipeline.

Mr. Gawkowski alleged that the comments of the former member of the German intelligence service were "inspired by Moscow" and were aimed at destabilizing NATO countries.

"I believe that this is the sound of Russian disinformation," he added.

On Wednesday, Polish prosecutors confirmed that they had received a warrant for a Ukrainian man wanted by Germany as a suspect in the pipeline attack, but that he left the country before he could be arrested.

The Nord Stream project, with its two pipelines created to carry gas from Russia to Europe along the Baltic Sea bed, went ahead despite opposition from Poland, the United States and Ukraine. They allowed Russia to send gas directly to Western Europe, bypassing Poland and Ukraine. As all gas had previously been transported over land, Warsaw and Kyiv feared losing huge sums in transit fees and political leverage that came with controlling the gas transports.

The Wall Street Journal said it spoke to four senior Ukrainian defence and security officials who either participated in or had direct knowledge of the plot. All of them said the pipelines were a legitimate target in Ukraine's war of defence against Russia. Ukrainian authorities are denying the claims.

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The dividend is payable on **September 17, 2024** to the registered holders of the common shares of record at the close of business on **August 27, 2024**.  
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By Order of the Board of Directors  
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Hudbay Minerals Inc.'s board of directors has declared a dividend in the amount of C\$0.01 per common share, payable on **September 20, 2024** to shareholders of record as of 5:00 pm (ET) on September 3, 2024.  
Dividends paid by Hudbay Minerals Inc. are designated as eligible dividends for the purpose of the Income Tax Act (Canada), and for relevant Canadian provincial and territorial income tax legislation, unless notice to the contrary with respect to a particular dividend is given. As a result, the dividend payable on September 20, 2024 has been designated as an eligible dividend for this purpose.

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to Executive VP, Investments  
Cadillac Fairview



**Dr. Birinder Singh**  
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# OPINION & ANALYSIS

## Cities can help with the housing crisis

Many municipalities are sitting on large amounts of cash collected to fund capital projects before they were under way

NICK DAHIR  
WILLIAM B.P. ROBSON

OPINION

Nick Dahir is a research officer at the C.D. Howe Institute, where William B.P. Robson is president and chief executive officer.

The short supply and high cost of housing are top-of-mind concerns for many Canadians. So it is necessary to pay more attention to the quirks of municipal financial management, as cities budget for and finance infrastructure in ways that can slow construction and raise costs.

Many of Canada's major cities are sitting on large amounts of cash that they collected before – often years ago – the capital projects they were collected to fund are under way. If cities matched the revenues they collect more closely with the expenses they incur, we could enjoy more and less expensive housing.

Panic over cities' budgets is an annual ritual. And when Ontario municipalities gather in Ottawa this August, many will reiterate how hard-up they are. However, the C.D. Howe Institute's annual report card on the fiscal transparency of Canadian municipalities covering 32 cities – the 26 largest municipalities by population and the six largest regional municipalities in Ontario – shows otherwise.

Unlike their debt-ridden federal and provincial cousins, those cities had a combined positive

net worth of more than \$257-billion at the end of 2022. Just as surprising is the total amount of cash held by these cities: More than \$21-billion at that time.

Municipalities' positive net worth is a good thing. It means they have run surpluses over time and invested much of that in infrastructure important to our quality of life such as roads, water and sewage, and transit. But their cash hoard is less obviously good.

In municipal budgets, a lot of this money appears as "reserves." In municipal financial statements, a lot of it appears under "deferred revenue" or under other labels such as "capital deposits." The significance of those categories is that the cash has corresponding liabilities: The city has an obligation to use that cash for the specific purpose for which it was raised, and cannot just do what it pleases with the money.

Some of the deferred revenue and similar funds came from special levies and regular property taxes. Some of it came from senior government grants for capital projects. And some of it came from development charges – up-front levies on builders of houses. Although the cash is an asset on municipal balance sheets, it is only there, alongside counterpart liabilities, because the city has not yet incurred the expenses the cash was raised to fund.

For example, homebuilders build the houses, but the infrastructure they require, such as water and sewage, are the responsibility of the municipality. When municipalities issue building permits, they collect cash up-front in the form of development charges to finance that infrastructure. However, they defer recognizing this cash as revenue until the related infrastructure costs are incurred. In the meantime, this cash remains a liability because the city is obligated to use that cash to finance that infrastructure.

The distribution of these unspent funds across these municipalities is uneven, even when considered in per-person terms. In Halifax, for example, such idle cash amounts to less than \$100 per person, but the large amounts in Ontario particularly jump out.

In Vaughan, Ont., north of Toronto, this amount is the highest. There are two levels of taxation there, one for the city and one for the York Region, the wider municipality of which Vaughan is a part. Factoring in both levels, the amount of idle cash tops more than \$3,000 per person, which is nearly \$1-billion in total.

This has prompted suggestions for more professional funds management, so these municipalities could get returns that are better than bank deposits. But the people from whom those revenues were prematurely raised had their own plans for the money.

Developers who paid up-front for infrastructure that is still un-built could have used that money for other purposes – such as building more houses.

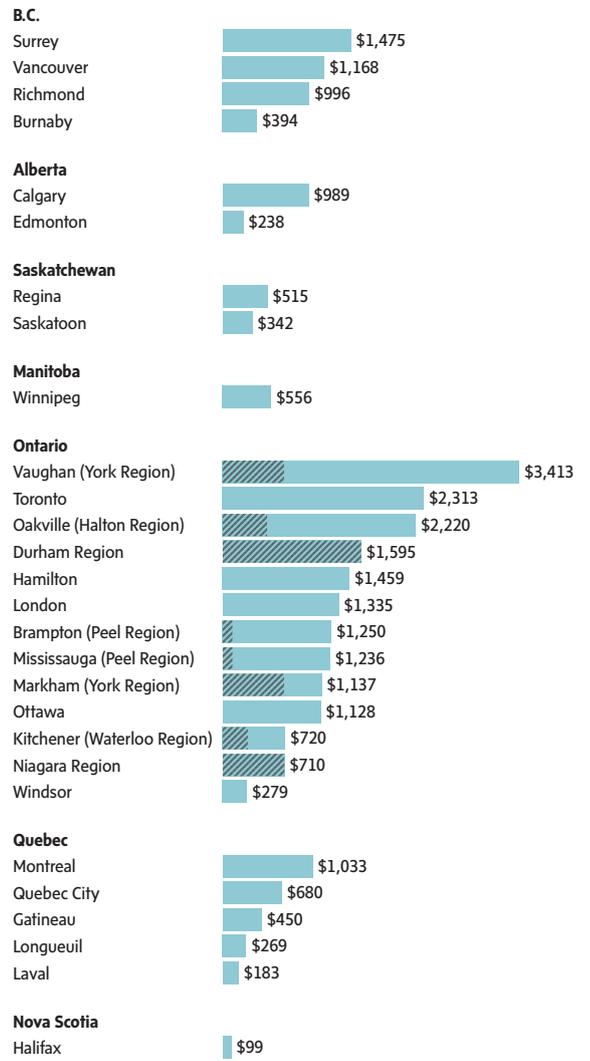
Up-front fees add to the costs of constructing a new home increasing the price of housing. In some Ontario municipalities, the up-front development charges add more than \$100,000 to a new single-family home. Reduced reliance on these fees would improve housing affordability.

There are alternatives. For example, instead of passing the costs of providing water-related infrastructure through to the price of new homes, municipalities could finance them with end-user pricing, charging the full cost of these projects as their services are delivered.

Aligning the collection of funds better with the actual construction of projects would distribute the costs of infrastructure more fairly and help alleviate Canada's housing crisis.

**Municipal taxes collected to fund specific projects but yet unspent**  
Per person, 2022

● City    ▨ Regional municipality



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: C.D. HOWE INSTITUTE

## Increasing import taxes will hurt Canadian trade

ANN PENNER  
LAURA DAWSON

OPINION

Laura Dawson is executive director of the Canada-U.S. Future Borders Coalition.

Ann Penner is part of Wellington Advocacy's trade practice and a former member of the Canadian International Trade Tribunal.

We applaud Treasury Board President Anita Anand for reviving the Regulatory Co-operation Council (RCC) as part of a Team Canada approach to strengthening Canada-U.S. trade. Non-tariff barriers continue to be one of the insidious factors undermining trade competitiveness, raising prices for consumers and keeping small business out of the market. She was right to note that "business just wants to do business and we need to make it easier for them to get it done."

But, even as the federal minister is working on greater regulatory co-operation, other parts of the Canadian government are headed in the wrong direction. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is proposing regulations that will change how it calculates the value of every good imported into Canada. Why? According to CBSA, to level the playing field for Canadian importers regarding their international counterparts and to raise additional revenue for the government.

To be sure, the CBSA's valuation for duty (VFD) regulations will certainly raise hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues. Indeed, they will give the CBSA the ability to inflate the value of imports, and the corresponding duties owed by importers, i.e. Canadian businesses and consumers. But they will not level the playing field as the playing field does not need to be levelled on this issue.

The effects of the CBSA's proposed VFD regulations will be significant. Why? First, they will artificially increase the value of imports, leading to higher costs for Canadian businesses and consumers at a time when they are grappling with an affordability crisis. Second, compliance will involve a costly and complex process of calculating the value of imports at the border (another way to push small businesses out of the market and

decrease Canada's trade competitiveness over all). Third, the regulatory processes are markedly different from those used in the United States and other trading partners.

As such, CBSA's proposed VFD regulations seem diametrically opposed to regulatory co-operation, which is intended to support Canadian traders and strengthen Canada's position in the upcoming 2026 review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The regulations will put a damper on bilateral trade and make investors think twice before further investing in a supposedly integrated Canada-U.S. supply chain.

The reaction to CBSA's proposed VFD regulations has been virtually unanimous and resoundingly negative. Canadian businesses, consumer groups, customs brokers and trade lawyers are raising strong objections. Some businesses have warned that they are prepared to pull out of Canada altogether if the new regulations take effect. And yet, CBSA appears intent on implementing them this fall, reasoning that more taxes are better, even if the economy shrinks in the process.

**The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is proposing regulations that will change how it calculates the value of every good imported into Canada.**

CBSA's proposed VFD regulations will unnecessarily complicate the flow of goods into Canada at a time when we need well-functioning supply chains and co-ordinated bilateral regulations. Canada must rethink this approach. We urge the government to engage in more comprehensive consultations with businesses of varying sizes and sectors to ensure that any regulatory changes support Canada's economic growth and competitiveness. We also encourage the government to conduct a detailed cost-benefit analysis to get a full picture of the economic impacts on Canadian consumers, businesses, taxpayers and jobs.

Canada is a trading nation. Our economic success is based on our continued ability to participate in efficient and secure global supply chains while respecting our trade agreements.

At present, storm clouds loom large. Republicans and Democrats in the United States share increasingly protectionist views on trade, achieving rare bipartisan consensus on "America first" and "anybody but China" trade policies. A possible Donald Trump victory in November's presidential election and a destabilizing USMCA 2026 review process threaten the foundations of North American trade relations. Canada can't afford to let things slide at home.

## What a 'patent box' is and why it can help solve our productivity problem

ALEX GRECO

OPINION

Senior director, manufacturing and value chains, at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Canada's declining productivity was called a national emergency earlier this year by the Bank of Canada, but Canadians and businesses have yet to hear any sirens.

If the government is suffering from paralysis of choice on how to tackle the situation, it should consider what it can do to bolster our manufacturing sector and help Canada compete in the economy of ideas.

Innovation in the manufacturing sector would contribute to economic growth, create more job opportunities and provide more value for customers. But innovation requires investing time and money and taking on no small amount of risk – all of which demands a return on investment. Without help or guaranteed returns, manufacturing businesses, especially the small businesses that make up 93.1 per cent of the industry, can't justify the cost or risk in such turbulent economic times.

It will take a modernized regulatory system to encourage manufacturing businesses to invest in innovation. Fortunately, there is a potential policy solution already in the works, the government just needs to get started.

A "patent box" regime is a novel approach to corporate taxes used by some governments to encourage manufacturers to invest in and retain more intellectual property (IP).

A Canadian version of the patent box could provide a lower tax rate on income made off certain types of IP – not only rewarding innovation at home but incentivizing a secondary income for Canadian manufacturers in the form of new patent rights and licensing arrangements.

For a manufacturer that can generate substantial IP income, the tax savings provided by a patent box regime would lead to a high return on investment, particularly if the business has a strategic approach to IP management. The increased profits would also make a manufacturer more attractive to outside investment.

As well, such a regime would put us on equal footing with many of our trade partners and economic competitors – Britain, France and Belgium all provide reduced corporate tax rates on income or profit generated from patents or other

IPs. It would also encourage us to retain our hard work. Canada has a bad habit of selling all our innovation capabilities, which leaves us poorer economically and intellectually.

Canada is in an IP deficit – we pay more to use foreign IP than are paid by other countries for Canadian IP. Our reliance on foreign technology and innovation is caused by our weak domestic investment environment, foreign ownership of Canadian firms and the globalization of research and development. Take ATI Technologies, which was a leading developer of graphics processing units based in Ontario. In 2006, the company was acquired by a U.S. semiconductor company, leading to a shift of high-value jobs and research and development (R&D) activities outside of Canada.

With a patent box regime in place, businesses of all sizes would be incentivized to conduct R&D, adopt new technology, register intellectual property and commercialize products. The industry would expand, productivity would increase.

More importantly, the significant amount of money that businesses save from the patent box system can be reinvested into the business and more research and development, allowing a manufacturer to grow, hire more people, innovate new products or processes and maintain a competitive edge in the market.

A patent box regime might not be the easiest concept to explain at a government press conference, but it is one that promises a substantial return on investment for relatively little cost. In 2021, the Parliamentary Budget Officer estimated the cost of a patent box regime that reduced the corporate tax rate to 7.5 per cent from 15 per cent for large businesses and 4.5 per cent for small businesses would be \$242 million over five years.

And at a time when affordability is top of mind for Canadians and businesses, the government should be opting for fiscally responsible policies with real promise of returns.

Canadian products remain in demand, but we'll be edged out of the global market if our manufacturers can't compete against more innovative businesses in other countries. Modernizing our regulatory system to increase incentives for innovation in the sector is a triple-threat solution – it will keep one of our most economically significant industries competitive, cure our productivity paralysis and help create a better standard of living for all Canadians.

# For some new entrepreneurs, AI is already a game changer

Business founders credit artificial intelligence with helping them get their companies off the ground more quickly

SYDNEY EMBER

Sean Ammirati has been teaching a class on entrepreneurship for more than a decade.

A professor at Carnegie Mellon University, Prof. Ammirati has groups of mostly graduate students start businesses from scratch over the course of the spring semester. Some of the startups that his 49 students created this year were classic examples of the form: a dating app for couples in long-distance relationships, a personalized fitness app.

But Prof. Ammirati also noticed something unusual.

"I have a pretty good sense how fast the progress that students should make in a semester should be," he said. "In 14 years, I've never seen students make the kind of progress that they made this year."

And he knew exactly why that was the case. For the first time, Prof. Ammirati had encouraged his students to use generative artificial intelligence as part of their process — "think of generative AI as your co-founder," he recalled telling them.

The students began sharing their ideas for use cases on a dedicated Slack channel. They used generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot and FlowiseAI to help them with tasks including marketing, coding, product development and recruitment of early customers.

By the end of the class in May, venture capitalists were descending on Carnegie Mellon's campus in Pittsburgh.

"It felt to me like what I felt like in the mid-2000s, when cloud and mobile happened at the same time," said Prof. Ammirati, who is himself an entrepreneur. Generative AI, he believed, could similarly change innovation "by an order of magnitude."

For all the excitement over the potential impact of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, it is not yet obvious how or when this technology will begin to measurably affect economic activity. Many businesses, especially smaller businesses, are still try-



Sean Ammirati, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, says the use of generative artificial intelligence in his entrepreneurship class has greatly boosted the progress his students have made in creating their own businesses from scratch, even drawing the attention of venture capitalists. ZACK WITTMAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ing to figure out how to use it effectively.

Yet for some entrepreneurs, generative AI is already a game changer. It is helping them write intricate code, understand complex legal documents, create posts on social media, edit copy and even answer payroll questions. The result, they say, is that AI allowed them to get their companies off the ground more quickly, and more efficiently, than they would have without it.

The implications could be profound. Startups are a crucial well of job growth and economic resilience. By helping to drive innovation, they also contribute to higher productivity — one of the key promises of generative AI.

The technology "kind of gives you stilts to get through an obstacle — to get through a minefield," said Steven Bright, who recently started Skittenz, a company that makes colourful coverings for mittens. "You can get from one point to another faster."

Mr. Bright said he had the idea for Skittenz in late 2022 during a ski trip with his wife when they noticed that everyone was wearing ordinary black ski gloves. Wouldn't it be cool, they thought,

if you could put a trail map or another colourful skin over your gloves instead?

Mr. Bright, an emergency-room doctor in Golden, Colo., thought he had a good idea for a business, but he had no idea what to do next. "Most of my colleagues and friends are doctors or in the medical field," he said. "I didn't even know where to start with regards to getting help."

“

I feel like I can ask the stupid questions of the chat tool without being embarrassed.

JAMIE STEVEN  
ENTREPRENEUR BASED  
IN GREENWATER, WASH.

So instead, he turned to ChatGPT, which was gaining widespread attention. He initially used the technology to answer basic questions such as how to use a particular kind of dye for the glove skins, eventually asking the tool to handle more complicated tasks including coming up with a survey for customer feed-

back, translating patent documents into understandable terms and deciphering legal agreements for trade shows.

While the company is not yet profitable, Mr. Bright said using ChatGPT gave him the confidence he needed to start Skittenz without having to pay lawyers or other experts. "It's scary when you're taking your savings and putting it into a new idea when you have no footing," he said. "But to be able to harness the whole power of the internet into a bit of a conversation gives you some reassurance."

Little data exist at this point on how many startups are using AI and whether the technology is helping them to get more quickly on the path to hiring and, ideally, profitability. That is partly because the intersection of entrepreneurial activity and generative AI has only recently emerged as an area of study for economists.

But research suggests that newer businesses are, at a minimum, more inclined to experiment with the technology.

According to a working paper published in April by the U.S. National Bureau of Economic Re-

search, AI use was higher among young firms. Applications such as generative AI may be attractive to young and small firms, the paper's authors wrote, because they are "general-purpose technologies" that are not expensive to use.

And Gusto, a small-business payroll and benefits platform, found that roughly one-fifth of businesses created last year said they were using generative AI to more efficiently carry out tasks including market research, contract reviews, bookkeeping and job postings. Liz Wilke, principal economist at Gusto, thinks use could transform the startup landscape.

"There is every reason to believe that that is the likely path — that businesses are going to get to profitability faster and they will get to scale faster and that they will actually be a little more stable in the end," she said.

Jamie Steven, an entrepreneur in Greenwater, Wash., seems to be on this track.

Mr. Steven used generative AI to learn about some of the basics of running a business when he was trying to start an application last summer that would show users the quality and conditions of their internet connection in an easy-to-interpret interface. He asked ChatGPT questions on topics including equity in startups and payroll. Although the technology would sometimes produce suspect or nonsensical answers to the point at which he adopted a mantra. "Don't trust and verify," its ability to provide succinct summaries helped him feel more informed before he spoke to experts.

"I feel like I can ask the stupid questions of the chat tool without being embarrassed," said Mr. Steven, who previously held senior positions at Ookla, which runs popular sites Speedtest and DownDetector.

He and his engineers have also used GitHub's Copilot to help them more quickly write code for the app, called Orb.net, a move that he said was instrumental in building the business faster. He has recently hired several people, raised US\$700,000 from angel investors and aims to introduce the app publicly in the next several months.

"Would I have been able to have done that had I not had access to those tools?" Mr. Steven said. "Probably not."

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

## Nesto: About 2.2 million mortgages will see increase in interest rates this year and next, CMHC reports

FROM B1

Mr. Yacoubi is aiming to expand his company's reach and get out further in front of mortgage shoppers.

Nesto mortgages are already available through the company's website, as well as through a large network of brokerages.

Homeowners and buyers who took out a mortgage during the pandemic were able to get loans with interest rates below 2 per cent. Many of those cheap mortgages have five-year terms that will have to be renewed in 2025 and 2026.

With mortgage rates now hovering around 5 per cent, those homeowners will see a significant increase in their payments and they will be looking for their cheapest options.

"They're more inclined to shop, which, in our perspective, we see that as an opportunity to capture market interest," Mr. Yacoubi said.

About 2.2 million mortgages or about 45 per cent of the outstanding mortgages in the country will face a spike up in interest rates this year and next, according to federal housing agency Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. It estimates that homeowners' average monthly payment could increase between 30 per cent and 40 per cent.

Since borrowing costs started increasing in 2022, the big six Canadian banks have gained market share from other lenders.

As of the end of last year, they had 64.8 per cent of the new mortgages or mortgage originations. That was up from 53 per cent at the end of 2022, according to data from CMHC. (Originations include renewals and refinancings.)

In comparison, the non-bank mortgage lenders had 8.8 per cent of the mortgage originations at the end of last year compared with 10.3 per cent at the end of 2022, according to CMHC data. Credit unions, mortgage investment entities, trusts and other chartered banks account for the rest of the originations.

The higher interest rates in 2023 made it much harder for borrowers to switch lenders if they had to renew their loan that year. That is because borrowers without an insured mortgage must requalify under the federal mortgage stress test if they switch lenders. If borrowers renew their loan with the same bank, they are not subjected to the tougher qualifying rules.

However, mortgages are becoming slightly cheaper after the Bank of Canada cut interest rates. That means it could become easier for borrowers to switch lenders.

And that is what Nesto hopes to capitalize on. "I guess everybody is looking to be No. 1 at some point," Mr. Yacoubi said. "That means we will be ambitious."

With \$60-billion in mortgages under administration, Nesto-CMLS is less than half the size of the country's two largest non-bank mortgage lenders, First National Financial Corp. and MCAP Group.

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## Coal: Regulator has received hundreds of objections to Northback's new applications

■ FROM B1

Northback used to be called Benga Mining Ltd. Under that name, in 2017, the federal and provincial governments accepted its application for an environmental impact assessment of a new surface metallurgical coal mine encompassing about 2,800 hectares of land. It would have produced 4.5 million tonnes of coal annually over a mine life of about 25 years.

A joint federal-provincial panel rejected Benga's plan in 2021, citing significant environmental concerns – which Northback hopes it can address using information gleaned from a drilling program.

The panel's decision was released at a time of intense public backlash over coal mining in Alberta, which forced the government to halt exploration for the fossil fuel on a swath of sensitive land and cancel a series of leases earmarked for potential new mines.

In 2022, then-energy minister Sonya Savage also directed the AER to suspend approvals and refuse new applications for exploration and development, unless they were related to an advanced coal project or an active approval.

In November last year, Energy Minister Brian Jean told the AER that a coal mine project retains its advanced status regardless of previous application outcomes. As a result, the regulator ruled that Northback's new applications were excluded from the government-mandated ban and sent them for a public hearing.

A date has not been set for that hearing. And one ranching community is fighting the regulator's decision to proceed to one at all, arguing that the project should not be considered advanced because Northback is making all new applications.

The AER has received hundreds of objections to Northback's new applications, but plenty of local residents, businesses and the Piikani First Nation, about 50 kilometres from the project site, have registered their support.

Each week at the Crowsnest Community Market in Blairmore, a quaint town that acts as the commercial centre of the region, a black Northback tent stakes space alongside locals peddling baked goods, fruit and knitting. Inside, there's a map of the area and information about Grassy Mountain, and folks can sign up for a tour of the site.

The Globe and Mail took one of those tours earlier this summer. The south-facing view from the top is breathtaking. In the distance, cotton ball clouds hover over snow-capped peaks in the Rockies. Green trees and grassland blanket the range nearby.

Face north, and the area is awash with evidence of its mining past. A deep V carves into the mountain with spoils – mainly waste rock and low-grade coal – sluffing down the side. A wall of exposed coal snakes along the range, the black layers stark in a sandwich of rock.

Blair Painter, the mayor of Crowsnest Pass, has seen the scarred land plenty of times. He's a vocal proponent of the project and said he mainly hears pro-mine sentiment around the topic of Grassy Mountain.

That's in large part because of the economic benefits that it could bring to the region, includ-



A former mining pit sits full of water at the base of Grassy Mountain north of Blairmore, Alta., in June. Northback Holdings has three applications in front of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), in hopes of beginning exploratory activity in the area. PHOTOS BY GAVIN JOHN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Northback Coal employees inspect an abandoned coal cart. The AER has ruled that Northback's new applications were excluded from the provincially mandated ban and sent them for a public hearing.



A Northback Coal employee holds a piece of coal on Grassy Mountain in June. Many local residents, businesses and the Piikani First Nation have registered their support for the mine applications.

ing hundreds of much-needed jobs.

"The anti that we're hearing comes from people that don't even live in the proximity of our community," he said in an interview. "Those folks still view this as a pristine mountain area, and I'm sure you can agree it's anything but."

Northback has argued that the environment will never be cleaned up and that the remnants of industry will never fade unless there is a new mine on the site, held to strict modern reclamation standards. Mr. Painter agrees.

Those standards have evolved by leaps and bounds since operations ceased at Grassy Mountain decades ago, he said, and stiff federal and provincial regulations govern the sector to protect water and wildlife.

"With that in mind, moving forward with this project, we can be assured that all these regulations that are in place – that are there for a reason – will be strictly adhered to."

But Katie Morrison, executive director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's Southern Alberta chapter, puts no stock in the argument that the site can only be reclaimed with a new mine.

"The only way we can clean this up is by making a bigger, riskier disaster? That's really problematic," she said in an interview.

Although the landscape has been disturbed by decades of mining, Ms. Morrison said, it is only a fraction of the size of the project being eyed by Northback.

"With that bigger disturbance footprint comes much larger risks," she said, including water contamination and potential threats to wildlife and tree species at risk.

"I think it's a little bit of a silly argument to say we're going to have to build a massive mine with potentially hundreds of years of liability – particularly when looking at water – to reclaim what's there now."

## Bankruptcy: Ottawa appears non-committal on calls to close 'escape hatch' in law

■ FROM B1

That is partially because the federal Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act includes exemptions that prevent fines imposed by courts from being discharged through the bankruptcy process.

Those exemptions, however, do not apply to fines imposed by administrative bodies such as securities regulators, the Supreme Court determined. As a result, whenever Thal and Sharon Poonian – the appellants in the Supreme Court case – complete their bankruptcy proceedings, they will still be liable for a \$5.6-million disgorgement order imposed by the BCSC, but they will no longer have to pay anything toward the much larger sum of \$13.5-million in administrative penalties.

In 2018, then-B.C. finance minister Carole James sent a letter to Bill Morneau – her federal counterpart at the time – and then-federal innovation, science and economic development minister Navdeep Bains formally requesting the Bankruptcy Act exemptions be expanded to include

fines issued by securities regulators. Her letter noted the U.S. bankruptcy code allows securities commission fines to survive bankruptcy, while Canada's does not.

She renewed that call in early 2020, but Ottawa said at the time it had no plans to make the requested amendments to the law. Now, as B.C. prepares to lead the charge for a third time, Ottawa appears to remain non-committal.

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's office referred questions on whether Ottawa would accept the BCSC's latest call to the Finance Department. Finance referred questions to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and spokesperson Hans Parmar responded by e-mail.

The Supreme Court's decision "has provided additional clarity as to which debts survive discharge under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, and the circumstances in which discharges for certain debts and administrative monetary penalties will be refused," he said.

"The Government of Canada

continues to review the decision and its implications for Canada's insolvency regime and the economy."

“

Only the federal government can address the gap made clear by the Supreme Court of Canada's decision.

STAN MAGIDSON  
CEO, ALBERTA SECURITIES COMMISSION

BCSC chair and chief executive officer Brenda Leong said in an e-mailed statement to The Globe and Mail that her team is still "considering the best approach to engage federal cabinet ministers, members of Parliament and officials on the importance of the issue." She also plans to re-initiate discussions with whomever is B.C.'s finance minister after the Oct. 19 provincial election.

"This commission has long advocated for changes to the bankruptcy legislation in order to expressly exempt securities sanc-

tions from bankruptcy," Ms. Leong said during a July 31 press conference a few hours after the Supreme Court decision was released. "The federal government needs to act now to make that change in order to protect investors in this country."

"An obvious solution is to revise the law to deal with this 'escape hatch,'" Ms. Leong said in an accompanying statement.

Stan Magidson, CEO of the Alberta Securities Commission and current chair of the Canadian Securities Administrators – an umbrella group for market watchdogs across Canada – echoed Ms. Leong's call for Ottawa to take urgent action.

"Ultimately, when it comes to collecting sanctions, we can only use the tools that the law provides to us," Mr. Magidson said by e-mail. "Only the federal government can address the gap made clear by the Supreme Court of Canada's decision."

Larry Ritchie, former vice-chair of the OSC and current chair of the risk management and crisis response practice at Osler Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, said part of the

reason the issue remains undressed for so long is because "there are so many gaps that regulators or politicians can point to and say somebody else is responsible, that it falls through the cracks."

The main issue, he said in an interview, is politicians are "not getting their act together and not having a coherent" financial crime enforcement regime, adding that a more dedicated approach to tackling financial crime is needed in addition to amending existing bankruptcy laws.

During the 2021 federal election campaign, the Liberal Party pledged to establish the Canada Financial Crimes Agency, which would combine resources from the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FinTRAC), the RCMP and the Canada Revenue Agency into a new law enforcement agency.

The CFCA is still a long way from getting up and running, with the 2024 federal budget allocating just \$1.7-million over two years for the Finance Department to finalize the design and legal framework of the agency.

*"I want to know why. Why you didn't leave the farm?"  
Constable Carlson asked.*

*"I tried," said Helen.*



# In Her Defence

*Named Best Canadian Podcast of 2023  
by Amazon Music*

Everyone knew bad things were happening on the Naslund farm.

Then, in the fall of 2017, Miles's body was found welded into a box at the bottom of a pond, and his wife and son were charged with first-degree murder.

Jana G. Pruden hosts *In Her Defence*, a new podcast that tells the story of Helen Naslund, who got 18 years in prison for killing the man who violently abused her for three decades. Through exclusive on-the-ground reporting and jailhouse interviews, we hear from Helen in her own words for the first time.

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5 stars





# After second dividend cut, Algonquin aims to leave its rocky past behind

The move will allow the company to strengthen its balance sheet, and improve the predictability and stability of its earnings

JOHN HEINZL

OPINION

INVESTOR CLINIC



**What is your opinion of Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp. now that the company has cut its dividend again and agreed to sell its renewable power assets? Is the worst over, or do you see more problems ahead?**

To refresh people's memories, I punted Algonquin from my model Yield Hog Dividend Growth Portfolio in November, 2022, before the company cut its dividend by 40 per cent in January, 2023. I have since sold all of my shares personally as I was concerned that the bloodletting – triggered by a sharp rise in the cost of Algonquin's variable-rate debt – was not over.

My fears were confirmed on Aug. 9 when the company slashed its dividend by another

40 per cent. Concurrently, Algonquin also announced an agreement to sell its renewable power business – excluding hydro assets – to U.S.-based LS Power for up to US\$2.5-billion. The price consists of US\$2.28-billion of cash at closing and up to US\$220-million under a long-term "earn out" agreement tied to the performance of certain wind assets.

Algonquin also plans to sell its hydro-generation business, which could bring in approximately US\$400-million, analysts estimate.

Cutting the dividend and selling the renewables assets are prudent moves for Algonquin, which aims to become a pure-play regulated utility operator. The moves will allow Algonquin to strengthen its balance sheet, improve the predictability and stability of its earnings and potentially achieve a higher valuation for its share price. However, the market reacted negatively to the news, sending the stock down more than 12 per cent that day.

**Why such a cool reception from investors?**

In a note to clients, analyst Nelson Ng of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. cited several possible reasons.

First, the renewables sale proceeds were lower than anticipat-

ed after taking into account higher-than-expected levels of off-balance-sheet construction debt.

Second, management's near-term focus is deleveraging Algonquin's balance sheet, which may have disappointed investors who were hoping for share buybacks.

Third, Algonquin indicated that more than US\$1-billion of utility investments are not yet reflected in the rates it charges customers and are therefore not earning a regulated return.

In utility speak, this is known as "regulatory lag" – the time between a utility's request for new rates and the approval of the rates by a public utility commission. In Algonquin's case, the lag was longer than expected.

"Although we see a clear path to a pure-play utility by early 2025, we were surprised to hear that it could take several years for the utilities business to achieve its regulated allowed return on rate base," Mr. Ng said. (Rate base is essentially the value of assets on which a utility is permitted to earn a regulated rate of return.)

"We believe [the shares] could be range-bound in the near term due to execution risk" related to asset sales and the outcomes of pending rate cases, he said.

Mr. Ng lowered his price target on Algonquin's shares to US\$6 (\$8.22), from US\$7 (\$9.59) and reiterated his "sector-perform"

rating. Most other analysts are also taking a wait-and-see approach. Six other brokerages have a "hold" or equivalent rating on the shares, with just one "buy" recommendation, according to Refinitiv data. The average price target is US\$6.70 (\$9.18).

Algonquin's shares closed Friday at US\$5.35 on the New York Stock Exchange and \$7.32 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The good news is that Algonquin's reduced annualized dividend of 26 US cents (35.6 cents) a share appears to be sustainable. (Algonquin is based in Oakville, Ont., but reports results and declares dividends in U.S. dollars because of its extensive U.S. operations.)

Brent Stadler, an analyst with Desjardins Securities, projects a payout ratio of 87 per cent based on estimated 2025 earnings, falling to between 60 per cent and 70 per cent as rate cases are decided and the regulated earnings are reflected in Algonquin's results.

"AQN is restraining growth capex as it looks to recover on prior investments and execute on rate cases – a rare capital-light growth model, which investors might find attractive," Mr. Stadler said.

The bad news is that the dividend, which yields about 4.9 per cent, likely won't rise anytime soon, in my opinion.

On Algonquin's second-quarter

conference call, chief executive officer Christopher Huskison said the company is at "the beginning of a multiyear journey to unlock the value of our regulated business."

Algonquin is also aiming to become more financially self-sufficient and less reliant on capital markets, as it focuses on recovering its previous investments and reducing regulatory lag while trimming its capital expenditures next year.

"As part of our objective to be more self-sufficient, the board has decided to right size the dividend so we're not chasing a high payout ratio and ... excessive equity raises. These are necessary steps that we expect to unlock more value in the long term for our shareholders," Mr. Huskison said.

Bottom line: Algonquin is taking the right steps to improve its balance sheets, focus on regulated utilities and create a stable platform for prudent growth. The dividend now appears to be safe, but investors hoping for capital gains and dividend increases will need to be patient as the company continues to work through its issues.

E-mail your questions to [jheinzl@globeandmail.com](mailto:jheinzl@globeandmail.com). I'm not able to respond personally to e-mails but I choose certain questions to answer in my column.

## Condos: Smaller units are being built as cost of development increases, realtor says

FROM B1

They're also frequently worried about monthly condo fees and the risk of facing a special assessment, a charge all condo owners in a building must pay if there are unexpected repairs or a shortfall in the condo's reserve fund.

Ms. Calvelo says small units are coming to the Calgary market, a function of a drastic increase in the cost of development. "Developers are building matchboxes and charging a lot per square footage, and the quality is not the same," she said.

Small condos are a particular feature of major cities such as Toronto and Vancouver, which don't have much green-field land left and have to build upward, said Mike Moffatt, founding director of the PLACE Centre at the Smart Prosperity Institute. He noted this is a growing issue in Mississauga as well.

"Very sensible" rules dictating that each bedroom in a condo unit must have one window raise the cost to developers of multibedroom units, as do higher land costs, zoning rules and high development charges, he said.

It's why Toronto grew its stock of dwellings with three or more bedrooms by just 0.6 per cent between 2016 and 2021, according to census data. The number of bachelor units, however, grew 28 per cent in that time frame.

Mr. Butler said a near decade-long rental-market boom that saw investors scoop up preconstruction condos to later rent out has also played a role in incentivizing builders to build smaller spaces. According to Statscan, 57 per cent of condos built after 2016 in Ontario were owned by investors, along with 59 per cent in Nova Scotia and 49 per cent in B.C.

Those units, now uneconomical for investors to rent out amid higher interest rates, are flooding the market. But first-time buyers aren't impressed.



A condo is seen under construction in North Vancouver. Major cities such as Toronto and Vancouver don't have much green-field land left and have to build upward, says Mike Moffatt, founding director of the PLACE Centre at the Smart Prosperity Institute. DARRYL DYCK/CP

"When you do make this big decision in your life, there's a lot of costs associated with it. You start to think, 'What's the future of me in this place?'" Mr. Butler said. For young renters, a year in less than 500 square feet may feel like a minor concession to live downtown. But for first-time buyers, that can look more like many years in a space they don't love and that they aren't sure will appreciate in value as it did in the past.

As well, he noted, many first-time buyers are couples. "Would any couple want to live in a 480-square-foot condo, [or] contemplate having a family some day? Is there any appeal to them whatsoever?"

Some motivated buyers are moving further out in search of space. But other buyers are simply opting out of condo ownership, Mr. Butler said. "That's probably the reason we're at 27-year lows

in sales."

Sean Miller, a realtor with Property.ca in Toronto, said the first-time buyers he works with are much more hesitant to buy.

"Anything was selling [before] – a unit facing a brick wall, or the garbage dump, or a train track, with a terrible layout, no room to put your couch, and it was selling instantaneously. And now those aren't really selling," he said.

## Markets are febrile as central bankers head for annual conference

Central bank chiefs congregate in Jackson Hole, Wyo., for their annual retreat, U.S. Democrats choose their presidential candidate and energy markets ricochet owing to a confluence of Middle East and Russia-Ukraine tensions, while global PMIs are due.

Here's your guide to the week ahead in financial markets.

JACKSON HOLE

Central bankers from around the globe gather in Jackson Hole from Thursday for the Fed's annual conference to chart the way forward for monetary policy. In focus this year are labour markets – a shift away from last year's inflation theme.

U.S. Fed chief Jerome Powell gets a chance to fine-tune his message before September's monetary policy meeting. Most market participants believe the Fed will begin cutting rates next month after months of keeping them elevated to tamp down inflation.

How big the world's foremost central bank will go, and how deeply it will eventually cut, re-

main open questions: a spate of recent alarming economic data – including unemployment numbers – pushed investors to ramp up bets on a 50-basis-point cut in September.

MIXED PICTURE

The outlook for global growth is another piece of the puzzle. Markets are febrile and struggling to assess the economic outlook as business activity softens, but inflation stays above central banks' target levels.

Purchasing managers' indexes deliver a real-time snapshot of economic activity and – with most of them out on Thursday – will provide the next set of clues. July's PMIs suggested an economic slowdown combined with persistent inflation, showing why central banks are in a bind.

U.S. manufacturing activity weakened and German numbers were surprisingly dour, indicating Europe's economic powerhouse is contracting. But manufacturers' input prices in advanced economies hit an 18-month high.

Inflation will dictate the pace and depth of future rate cuts. A re-

peat of July's dour PMI trends might mean monetary easing happens more slowly than markets would like.

IRATE OVER RATES

The Bank of Japan's sudden pivot from uber-dove to ultrahawk has put it in the firing line for lawmakers after peppering its surprise rate hike at the end of July with hints of more to come.

One unexpected result was the steepest rout for Japanese stocks since 1987's infamous Black Monday, amid a destabilizing spike in the yen against the dollar.

Politicians set to grill BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda and his peers on Friday will do well to remember some of their most senior figures were leaning on the central bank to help reverse the yen's exceptional weakness in the run-up to the move.

Recent macroeconomic indicators at least have been on the BOJ's side, showing a stronger-than-expected rebound in growth amid a recovery for consumption.

A potentially bigger test comes on the day of the special parliamentary session, with the release

of the latest consumer price figures.

DEMOCRATS ON DISPLAY

The U.S. presidential race heats up again, with the Democrats aiming to generate fresh momentum for the candidacy of Vice President Kamala Harris at the party's convention in Chicago.

Since her late entry into the race after President Joe Biden stepped aside, Ms. Harris has galvanized Democrats and erased the lead of Republican candidate Donald Trump in some opinion polls, edging ahead of Mr. Trump in some betting markets ahead of the Nov. 5 vote.

The four-day convention kicks off on Monday with a series of high-profile Democrats expected to give speeches geared toward rallying support for Ms. Harris.

The race is tight, and investors are hoping to learn more about her policy positions.

Ms. Harris has been at pains to emphasize she would never interfere in Fed independence – a view that contrasts sharply with that of the Republican nominee and former president, who said presi-

dents should have a say on Fed decisions.

TENSIONS

A confluence of risk factors has pushed and pulled global energy markets in recent days, and there is little sense that will abate.

Concern that conflict is spreading in the Middle East and threatening supply from the region has lifted international crude prices above US\$80 a barrel.

At the same time, worries about the strength of demand, particularly in China, are somewhat limiting oil's gains.

European wholesale gas prices meanwhile have been volatile, with the spectre of Russian gas supply disruption on a transit route via Ukraine amplifying Middle East concerns.

Markets are concerned that heavy fighting near the Russian town of Sudzha, where Russian gas flows into Ukraine, could result in a sudden stop to transit flows via the war-torn nation before a five-year deal with Russia's Gazprom expires.

REUTERS



# SPORTS

Haaland continues free-scoring ways in Premier League opener with Man City ■ B13

Du Plessis soaks up Adesanya's offence to prevail through choke hold at UFC 305 ■ B14

[ TOUR DE FRANCE ]



## Riding into history

Polish rider Kasia Niewiadoma rides toward victory in the overall leader's yellow jersey, during the eighth and final stage of the Women's Tour de France between Le Grand Bornand and the Alpe d'Huez, in southeastern France ■ B13

JULIEN DE ROSA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## CFL reinstates Argos quarterback Kelly with conditions

Toronto quarterback Chad Kelly was back taking snaps at Argonauts practice Sunday after being reinstated by the CFL, with conditions.

The league announced earlier Sunday that Kelly, the CFL's most outstanding player last year, was clear to return from a suspension issued on May 7 – which included Toronto's two exhibition games and at least the first nine regular-season contests – for violating its gender-based violence policy.

“The Canadian Football League has reinstated Toronto Argonauts quarterback Chad Kelly on a last-chance agreement provided that he continues to meet a number of ongoing conditions,” the league said in a statement.

“The ongoing mandatory conditions surrounding Mr. Kelly's reinstatement reflect the need for him to demonstrate a continued commitment to upholding league standards.”

The CFL said the conditions are confidential and won't be disclosed.

The CFL's suspension followed an independent investigation into a lawsuit filed by a former strength-and-conditioning coach against Kelly for sexual harassment and the Argos for wrongful dismissal. The lawsuit was settled in June through mediation involving all of the parties.

“This is an important step for Chad, who has taken full accountability for his actions and represents just the beginning of his ongoing commitment to bettering himself and learning from this experience,” Argos general manager Mike (Pinball) Clemons said Sunday. “There continues to be much work to do to strengthen our team culture and we are all committed with Chad's return, to work on this together, as a team.”

Under terms of the suspension, Kelly had to undergo confidential assessments by an independent expert and attend mandatory counselling sessions conducted by a gender-based violence expert. Both the counselling sessions and assessments had to be satisfactorily completed before the CFL would consider Kelly's reinstatement and the league reserved the right to modify his discipline.

Last weekend, the CFL announced it had received Kelly's confidential psychological assessment and would complete an examination of the results with the help of experts before making a decision on Kelly's reinstatement.

Kelly then participated in an in-person discussion with CFL commissioner Randy Ambrosie.

Toronto's 39-25 home win over Calgary on Aug. 9 was its ninth regular-season game. The Argos returned to the practice field after a bye week.

Kelly, 30, hasn't played with Toronto since its loss to Montreal in last year's East Division final. He remained away from the team during his suspension and didn't speak to media Sunday.

■ ARGOS, B14

Under terms of the suspension, Kelly had to undergo confidential assessments by an independent expert and attend mandatory counselling sessions conducted by a gender-based violence expert.



Blue Jays first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. falls away as he throws out the Cubs' Miguel Amaya on Sunday during the eighth inning of Toronto's 1-0 win in Chicago. MELISSA TAMEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Loperfido contributes homer, Francis goes seven scoreless as Jays top Cubs

CHICAGO

Rookie Joey Loperfido homered, Bowden Francis threw seven scoreless innings, and the Toronto Blue Jays shut out the Chicago Cubs 1-0 on Sunday.

Loperfido's solo shot off Shota Imanaga (9-3) in the second was all Toronto needed to end a two-game skid.

“To come through for those guys, especially in what ended up a one-run game, it felt good,” said Loperfido, who hit his first home run for the club three weeks after being traded from Houston.

Francis (6-3) matched his longest career outing, set six days earlier against the Los Angeles Angels.

He was perfect the first time through the order but loaded the bases in the fourth. He escaped the jam by catching Dansby

Swanson looking at a third strike. “I luckily got a call there,” said Francis, who came up big in a big moment in his seventh career start. “It worked out.”



To come through for those guys, especially in what ended up a one-run game, it felt good.

JOEY LOPERFIDO  
BLUE JAYS CENTRE FIELDER

The right-hander allowed just one other baserunner the rest of the way and finished with three hits and seven strikeouts while walking none to win for the fourth time in six starts.

“He was in total control today,” manager John Schneider said. “Just big pitch after big

pitch. You can't say enough about him.”

Chad Green, the last of three Blue Jays relievers, worked the ninth to secure the shutout and record his 13th save in as many chances.

Imanaga allowed four hits, walked one and struck out six in the first five innings. It was his first loss since June 21, a span of nine starts.

“You had to hit a ball really good today to get it out and give [Loperfido] credit, he hit it really good,” Cubs manager Craig Counsell said after a windy afternoon on the city's north side.

“We just weren't able to deliver offensively today.”

The crowd of 36,117 gave its loudest ovation to former Chicago Bears kicker Robbie Gould, who led the seventh-inning sing-along with his children.

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Hideki Matsuyama celebrates after completing an even-par 70 final round to finish at 17-under 263 overall and win the St. Jude Championship for his second victory of the year. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Matsuyama falters then recovers to win opener of FedEx Cup playoffs

Japanese star sinks two tough birdies to salvage victory at St. Jude Championship after ceding five-shot lead

DOUG FERGUSON MEMPHIS

Hideki Matsuyama lost a five-shot lead in four holes and responded with birdies on two of the toughest holes on the course to salvage an even-par 70 and a two-shot victory Sunday in the FedEx St. Jude Championship.

The start of the PGA Tour's postseason had tense moments at the top of the leaderboard and on the bubble to determine the top 50 players in the FedEx Cup who advanced.

Nick Dunlap went from a chance to win to needing his best drive just to extend his season, and he delivered his best of the day to advance to next week. Tom Kim looked certain to move on to the next FedEx Cup playoff event until a 6-6-6 finish on his card ended his season.

Xander Schauffele started nine shots behind and waited to see if he would get in a playoff. Hovland had a one-shot lead with two holes to play.

Ultimately, it came down to Matsuyama.

Staked to a five-shot lead at the start of the day, he went 27 straight holes without a bogey and led by five when he rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt on the 11th.

And then it all came undone — a three-putt bogey on the 12th, a tee shot into the water on the par-three 14th and a scramble for bogey, two chips to reach the 15th

green for a double bogey.

Just like that, he was one shot behind hard-charging Hovland, the defending FedEx Cup champion who came into the postseason at No. 57 without a guarantee he would be able to defend his title in the BMW Championship next week.

Hovland, however, took bogey from the bunker on the 17th hole — the third-toughest at the TPC Southwind in the final round — and missed a nine-foot birdie chance on the 18th for a 66.

He was tied with Schauffele, who played bogey-free in the stifling heat for a 63.

Taylor Pendrith of Richmond Hill, Ont., was the top Canadian at six under.

Matsuyama, who worked magic with his putter all week, delivered in a big way. He got onto the front of the green at the 17th from the left rough and then rolled in a birdie putt from just beyond 25 feet to stay one ahead.

The final group on the final hole — the hardest of the day — came down to this: Matsuyama needed par to win, Dunlap needed par to move from No. 67 into the top 50. A bogey would have bumped the former U.S. Amateur champion out of the top 50.

Both split the middle of the fairway. Dunlap hit his approach to just outside 20 feet, while Matsuyama took dead aim at the flag to six feet for another birdie.

"I was a train wreck. I'm not going to lie to you. I was arguably the most nervous I've ever been, to be honest," Dunlap said of the last two holes. "I just didn't want the season to end."

His 69 to tie for fifth was enough to get by.

Matsuyama, who finished at 17-under 263, won for the second

time this year. He shot 62 in the final round to win the Genesis Invitational at Riviera. Coming off a bronze medal at the Olympics, his performance except for that awful four-hole stretch was golden.

He won US\$3.6-million and moved from No. 8 to No. 3 in the FedEx Cup.

It was quite a week for the Japanese star, who had to find a fill-in caddy and could only work with his coach over phone. All of them were out to dinner in London on their way home from the Olympics when someone stole their bag when they weren't looking. The thief got Matsuyama's wallet and the passports of his caddy and coach. They had to return to Japan and work on getting expedited replacements. Matsuyama pressed on as if it was another work week and came up with his first postseason victory.

The 50th and final spot went to Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley, who was projected just outside the cutoff much of Sunday.

Hovland, Dunlap and Eric Cole (No. 54) moved into the top 50. Cole did it in style with a 63, despite a bogey on the closing hole. Falling out of the top 50 were Kim (No. 43), Mackenzie Hughes (No. 48) and Jake Knapp (No. 50).

Kim was poised to advance until it took him two shots to get out of a greenside bunker on the par-5 16th (bogey), two chips to get to the green on the 17th (double bogey) and a tee shot into the water on the 18th (double bogey).

"This season has just been ... it's just been like this," Kim said. "I've played really good golf, and then had some tough finishes. I feel like 2024 has really kicked me in the butt."

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## Tanigawa claims victory at PGA Tour Champions' Rogers Charity Classic

LAURENCE HEINEN CALGARY

Waiting about 10 minutes to find out he won the 2024 Rogers Charity Classic didn't bother Ken Tanigawa one bit.

After all, Tanigawa hadn't experienced victory on the PGA Tour Champions circuit since winning the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship in June of 2019.

"It has not sunk in, but it feels amazing," said the 56-year-old American golfer, who was born in Japan but currently resides in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"Every year that goes by, you're not getting younger. You kind of wonder, sure, if you'll ever win. You sprinkle hope out there. You hope you can and you keep working at your game."

A day after tying the course record at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, Tanigawa had eight birdies during a round of six-under 64 on Sunday to finish atop the leaderboard at 17 under.

"I played an amazing round yesterday, but you just let it go," said Tanigawa, who won US\$360,000. "You're starting all over from scratch again today."

"I didn't think about it or carry on. Expectations to shoot low weren't there — not to play good nor bad. Just go out and you do your best from the first shot on and see what you can shoot."

Tanigawa had already finished his round when he found out his final score of 193 was good enough to beat second-place finisher Richard Green by two strokes.

"I was told that Richard bogeyed 17, so he needed to eagle 18 and I knew it was hard to get home in two," Tanigawa said. "You never know. Weird things happen in this game, so it was nice that it was over."

Tied at 16 under with Green through 16 holes, Tanigawa birdied the par-four, 17th hole. Playing in the last group, Green bogeyed the hole and then only managed to par No. 18 to finish alone in second place at 15 under.

"It's just a shame that things just at the end there didn't really fall my way," said Green, who finished second for the third time this season. "I thought they were going my way there a little bit through the middle of the round, and probably my start today [with a bogey on the first hole] didn't really help me very much."

"It's nice to be competing and contending for golf tournaments. It's fun. I enjoy being out there contending week in, week out, and I'll keep rattling the cage."

Darren Clarke and Jason Caron finished in a tie for third at 14 under, while Mario Tiziani was alone in fifth at 13 under.

Canadian Golf Hall of Famers Stephen Ames and Mike Weir both shot rounds of three-under 67 on Sunday.

Ames, a former Calgary resident, finished as the top Canadian at 10 under in a six-way tie for 10th place.

"It wasn't the greatest ball striking, but I got it around," Ames said. "I was able to capitalize on holes that I hit some good shots on and made birdies with it."

"Overall it was a bit up and down, but I think it was good that I was handling the bad shots and moving forward and not worrying about too much."

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## AMERICAN COUGHLIN WINS WOMEN'S SCOTTISH OPEN AND LOCKS UP SPOT ON SOLHEIM CUP

IRVINE, SCOTLAND Lauren Coughlin pulled away with superb putting and closed with a three-under 69 to win the Women's Scottish Open on Sunday, her second LPGA title this summer, to secure a spot on the U.S. Solheim Cup team.

Coughlin, who won the CPKC Women's Open in Canada three weeks ago, recovered from a pair of early bogeys to move ahead of Megan Khang on the front nine and Esther Henseleit of Germany on the back nine at Dundonald Links.

The 31-year-old American one-putted the final seven holes on a chilly day along the Ayrshire Coast, none more devastating to Henseleit than the 16th hole. Coughlin was leading by three and in trouble in a bunker. She blasted out to 20 feet and holed the par putt.

She also saved par from just off the green on the 17th, and then polished off her performance with a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-five 18th.

Coughlin finished at 15-under 273, four shots ahead of Henseleit (70). It was the second straight runner-up finish for Henseleit, coming off her Olympic silver medal in the Paris Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Sabalenka to meet Pegula in Cincinnati final, Sinner tops Zverev

CINCINNATI

Italian world No. 1 Jannik Sinner shook off a second-set blip to beat Germany's Alexander Zverev 7-6 (9) 5-7 7-6(4) on Sunday and reach the Cincinnati Open final, while on the women's side of the draw, Jessica Pegula set up a final against Aryna Sabalenka earlier in the day.

Australian Open champion Sinner, who already leads the ATP Tour with four titles this season, won 70 per cent of his first-serve points and converted two of his four break-point chances to get by the 2021 Cincinnati champion in three hours seven minutes.

Zverev was three points away from serving out the opener but Sinner broke to level the proceedings at 5-5 before they headed to a rain-interrupted tiebreak where the Italian secured the frame on his third set point with a

### FERNANDEZ FALLS TO PEGULA IN THREE-SET QUARTERFINAL MATCH AT CINCINNATI OPEN

CINCINNATI Canada's Leylah Fernandez suffered a 7-5, 6-7 (1), 7-6 (3) defeat at the hands of American Jessica Pegula in the quarter-finals of the Cincinnati Open on Saturday.

Already having to win one tiebreaker just to keep herself in the match, Fernandez needed to do it once more to advance to the semi-finals. However, Pegula jumped out to a 5-2 lead before eventually taking the tiebreaker 7-3 to emerge victorious.

Fernandez of Laval, Que., broke on six of her 15 opportunities and won 59.4 per cent of her first-serve points in the three-hour four-minute match.

The 21-year-old also had five aces to six double faults.

Pegula, the sixth seed in the tournament, broke on seven of her 15 chances and won 62.8 per cent of her first-serve points.

She had three aces to seven double faults in the match.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

backhand volley.

The players exchanged early breaks in the second set but German world number four Zverev used a hold at love to go 6-5 up

and then levelled the match in the next game when Sinner sent a forehand smash into the net.

Neither player faced a break point in a tightly contested

decider that required a tiebreak where Sinner took control, dropping just one point on his serve and sealing the match when Zverev sent a backhand long.

Zverev will next face either Danish 15th seed Holger Rune or Frances Tiafoe, who is looking to become the first American finalist in Cincinnati since John Isner in 2013.

Earlier in the day, Sabalenka advanced to her first Cincinnati Open final with relative ease, defeating Polish world No. 1 Iga Swiatek 6-3 6-3 in the semi-finals, setting up a contest with American Pegula, who beat Spain's Paula Badosa 6-2 3-6 6-3 in a much tougher second semi-final that was briefly suspended because of rain.

Belarusian world No. 3 Sabalenka showcased her prowess with a fast-paced, aggressive style in her third meeting of the season with Swiatek, and the first on a

hard court.

"I wasn't over-rushing things. I was trusting myself a lot, and I wasn't trying to over-hit the ball," Sabalenka said.

"I was just trying to stay there, put as much pressure as I can on her, and I was really focused on my serve."

Despite a valiant effort to mount a comeback, Swiatek struggled to keep up with Sabalenka's pace and precision and was unable to close the deficit.

For Pegula, who won the National Bank Open in Toronto last week, it was her ninth consecutive victory. She will now aim to become the first woman since Evonne Goolagong in 1973 to win the Canada and Cincinnati titles in the same year.

Sabalenka will compete in her ninth WTA 1000 final on Monday, while it will be the fifth for Pegula.

REUTERS

## DJOKOVIC CALLS FOR BETTER APPLICATION OF INSTANT REPLAY AFTER AUGER-ALIASIME'S 'RIDICULOUS' ELIMINATION

Tennis superstar Novak Djokovic is among those calling for instant replay to be used more effectively in the sport after Montreal's Félix Auger-Aliassime was eliminated from the Cincinnati Open because of a controversial call on match point.

Auger-Aliassime lost a third-round match to Britain's Jack Draper on Friday. On match point, the Canadian hit a return that appeared to hit Draper's racket and his side of the court before going back over the net, which would have been a point

for Auger-Aliassime.

The chair umpire gave the point and the match to Draper. Auger-Aliassime pleaded his case to the umpire, but tennis currently does not allow video review for any cases other than challenges on whether the ball

landed in or out of bounds.

Posting on X, Djokovic called the situation "embarrassing" and said it was "ridiculous" that the umpire couldn't change his call based on off-court video reviews.

The world No. 2 and Olympic gold medalist said everyone

watching on television sees the replay, but players are "kept in the dark."

Auger-Aliassime posted on social media that it was a tough way to lose, but he is moving on to focus on the upcoming U.S. Open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

[ LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES ]



## High fives from the big leagues

Detroit Tigers player Zach McKinstry greets fans while riding in the Little League World Series golf cart during a team visit to the Little League World Series tournament in South Williamsport, Pa., on Sunday. The Tigers defeated the New York Yankees 3-2 in MLB's Little League Classic game at Bowman Stadium.

GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## TYSON FEELS GOOD AFTER HEALTH SCARE, READY FOR BOUT WITH JAKE PAUL

NEW YORK Mike Tyson is 58 years old and coming off a health scare that forced the postponement of his return to the ring.

The boxer once considered the most dangerous man in the world could be putting himself in danger by putting the gloves on again. Yet he was quick to respond Sunday when asked why he was going through with his bout against Jake Paul.

"Because I can. Who else can do it but me? Who else is he going to fight to make this happen?" Tyson said, motioning toward the crowd at a packed news conference where fans cheered the former heavyweight champion and booed Paul.

"We've just got to listen to the facts. We've got a YouTuber fighting the greatest fighter that ever lived."

Tyson and Paul restarted the buildup to their match that is now scheduled for Nov. 15 at the home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. They had been set to meet July 20 before Tyson became nauseous and dizzy on a flight from Miami to Los Angeles in May, with his representatives attributing the episode to an ulcer problem.

Tyson said Sunday he resumed training two or three weeks ago and feels fine.

"Hey listen, I'm just ready," Tyson said.

The undisputed heavyweight champion 1987 to 1990, Tyson (50-6, 44 KOs) retired in 2005 before coming back for an exhibition match against Roy Jones in 2020. Fans seem excited for his return, with a number of them turned away Sunday because too many showed up for their news conference on the final day of the Fanatics Fest event in New York.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### MLB

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	73	51	.589	—
Baltimore	73	52	.584	1/2
Boston	65	58	.528	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	62	61	.504	10 1/2
Toronto	58	66	.468	15

##### CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	72	52	.581	—
Minnesota	70	54	.565	2
Kansas City	69	55	.556	3
Detroit	60	64	.484	12
Chicago	30	95	.240	42 1/2

##### WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	67	56	.545	—
Seattle	64	61	.512	4
Texas	57	68	.456	11
Los Angeles	53	71	.427	14 1/2
Oakland	53	71	.427	14 1/2

##### Sunday

Houston 2, Chicago White Sox 0  
 Baltimore 4, Boston 2  
 Milwaukee 2, Cleveland 0  
 Kansas City 8, Cincinnati 1  
 Seattle 10, Pittsburgh 3  
 Toronto 1, Chicago Cubs 0  
 Tampa Bay 8, Arizona 7, 12 innings  
 Texas 6, Minnesota 5, 10 innings  
 Atlanta 3, L.A. Angels 1  
 San Francisco 4, Oakland 2, 10 innings  
 N.Y. Yankees at Detroit

##### Saturday

Detroit 4, N.Y. Yankees 0  
 Pittsburgh 7, Seattle 2  
 Chicago Cubs 3, Toronto 2  
 Tampa Bay 6, Arizona 1  
 Kansas City 13, Cincinnati 1  
 Minnesota 5, Texas 2  
 Milwaukee 2, Cleveland 1  
 Houston 6, Chicago White Sox 1  
 Oakland 2, San Francisco 0  
 Boston 5, Baltimore 1  
 Atlanta 11, L.A. Angels 3

##### Monday — All Times Eastern

Cincinnati (Greene 9-4) at Toronto (Gausman 11-8), 7:07 p.m.  
 Baltimore (Rogers 2-11) at N.Y. Mets (Petersen 7-1), 7:10 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh (Ortiz 5-3) at Texas (TBD), 8:05 p.m.  
 Boston (Houck 8-8) at Houston (Kikuchi 6-9), 8:10 p.m.  
 L.A. Angels (Fulmer 0-3) at Kansas City (Lugo 13-7), 8:10 p.m.  
 Minnesota (Mathews 1-0) at San Diego (King 10-6), 9:40 p.m.  
 Tampa Bay (Bradley 6-7) at Oakland (Boyle 2-5), 9:40 p.m.  
 Chicago White Sox (Cannon 2-6) at San Francisco (Harrison 6-5), 9:45 p.m.  
 Seattle (Woo 5-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Stone 10-5), 10:10 p.m.

##### Tuesday

Cleveland at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.  
 Cincinnati at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.  
 Baltimore at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
 Detroit at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh at Texas, 8:05 p.m.  
 Boston at Houston, 8:10 p.m.  
 L.A. Angels at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.  
 Minnesota at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.  
 Tampa Bay at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.  
 Chi. White Sox at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.  
 Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	73	51	.589	—
Atlanta	66	58	.532	7
New York	64	60	.516	9
Washington	56	69	.448	17 1/2
Miami	46	78	.371	27

##### CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	72	52	.581	—
St. Louis	61	63	.492	11
Chicago	61	64	.488	11 1/2
Cincinnati	60	64	.484	12
Pittsburgh	58	65	.472	13 1/2

##### WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	73	52	.584	—
San Diego	70	55	.560	3
Arizona	69	56	.552	4
San Francisco	63	63	.500	10 1/2
Colorado	46	79	.368	27

##### Sunday

Miami 3, N.Y. Mets 2  
 San Diego 2, Cleveland 0  
 Kansas City 8, Cincinnati 1  
 Seattle 10, Pittsburgh 3  
 Washington 6, Philadelphia 4  
 L.A. Dodgers 2, St. Louis 1  
 Toronto 1, Chicago Cubs 0  
 Tampa Bay 8, Arizona 7, 12 innings  
 Colorado 3, San Diego 2  
 Atlanta 3, L.A. Angels 1  
 Oakland 2, San Francisco 0

##### Saturday

Pittsburgh 7, Seattle 2  
 Chicago Cubs 3, Toronto 2  
 N.Y. Mets 4, Miami 0  
 Tampa Bay 6, Arizona 1  
 Philadelphia 5, Washington 1  
 Kansas City 13, Cincinnati 1  
 Milwaukee 2, Cleveland 1  
 St. Louis 5, L.A. Dodgers 2  
 Oakland 2, San Francisco 0  
 San Diego 8, Colorado 3  
 Atlanta 11, L.A. Angels 3

##### Monday — All Times Eastern

Arizona (Pfaadt 7-6) at Miami (TBD), 6:40 p.m.  
 Cincinnati (Greene 9-4) at Toronto (Gausman 11-8), 7:07 p.m.  
 Baltimore (Rogers 2-11) at N.Y. Mets (Petersen 7-1), 7:10 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh (Ortiz 5-3) at Texas (TBD), 8:05 p.m.  
 Minnesota (Mathews 1-0) at San Diego (King 10-6), 9:40 p.m.  
 Chicago White Sox (Cannon 2-6) at San Francisco (Harrison 6-5), 9:45 p.m.  
 Seattle (Woo 5-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Stone 10-5), 10:10 p.m.

##### Tuesday

Arizona at Miami, 6:40 p.m.  
 Colorado at Washington, 6:45 p.m.  
 Cincinnati at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.  
 Baltimore at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.  
 Milwaukee at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.  
 Detroit at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh at Texas, 8:05 p.m.  
 Minnesota at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.  
 Chicago White Sox at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.  
 Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

### CPL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Hamilton	19	10	5	4	35	23	34
Ottawa	19	9	5	5	33	24	32
York	19	9	6	4	29	35	31
Calgary	19	7	3	9	23	18	30
Vancouver	19	6	8	5	24	32	23
Winnipeg	19	6	11	2	22	31	23
Victoria	18	5	8	5	14	20	20
Halifax	18	4	10	4	23	30	16

##### Sunday

Hamilton 2 Vancouver 1

##### Saturday

Ottawa 3 Victoria 0  
 Winnipeg 2 Halifax 1

##### ENGLAND

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

##### Sunday

Brentford 2, Crystal Palace 1  
 Chelsea 0, Man City 2

##### Saturday

Ipswich 0, Liverpool 2  
 Arsenal 2, Wolverhampton 0  
 Everton 0, Brighton 3  
 Newcastle 1, Southampton 0  
 Nottingham Forest 1, Bournemouth 1  
 West Ham 1, Aston Villa 2

##### Monday — All Times Eastern

Leicester vs. Tottenham, 3 p.m.

### MLS-LIGA MX LEAGUES CUP

#### QUARTERFINALS

**Saturday**  
 Columbus 1 New York City F.C. 1 (Columbus wins 4-3 on penalties)  
 Los Angeles F.C. 3 Seattle 0  
 Philadelphia 1 Mazatlan (Liga MX) 1 (Philadelphia wins 4-3 on penalties)  
 Colorado 0 America (Liga MX) 0 (Colorado wins 9-8 on penalties)

### LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

#### DOUBLE ELIMINATION

**At Williamsport, Pa.**  
**Sunday**  
 Staten Island (N.Y.) 4, Hinsdale (Ill.) 0  
 Matamoros (Mexico) 8, Surrey (B.C.) 2  
 Newtown (Pa.) 12, Puyallup (Wash.) 0

**Saturday**  
 Surrey (B.C.) 12, Guayama (PR) 5  
 Staten Island (N.Y.) 6, Sioux Falls (S.D.) 3  
 Santa Cruz (Aruba) 8, Brno (Czech Republic) 3  
 Newtown (Pa.) 5, Salem (N.H.) 0

**Monday**  
**All Times Eastern**  
 Tokyo (Japan) vs. Barquisimeto (Venezuela), 1 p.m.  
 Henderson (Nev.) vs. Wailuku (Hawaii), 3 p.m.  
 Taoyuan City (Chinese Taipei) vs. Santa Clara (Cuba), 5 p.m.  
 Game 24: Lake Mary (Fla.) vs. Boerne (Texas), 7 p.m.

### CFL

#### WEEK 11

##### EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
Montreal	10	9	1	0	288	215	18
Ottawa	9	6	2	1	227	218	13
Toronto	9	5	4	0	256	234	10
Hamilton	10	2	8	0	256	334	4

##### WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
Saskatchewan	10	5	4	1	260	249	11
British Columbia	9	5	4	0	222	228	10
Calgary	10	4	6	0	246	290	8
Winnipeg	9	3	6	0	188	186	6
Edmonton	10	3	7	0	296	285	6

##### WEEK 11

**Bye:** Toronto  
**Sunday**  
 Winnipeg at British Columbia

##### Saturday

Edmonton 47 Hamilton 22

### NFL PRESEASON

#### WEEK 2

##### Sunday

Green Bay at Denver  
 New Orleans at San Francisco

**Saturday**  
 Baltimore 13, Atlanta 12  
 Chicago 27, Cincinnati 3  
 Houston 28, N.Y. Giants 10  
 Detroit 24, Kansas City 23  
 Minnesota 27, Cleveland 12  
 Buffalo 9, Pittsburgh 3  
 Indianapolis 21, Arizona 13  
 Miami 13, Washington 6  
 N.Y. Jets 15, Carolina 12  
 Tennessee 16, Seattle 15  
 L.A. Rams 13, L.A. Chargers 9  
 Jacksonville 20, Tampa Bay 7  
 Dallas 27, Las Vegas 12

### WNBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	23	4	.852	—
Connecticut	19	7	.731	3 1/2
Indiana	13	15	.464	10 1/2
Chicago	11	15	.423	11 1/2
Arlanta	9	17	.346	13 1/2
Washington	6	21	.222	17

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	19	8	.704	—
Las Vegas	17	9	.654	1 1/2
Seattle	17	10	.630	2
Phoenix	14	13	.519	5
Dallas	6	20	.231	12 1/2
Los Angeles	6	21	.222	13

##### Sunday

Atlanta 82, Connecticut 70  
 Indiana 92, Seattle 75  
 Las Vegas 87, Los Angeles 71  
 Chicago at Phoenix

##### Saturday

Minnesota 99, Washington 83  
 New York 79, Las Vegas 67  
 Chicago 90, Los Angeles 86

### LPGA

#### ISPS HANDA WOMEN'S SCOTTISH OPEN

##### At Ayrshire, Scotland

##### Sunday

#### FINAL ROUND

Lauren Coughlin, \$300,000	69-69-66-69	—	273
Esther Henseleit, \$167,294	70-71-66-70	—	277
Ayaka Furue, \$97,588	69-73-69-68	—	279
Megan Khang, \$97,588	68-68-69-74	—	279
Charley Hull, \$66,918	70-68-69-73	—	280
Jin Young Ko, \$54,835	71-71-68-71	—	281
Gabriela Ruffels, \$54,835	71-73-69-68	—	281
Sarah Schmelzel, \$46,471	71-72-69-70	—	282
Lydia Ko, \$44,612	69-69-71-74	—	283
Nuria Irujo, \$41,824	72-74-66-73	—	285
Lisa Peppersson, \$41,824	71-72-68-74	—	285
Georgia Hall, \$37,176	70-72-72-72	—	286
Minjee Lee, \$37,176	68-78-69-78	—	286
Lucy Li, \$37,176	68-78-69-71	—	286
Allisen Corpuz, \$32,529	70-72-72-73	—	287
Nasa Hataoka, \$32,529	73-75-67-72	—	287
Grace Kim, \$32,529	72-72-68-75	—	287
Jin Hee Im, \$30,206	72-74-71-71	—	288
A Lim Kim, \$30,206	68-74-72-74	—	288
Savannah Grewal, \$26,581	70-73-74-70	—	289
L. May Humphreys, \$26,581	71-73-74-71	—	289
Caroline Inglis, \$26,581	70-75-70-74	—	289
Haeji Kang, \$26,581	75-72-71-71	—	289
Albane Valenzuela, \$26,581	72-73-69-75	—	289
Celine Boutier, \$21,005	74-74-71-71	—	290
Cheyenne Knight, \$21,005	71-71-74-74	—	290
Mary Liu, \$21,005	69-72-75-74	—	290
Lilia Vu, \$21,005	71-73-77-69	—	290
Rose Zhang, \$21,005	73-73-71-73	—	290
Ashleigh Buhai, \$16,667	76-71-77-67	—	291
Peiyun Chien, \$16,667	76-70-77-68	—	291

# Haaland hits ground running for Man City

Norwegian striker nets decisive goal as reigning Premier League title holders open season with victory at Chelsea

MATTIAS KAREN LONDON

Make it 91 goals in 100 games for Erling Haaland at Manchester City.

The striker marked his 100th appearance for the club by netting the first goal of the season in a 2-0 win at Chelsea on Sunday as City began its campaign for a fifth straight Premier League title.

It also took his tally to five goals in three league openers since joining City in 2022 and showed that the Norwegian is fully rested after a summer without international soccer.

"I had a feeling that he feels better than last season at this stage," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "He feels good, and the goal was magnificent."

Haaland gave his team the lead in the 18th minute and Mateo Kovacic added a strike from just outside the area in the 84th to make it a harsh welcome for new Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca in his first game in charge.

Also Sunday, Brentford beat Crystal Palace 2-1 after benefiting from a disputed refereeing decision in the first half.

At Stamford Bridge, Haaland's opener came when he received the ball on the edge of the area and cut between Levi Colwill and Marc Cucurella before dinking the ball past Robert Sánchez.

"I knew exactly what to do, I think it was a really good goal," Haaland said.

It was the kind of clinical centre-forward play that Chelsea lacked for much of last season and again on Sunday despite another summer of heavy spending.

Chelsea striker Nicolas Jackson had a goal disallowed just before



Erling Haaland chips in past Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sánchez for the opening goal of Manchester City's 2-0 win in the teams' season-opening Premier League match on Sunday at Stamford Bridge in London. JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES

halftime after needlessly straying offside and then hit a close-range volley straight at City goalkeeper Ederson in the 61st before being taken off for 18-year-old newcomer Marc Guiu.

"The performance was there but we didn't take the chances," Maresca said. "Probably the big difference was inside the box."

Still, there were signs of encouragement for Maresca, the former Man City assistant under Guardiola. While none of Chelsea's nine summer signings started the game, Roméo Lavia made his first league start after missing most of last season with injuries and impressed in a midfield partnership with Moisés Caicedo.

But Kovacic doubled the lead

against his former club when he intercepted a high ball up the pitch and strove forward before launching a shot that sneaked in via the post.

## BRENTFORD WINS MINUS TONEY

Brentford didn't need Ivan Toney to start the season with a win, and may have to do without the England striker in the future as well.

Toney was left out of the squad because of what Brentford manager Thomas Frank described as "transfer interest" in the forward, but Bryan Mbeumo and Yoane Wissa scored for the hosts.

"I think every single time Ivan hasn't played Wissa has stepped up and I think he did again today,"

Frank said.

Wissa bundled the winner into the net in the 76th minute after Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson got his hands to a deflected shot by Nathan Collins but pushed it onto the legs of the Brentford forward.

Mbeumo opened the scoring in the 29th before Palace equalized through Ethan Pinnock's own-goal.

Palace was aggrieved, though, as Mbeumo's goal came just minutes after the visitors had a goal disallowed at the other end.

Eberechi Eze caught Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken out with a long-distance free kick from the right, hitting a shot straight into the net via the near

post when Brentford was expecting a delivery into the box. However, referee Sam Barrott whistled a foul on Palace midfielder Will Hughes as he jostled for position in a scrum of players on the edge of the area. While the decision enraged Palace manager Oliver Glasner, VAR could not review it as Barrott's whistle came before the ball had gone into the net.

"I was told that he blew too early and made the mistake," Glasner said. "I think everyone was surprised the referee whistled so early. We thought it was a goal, but the rules are that when the referee whistles the goal doesn't count. It is what it is."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Liverpool, Arsenal begin league campaigns with wins

STEVE DOUGLAS

There were wins for Liverpool and Arsenal and records for the prolific Mohamed Salah and the enduring James Milner on the first Saturday of the Premier League season.

Liverpool's new era under Arne Slot began with a 2-0 victory over promoted Ipswich, with Salah netting the second to take his tally of goals in the opening round of a Premier League season to nine — breaking a tie he had with English soccer greats Wayne Rooney, Alan Shearer and Frank Lampard.

Arsenal, runner-up in the league for the past two seasons, also won 2-0 at home to Wolverhampton thanks to goals by Kai Havertz and Bukayo Saka.

Liverpool and Arsenal are widely expected to be the biggest threats to champion Manchester City in its bid for a record-extending fifth straight English top-flight title. City opened its title defence with a 2-0 win at Chelsea on Sunday, with the season having been launched Friday by Manchester United beating Fulham 1-0.

In other matches on Saturday, Newcastle overcame a 28th-minute red card to Fabian Schär for a headbutt to beat Southampton 1-0 through Joëlinton's goal and Everton also had a player sent off, Ashley Young, in its 3-0 loss at home to Brighton.

Brighton's team featured Milner, who — at 38 — was starting his 23rd season in the Premier League, beating the record of 22 he held jointly with Manchester United great Ryan Giggs. Milner is seven years older than his manager, Fabian Hürzeler, who had a winning start to English soccer after moving from German team St. Pauli.

Aston Villa beat West Ham 2-1 and Nottingham Forest drew 1-1 with Bournemouth in a match that saw Forest midfielder Danilo suffer a broken ankle after landing awkwardly in an aerial challenge. Screens were put up around the Brazilian while he received treatment.

## DISAPPOINTMENT FOR ED SHEERAN

Ipswich's most famous supporter, pop star Ed Sheeran, was cheering the team on against Liverpool from a VIP box at Portman Road, days after buying a small stake in the club.

This is Ipswich's first season in the top flight since 2002 and the team looks sure to entertain, even if it might concede plenty of goals in the process with its open, expansive style.

Salah set up Diogo Jota for the first goal in the 60th and then poked home a finish from close range in the 65th as Liverpool improved after a slow first half in its first competitive game under Slot.

## SAKA SHINES

Saka was one of a host of top stars quickly back into action after playing international tournaments during the summer.

The England winger was quickly into his stride, crossing for Havertz to head home in the 25th before scoring himself by firing a shot inside the near post from the edge of the area in the 74th.

Arsenal was grateful to goalkeeper David Raya for pulling off three impressive saves to retain a clean sheet for the best defence in the league last season, while Havertz was at the centre of an incident that saw Wolves defender Yerson Mosquera fall onto the Germany striker and land with his hand on Havertz's throat. Mosquera avoided any sanction.

## BRIGHTON CRUISES

Kaoru Mitoma, Danny Welbeck and Simon Adingra were the scorers for Brighton at Goodison Park, which is the home for Everton for one last season before the club moves to a new, bigger stadium across town.

Young was shown a straight red card in the 66th minute for hauling down Mitoma when he was the last defender. At 39, Young is the oldest player to receive a red card in the Premier League. Milner played for 82 minutes on his record-setting day.

## SCHÄR SEES RED

Newcastle didn't end up paying for Schär's rash reaction when he responded to a push from Ben Brereton Díaz by placing his forehead against that of the Chile striker, who fell to the ground. Schär received a straight red card.

The score was 0-0 at the time, but Newcastle earned all three points when Alexander Isak took a misplaced pass by Southampton goalkeeper Alex McCarthy and set up Joëlinton to score.

## PAQUETA GOAL

Brazil midfielder Lucas Paquetá started for West Ham with a spot-fixing scandal hanging over him from the end of last season, and scored from the penalty spot against Villa.

Paquetá is alleged to have deliberately received yellow cards during Premier League matches to influence betting markets. He was charged with misconduct on May 23 and faces a long ban if found guilty by English soccer authorities. He denies the charges.

Colombia striker Jhon Durán scored the winner for Villa in the 79th after coming on as a substitute. Amadou Onana gave Villa the lead on his debut in the fourth minute before Paquetá equalized.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Canadian batting attack crumbles in World Cup League 2 loss to the Dutch

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Canada's batting attack, after a fast start, crumbled in a 63-run loss to the Netherlands in ICC Cricket World Cup League 2 play Saturday.

Dutch pace bowler Paul van Meekeren did most of the damage, taking five wickets in 9.4 overs at the expense of 28 runs. Vivian Kingma took three wickets for 31 runs in seven overs.

Facing a victory target of 221, Canada was 59 for zero behind openers Aaron Johnson and Dilpreet Bajwa before the bottom fell out. Bedazzled by Kingma and van Meekeren, Canada lost six wickets for just 11 runs and was all out for 157 in the 36th over.

Wicketkeeper Shreyas Movva offered some resistance at the end of the Canadian innings, finishing at 47 not out. Movva hit four fours in his 72-ball knock.

"Middle order just didn't bat today, well, apart from Movva," said newly appointed Canada captain Nicholas Kirton. "He played a pretty good hand."

"Credit to them, they bowled well," he added. After opening League 2 play earlier this year with four straight wins in Dubai — beating Scotland and the host United Arab Emirates twice — the Canadians have lost three in a row, two to the host Netherlands and one to the United States in their second tri-nations series.

The Netherlands (5-2-0) moved into

top spot in the table, displacing Scotland (4-2-0) with their fourth straight win. Canada (4-3-0) dropped to third.

The top four teams from the eight-country League 2, after play wraps up at the end of 2026, advance to a 10-team World Cup qualifier that will send four sides to the Cricket World Cup. The bottom four League 2 countries have a second bite at the apple via the World Cup Qualifier Playoff.

The field for the 2027 World Cup has been expanded to 14 teams, but 10 of those slots are already spoken for via tournament co-hosts South Africa and Zimbabwe plus the top eight other full ICC members, as per the one-day rankings.

Canada, which has not made the World Cup since 2011, is ranked 16th in the world in one-day international play and 23rd in the T20 game.

The Canadians face the Americans (1-1-0) on Monday, also in Rotterdam.

The Canadian men had little time to prepare for the transition to the 50-over League 2 games, leaving behind the shorter, more explosive 20-over format of the Global T20 tournament in Brampton, Ont.

Canada is slated to play T20 games against both the Dutch and Americans immediately after the coming 50-over games. Canada then hosts a League 2 tri-nations series with Oman and Nepal in September in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NIEWIADOMA WINS WOMEN'S TOUR DE FRANCE BY FOUR SECONDS OVERALL AFTER ALPE D'HUEZ THRILLER

ALPE D'HUEZ, FRANCE Polish rider Kasia Niewiadoma did just enough in a thrilling battle Sunday with rival Demi Vollering on the iconic Alpe d'Huez to win the women's Tour de France by four seconds overall.

It was the smallest margin of victory in any Tour de France edition, including the men's race.

"It's so crazy, this Tour has been a crazy roller coaster," Niewiadoma said after the eighth and final stage. "I've had bad moments. I hated every moment of this last climb, but when I heard that I had won the Tour de France, I could not believe it."

Niewiadoma sat on the road after finishing, exhausted and waiting to get the confirmation that she had won. When the news finally came, she lifted her bike in triumph and appeared overwhelmed by the magnitude of her achievement.

Knowing she still trailed Niewiadoma overall, Vollering had been part of a

breakaway Sunday with fellow Dutch rider Pauliena Rooijakkers earlier in the race. Vollering accelerated powerfully in the final stretch to win the stage.

But the gap wasn't quite enough as Niewiadoma finished fourth to narrowly clinch her first Tour title, with an overall time of 24 hours, 36 minutes, 7 seconds. Vollering's final time was 24:36:11.

Vollering, the defending champion, had fought back after suffering a crash in the fifth stage. She was inconsolable when she learned she had finished second overall after starting the stage more than a minute behind Niewiadoma overall.

"Right now I feel really bitter that I only lost by four seconds," Vollering said. "It's really painful to know that I did not do enough today."

Rooijakkers, also a title contender, finished third in the overall standings at only 10 seconds behind Niewiadoma. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



[ LIONS VS. BLUE BOMBERS ]

## Rusty return for Rourke

B.C. Lions quarterback Nathan Rourke passes the ball during the first half against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in Vancouver on Sunday.

The Blue Bombers won, 20-11. Rourke was making his 2024 debut for the Lions after re-signing with the team on Aug. 13. For the game story, head to ■ [GLOBESPORTS.COM](https://www.globeandmail.com/sports/canada/bc-lions)

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Rankin powers Elks to road win vs. Ticats

Running back scores three touchdowns on 17 carries to lead Edmonton to its third straight win

DAN RALPH HAMILTON

Different running back, same result for Jarious Jackson and the Edmonton Elks.

Justin Rankin ran for 108 yards and three touchdowns to power Edmonton to its third straight win, a 47-22 decision over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Saturday night. Javon Leake ran for 266 yards and four TDs on 33 carries (8.1-yard average) over the first two wins but was slowed by a hip ailment at Tim Hortons Field.

"I don't know where [the rushing attack] has been but it's here now and it's here to stay," said Jackson, Edmonton's interim head coach. "When the weather

starts to get cold and it gets later into the season, you've got to have a run game.

"Hopefully we can make it that far."

It's been a remarkable turnaround for Edmonton (3-7) after enduring a season-opening seven straight losses. The Elks are 3-2 under Jackson, the team's offensive co-ordinator who assumed coaching duties when head coach/general manager Chris Jones was fired July 15.

Edmonton hasn't lost since dropping a 44-28 decision to Hamilton at home on July 28 and has its first three-game win streak since 2019.

"Guys are starting to believe," Jackson said. "They understand if they're the more physical team on game day, then a lot of times it helps us win games.

"It's three in a row but we're going to keep our head down and keep taking it one game at a time."

Rankin's workload has steadily increased over the streak. He had

nine carries for 60 yards in the Elks' 42-31 victory over Saskatchewan on Aug. 3 before adding 77 yards on 10 carries in last week's 33-16 decision over B.C.

“

Guys are starting to believe. ... It's three in a row but we're going to keep our head down and keep taking it one game at a time.

JARIOUS JACKSON  
EDMONTON ELKS  
INTERIM HEAD COACH

"Javon got banged up and they just trusted me to be able to go out there and kind of do the same thing but in a different way than Javon does," Rankin said. "The coaches and team in general just trust us to be able to put the ball into our hands and let us do what we do."

Edmonton's defence also

contributed to the club's third straight win at Tim Hortons Field. It forced four turnovers (two interceptions, two fumble recoveries) that set up three touchdowns.

Hamilton was also flagged 11 times for 100 yards.

The Ticats (2-8) suffered a third straight loss before a home gathering of 20,092, many of whom left at halftime. They also fell to 1-4 at Tim Hortons Field.

Rankin, who had 17 carries, scored his third TD from three yards out at 6:52 of the fourth to give Edmonton a 39-16 advantage.

Edmonton's McLeod Bethel-Thompson completed 15-of-23 passes for 234 yards and two touchdowns. Hamilton's Bo Levi Mitchell was 23-of-34 passing for 294 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions before giving way to Harrison Frost in the fourth.

Frost hit Shemar Bridges on a 12-yard touchdown pass at 13:34 to cut Edmonton's lead to 39-22. But Bethel-Thompson countered with a six-yard scoring strike to

Kurleigh Gittens Jr. at 13:45 before Boris Bede's 85-yard kickoff single rounded out the scoring.

Mitchell relieved starter Taylor Powell, who completed two-of-three passes for 20 yards before going to hospital as a precaution with a head injury after a rushing play. Hamilton receiver Luther Hakunavanhu left in an ambulance with a head injury sustained on the game's opening play.

Ticats head coach Scott Milanovich said the injuries made the loss even tougher to take.

"It's sickening, right, it hurts," he said. "You've got to work with these guys every single day and you care about them.

"To see them laying out there on the turf, it's going to affect anybody. It's an unfortunate part of this game and we all know what we sign up for [but] it doesn't change the fact that we're human, we care about these people and it hurts to see them ill."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## South Africa's du Plessis retains his middleweight UFC title

PERTH, AUSTRALIA

South African Dricus du Plessis took a flurry of body hits across four rounds before defeating Israel Adesanya by submission to retain his middleweight championship at UFC 305 on Sunday.

After scoring some early takedowns, du Plessis (22-2) had to withstand a flurry of body strikes from Adesanya through the middle rounds which appeared to be taking a toll on the 30-year-old South African as the fight progressed.

But a left hook followed by three rights helped bring Adesanya down which gave du Plessis the opening he wanted as he swiftly got the choke hold which forced the Nigerian-born New Zealander to tap out at 3:38 into the fourth round.

"This man is the king of getting back up," du Plessis said of Adesanya, who was bidding to become a middleweight champion for the third time. "I'm still alive, that's a bonus.

"I came here to die for this belt and to take a life. I'm still champion, baby."

Tensions ahead of Sunday's fight at the sold out RAC Arena in Perth, Australia, had escalated after du Plessis, in response to Adesanya saying he'd take the belt back to Africa if he won, asked

whether he would take his servants with him.

Despite the simmering animosity heading into the fight, which saw both fighters refrain from touching each others gloves at the start, the pair appeared to reconcile immediately after the contest.

"I'm really sorry that it came across that I disrespected the fact that he's from Africa," du Plessis said. "That was never my intention. Africa would have won regardless, but tonight South Africa was the victor."

It was the third time the South African has beat off challengers for the competitive middleweight division and second time this year after he won with a split decision over Sean Strickland in January at UFC 297.

Next in line for du Plessis is a return title-defence bout with Strickland at a date to be determined.

The 35-year-old Adesanya (24-4) was making his first appearance since returning from an 11-month sabbatical after losing the middleweight title by unanimous decision to Strickland in Sydney in September last year but said Sunday's latest setback wasn't career-ending.

"This is the best I've ever felt. I'm 35, I'm doing the right things. I'm not ... leaving," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dricus du Plessis, right, of South Africa and Israel Adesanya of Nigeria fight during their middleweight title bout at UFC 305 in Perth, Australia, on Sunday. RICHARD WAINWRIGHT/AAP IMAGE VIA AP

## Argos: Dinwiddie leaves door open for Kelly to contribute in Thursday's matchup with Riders

■ FROM B10

"I am sorry for my actions and the impact it has had on many people personally, the Toronto Argonauts and the CFL," Kelly said in a statement issued by the Argos. "I recognize that this is just one step in the process of bettering myself, but it is an important one, and I am committed to doing what is needed to be a better teammate, colleague and person.

"With that commitment in mind, I have accepted the League's conditions of reinstatement, including its 'Last Chance Agreement.'"

Kelly took roughly 70 per cent of the starting offence snaps in Sunday's practice, and head coach Ryan Dinwiddie said he plans to increase Kelly's workload Monday as Toronto (5-4) plays host to the Saskatchewan Roughriders (5-4-1) on Thursday night.

"I'm hoping I get a clear indication of what I want to do [Monday]," Dinwiddie said after the workout at the Ontario Soccer Centre. "It will be a heavy workload day. Day 2 is always our heavier day, however, it's going to be a little bit heavier.

"But it was good to have him back. His teammates were excited to see him back in the building." Sunday's session was a walk-through in helmets and shorts. But Kelly still showed very good velocity on his passes and the ability to thread the needle in tight quarters.

Dinwiddie said it might be asking a lot for Kelly to start Thursday with limited practices and no training camp. He left the door open to Kelly splitting reps with Toronto's other two quarterbacks, Cameron Dukes and veteran Nick Arbuckle.

"We felt it was important to give Chad the bulk of it, the other guys have had a lot of reps and he

has to get caught up to speed," Dinwiddie said. "We also understand Chad isn't going to be perfect on game day but we've also got to be ready to make a move and go with the other guys that have been playing.

"It might be by committee, it might not be [Kelly] the full game."

Kelly won 15-of-16 starts last season with Toronto, the 93.8 win percentage being the best ever by a player with at least 14 starts. He completed 270-of-394 passes (68.5 per cent) for 4,123 yards with 23 touchdowns and 12 interceptions while rushing for 248 yards and eight TDs - tied for second-most in the CFL - to earn league all-star honours.

He led Toronto to a league-best and franchise-record 16-2 mark. But the Argos' season ended with a 38-17 home loss to eventual Grey Cup-champion Montreal in the East final.

With Kelly suspended, Dukes and Arbuckle have handled snaps this season. Dukes started eight of the club's nine regular-season games, posting a 4-4 record while Arbuckle won his only start.

And while Dukes sports a solid 72.1 completion percentage, he has thrown for just 1,398 yards with almost as many interceptions (six) as touchdowns (seven). Arbuckle has completed 42-of-68 passes (61.8 per cent) for 421 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

As a whole, Toronto's offence has been inconsistent. It entered this week's action seventh in offensive points scored (23.7 per game) and last in net offence (309.7), passing (210.9 yards per game), offensive penalties (37) and sacks allowed (23).

A bright spot, though, has been a CFL-best rushing attack (123.9 yards per game).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Sports in brief

**WOODBINE ENTERTAINMENT CANCELS KING'S PLATE BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAIN**  
TORONTO The King's Plate has been cancelled. Woodbine Entertainment made the announcement Saturday on X, formerly known as Twitter, pointing to the weather as the reason. "In the interest of safety for our horses and horse people, Woodbine Entertainment has cancelled the remainder of Saturday's live racing card due to unsafe racing conditions caused by heavy rains in the Greater Toronto Area," the statement said. Woodbine Entertainment later said that the event would be rescheduled for next Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**OILERS ACQUIRE PODKOLZIN FROM CANUCKS FOR FOURTH-ROUND PICK IN 2025**  
EDMONTON The Edmonton Oilers have acquired forward Vasily Podkolzin from the Vancouver Canucks in exchange for Ottawa's fourth-round selection in the 2025 draft in an NHL trade announced Sunday night. Podkolzin has 18 goals, 17 assists and 43 penalty minutes in 137 games over the past three seasons with Vancouver. The left-shot forward from Moscow made his playoff debut this past season, appearing in two games in Vancouver's second-round series against Edmonton. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**NASCAR CUP RACE SUSPENDED UNTIL MONDAY AFTER RAIN**  
BROOKLYN, MICH. NASCAR suspended the FireKeepers 400 until Monday, running out of time Sunday to run a race that was delayed and interrupted by rain. On Lap 51 of the 200-lap Cup race, cars went to pit road to wait and see if the rain would go away in time to get at least half of the race completed to make it official and avoid having it spill over into an extra day for the second straight year at Michigan. The race was set to resume at 11 a.m. ET. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CLARK BREAKS WNBA ROOKIE ASSISTS RECORD**  
INDIANAPOLIS Kelsey Mitchell scored 27 points, Caitlin Clark added 23 points and nine assists, and Lexie Hull scored 12 of her career-high 22 points in the fourth quarter Sunday to help the Indiana Fever beat the Seattle Storm 92-75. With 232 assists so far this season, Clark broke the previous WNBA rookie record of 224 by Ticha Penicheiro in 1998. The No. 1 overall pick in the 2024 draft has scored at least 20 points in five of her past six games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SPIETH'S SEASON IS OVER AS HE PLANS WRIST SURGERY**  
MEMPHIS, TENN. Jordan Spieth ended his season Sunday after one FedEx Cup playoff event and already was planning for surgery on his left wrist that has troubled him the past 16 months. At issue is a torn sheath in his left wrist that holds the tendon in place. It first occurred a week before the 2023 PGA Championship, and Spieth has tried various treatments to avoid surgery. But it never got any better, and he could never predict how badly it was going to affect him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SIXERS SIGN FRENCH OLYMPIAN YABUSELE**  
Forward Guerschon Yabusele agreed to a one-year, US\$2.1-million contract with the Philadelphia 76ers, ESPN reported on Sunday. Yabusele, a 6-foot-8, 260-pound power forward, helped host France capture the silver medal at the Olympics earlier this month. He scored 20 points in the gold-medal match against the United States. He averaged 14.0 points and 3.3 rebounds for his team. Yabusele, 28, initially was selected by the Boston Celtics with the 16th overall pick of the 2016 NBA Draft. REUTERS

**JOHNSTON BECOMES FIRST CANADIAN TO WIN ELITE SERIES OVERALL TITLE**  
WADDINGTON, N.Y. Peterborough, Ont., native Chris Johnston clinched the Elite Series overall title Saturday, becoming the first Canadian to win angler-of-the-year honours. And he did so emphatically, registering the day's heaviest five-fish bag to qualify for the final round of the circuit's season-ending event. In 2020, Johnston became the first Canadian to win an Elite Series title, doing so on the St. Lawrence River, the same body of water as the season-ending event. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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### CONGRATULATIONS!

#### FARMER AND PEYER FAMILIES CELEBRATE THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR CHILDREN

Kaia and Patrick Farmer, along with Wendy and Danny Peyer, are delighted to announce the marriage of their children, Maarika Marie Farmer and Kirby Daniel Peyer. The couple exchanged vows on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at St. Paul's Bloor Street in Toronto. The ceremony was officiated by Bishop Jenny Andison. A reception followed at the Royal Ontario Museum.



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### DEATHS



**DONNA CHRISTINE HALL**  
(née Cowan)  
January 24, 1949 – August 9, 2024

Christine's life was a testament to love, kindness and unwavering support. Growing up in various small towns in Northern Ontario shaped the life of Donna Christine Hall (nee Cowan), who passed away peacefully on the morning of August 9, 2024, at her home in Gravenhurst, Ontario.

Christine, was born on January 24, 1949 to William Cowan and Ruth Cowan (nee Dollimore). She was the second of four children, Perry Cohan (deceased), Lyle Cowan and Graham Cowan. Her father's work as an engineer for Ontario Hydro had the family living in towns where nuclear power plants were or were being built. As such, Christine was born in Deep River where she spent her early years before moving to Peterborough for high school.

However, it was her experiences and substantial time spent in Muskoka where the multi-generational heritage of her parents that dates to the formation of Canada had the most profound effect on her life. It was the incredible beauty and ruggedness and certainly the unpredictability of the region that formed Christine into the rock that she became to so many people that knew and loved her.

She was a top student, talented artist and gifted athlete. This is to say that she really could have done anything she wanted with her life. So, when she decided to marry a kid from the city named Richard (Dick) Hall and become life and business partner to him and then give birth to son Christopher and daughter Mardi, those three people immediately became the luckiest people in the world. She would protest these notions when said aloud, but it's true.

Christine and Richard embarked on their life together to raise their family. Christine was smart, curious and openminded and she instilled those qualities in her family. Her kindness was infectious, but not to be mistaken with weakness as her strength and resolve helped her and those that she loved through some very dark days. Christine was an active participant in the community where she easily gathered friends. This was natural for her with her various pursuits like books, tennis and bridge. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Christine's knowledge, guidance and hard work served to foster growth in the various family businesses. She played a vital role in helping to build an insurance business along with her husband, and subsequently the insurance business of her daughter.

As with many of those who are blessed with the title of Grandma, she wore it proudly. Christine was instrumental in the lives of her daughter's children Calum, Cara and Gavin, to which she provided unconditional love and unwavering support. "Gamma", did everything for them. When she had the fortune to welcome Quincy into the family, the adult son of her beloved daughter-in-law Annette, there was an immediate bond over one another's mutual kindness and love and respect for his mother.

Love and longing for Muskoka remained the steady arc in the story of Christine's life. So, for the better part of the past 10 to 15 years it evolved from a somewhere to get away to when time and schedule permit, to a more permanent home and a community to both discover and reconnect.

Christine did all these remarkable things while living with health challenges. These recently slowed her down, but it did not deter our rock, Christine. Walks became shorter, golf became rides in the cart and a few holes then cheering on her favourite pros on TV. She read even more, watched a ridiculous amount of old British and Australian crime dramas and became the family champion in Wordle. Visits and dinners with friends became more frequent with a standing table on set at several Muskoka area restaurants. She was 75 years old.

A viewing and reception will be held for Christine on Tuesday August 20th from 1-4pm at Cavill - Turner Funeral Home: 215-1 Bay St, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1H1.

Christine will be laid to rest in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto beside her beloved grandson Calum. A viewing and service will be held on Wednesday, August 21st from 1pm-3pm, followed by her interment at 3:15, and reception from 3:30-5:30 at Mount Pleasant Cemetery Toronto: 375 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, ON M4T 2V8.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Heart and Stroke foundation or Diabetes Canada.



**JOHN BEATTY NEWMAN**

John Beatty Newman, 91, of Toronto, passed away July 13, 2024, naturally and peacefully. He was born April 6, 1933, to John William and Pearl May Newman, Parkdale, of Toronto. A consummate storyteller, with infectious humour, he navigated all of life's mishaps and challenges with original and positive thoughtfulness. His passion for his art was only exceeded by his love and commitment to his family. He was also an avid tennis player.

John was predeceased by beloved wife Shirley Corrine "née MacGregor", sisters Georgina Evans and June Hallawell; and will be deeply missed by sons, John (Sylvia), Peter (Lynn), Adam (Monique); grandchildren Nigel (Julie), Duncan (Megan), Pierce, Claire (Scott), Liam (Hannah), Luke; great-grandchildren, Reece, Ellyse, Bronwyn, Scarlett and Duncan, and many much-loved nieces and nephews, and by Cris, honorary family member and caregiver of 17 years.

One of Canada's foremost figurative artists, John Newman created poetic drawings and paintings that were exhibited both nationally and internationally, including the US, the UK, Italy, S.Korea, and China. John was represented for decades in Canada and the US with his work found in many public and private collections. He was an instructor at the Ontario College of Art for over three decades, as well as Chair of Fine Arts.

A private Celebration of Life will be held in the Fall. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Also consider visiting an art gallery in John's memory.

### DEATHS

#### JUDITH SCHERER HERZ Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of English, Concordia University

Peacefully, after a brief illness, with loved ones by her side, on Saturday, August 17, 2024. Loving wife of the late Carl Herz for 35 years. Adored mother and mother-in-law of Rachel Herz and James Poy, and Nathaniel Herz. Proud Grandmother of Charlotte, and Alexander. Dear sister and sister-in-law of Matthew and Deena Scherer, and Janet Scherer. Judith will be missed by Rebecca Shulman, and her nephew, Phil Scherer.

Judith had an enormous influence on many people. She was a great friend, colleague, and mentor, and will be deeply missed by all those who knew her.

Funeral service from Paperman & Sons, 3888 Jean Talon St. W., on Tuesday, August 20th at 11:00 a.m. Burial strictly private. Reception Tuesday following the funeral service at 228 Simcoe Ave., Mount-Royal, until 4:00 p.m. Donations in Judith's memory may be made to the charity of your choice.



**CONNOR ERNEST DANIEL JERRED**

March 29, 1991  
August 6, 2024

It is with unspeakable sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved son, Connor. He was a kind and gentle soul, with an infectious smile and great sense of humour.

Connor attended Sunnybrook School in mid-town Toronto, followed by the York School, YMCA Academy and graduated in Computer Systems Technology from Durham College, making the President's Honour Roll in the process. He also studied at the Cork Institute of Technology in Cork, Ireland.

Most recently, he was employed as an IT Technician at the Kingston Health Sciences Centre where he was a trouble-shooting technology support person, a role he excelled in.

As a child, Connor was the shining light in our family. He brought enough joy and laughter into our lives to last ten lifetimes. At age six, after scaling to the top of some climbing equipment at a local playground, he said to his dad with a big smile on his face: "Kids, don't try this at home!"

Our hearts are warmed by the core group of loyal friends Connor nurtured and maintained throughout his lifetime.

Connor is survived by his parents, Dan and Patricia Jerred of Prince Edward County; his brother, Evan of Montreal; and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins – most notably his beloved Aunt Virginia Lavdanski (nee Jerred) and Uncle Richard Lavdanski of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Private funeral service and interment to take place at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto at a later date. For those wishing to do so, donations may be made in Connor's memory to Kids Help Phone.

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### DEATHS



**MICHAEL JOHN MILLIGAN**  
November 23, 1957  
August 14, 2024

Mike passed away peacefully, on August 14, 2024, after a brief illness at Soldiers Memorial Hospital in Orillia. He was 66 years old. He was a great husband, father, brother, grandfather, and friend to many. He was predeceased by his parents, Audrey and Jack Milligan; and survived by his two sons, Jonathon (Cassandra) and Andrew; his brother, Pat; his loving wife, Joanne (nee Pye), of 45 years; his granddaughter, Avery; and many cousins. He graduated with a B. Comm (Carleton) and LLB (Queens), and had a wonderful career with Cunningham Swan Carly Little and Bonham (from the early years), then Kasten Chase (M. Davies), and with the McCain Family Office. He was a great coach, mentor, friend, and inspiration to many, including us at home (WWDD). His sole purpose in life was rearing our two lovely sons, and his greatest wish was to become a grandfather. Mission accomplished! Mike was unfortunately beset/stricken with Parkinson's early in life (2014), which among other illnesses, took his life at such an early age. He was a great sports and hobby enthusiast, to which he included us all in his orbit! They were: Formula 1 racing, canoe tripping, camping, sailing, fly fishing, kayaking, winter camping, snow shoeing, hockey (of course), X-C and alpine skiing (my parents and I can still see him, on his first time on downhill skis, in his big puffy orange down jacket, becoming a "yard sale" at the bottom of the hill), golf, horseback riding, flying, boating, scuba diving, motor cycling with his boys and Pat, bicycling (that's another story...), saxophone playing (wannabe), photography, and grilling on the Green Egg. Related to this, Mike had as much fun, if not more, in the research, acquisition and tinkering with all the equipment that went with these hobbies/sports. We could go on and on about his top five movies, songs, bands, and mandatory places to stop at in Kingston on the way through to Ottawa (Pasta Genova being at the top), but we digress. Thank you to the excellent and compassionate care of staff at the following stops along the way – Community Care in-home assistance provided by both the City of Kawartha Lakes and Durham Region, then Lakeridge Gardens in Ajax/Pickering, Lakeview Manor in Beaverton, and finally, Soldiers Memorial Hospital in Orillia, under the leadership of Dr. M. Smith and his superb care team. Private funeral arrangements and interment will be in Belleville where his parents are buried. Should you wish to share your love in a small donation of some kind, please donate to your favourite charity in honour of Mike.

### FUNERAL SERVICES



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LIPTON, Annette - 3:30 Pardes Chaim Cemetery.

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MEISELS, Frank - 12:30 Chapel.  
OLIN, Doris - 2:00 Pardes Shalom Cemetery.

#### TUESDAY

HALBERT, Gerald - 12:30 Chapel.

#### SHIVA

RUSH, Thomas Edward - 309 Forman Avenue.  
NADRICH, Abraham - 100 Canyon Avenue, #304.  
GREENE, Simon (Sim) - 7 Townsgate Drive, Thornhill.  
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## BILL WESTCOTT

MUSICIAN, PROFESSOR, 76

## ACCOMPLISHED PIANIST AND COMPOSER WAS A MASTER OF RAGTIME AND STRIDE

Born with cataracts and retinal damage, he was legally blind yet commanded an astounding approach to music, teaching for more than three decades at Toronto's York University and emphasizing musicianship rather than pure academics

JAMES CULLINGHAM

Early in Bill Westcott's career as a music professor at Toronto's York University, he arranged a master's class for students with American jazz, boogie-woogie and blues pianist and singer Little Brother Montgomery.

In front of a rapt class, Mr. Westcott interviewed Mr. Montgomery, who demonstrated his astounding approach to tunes such as *Vicksburg Blues* at the piano. The two met in the Chicago area, where Mr. Westcott lived before moving to Toronto and where Mr. Montgomery became a teacher and a friend.

Rob van der Blik, now a retired York University music librarian, was among the transfixed students. He recalls admiring Mr. Westcott's dedication to teaching and his emphasis on musicianship rather than purely academics.

"He knew it, he could play it, he could sing it," said Mr. Van der Blik. "He didn't pursue scholarship. He just wanted to play."

Mr. Westcott, an accomplished and versatile pianist and composer who was a master of ragtime and stride who taught for more than three decades at York, died on July 20 in a palliative care unit in Toronto due to a combination of illnesses. He was 76.

Mr. Westcott was born in Altona, Ill., on June 17, 1948. He grew up nearby in Edwardsville, where his father worked for Shell Oil.

He was born with cataracts and retinal damage, was legally blind and only able to read by keeping text or music close to his face. He completed his undergraduate studies in music at the University of Illinois, obtained a master's degree in piano performance at the University of Southern Illinois and returned to University of Illinois to work on a doctorate on the role of piano players in the origins of blues, jazz and ragtime. He came to York University in 1979 and retired from full time teaching in 2010, but maintained an office and relationships with students and faculty after that.

Little Brother Montgomery, originally from Louisiana, was one of the piano players who informed Mr. Westcott's doctoral study.

David Lidov, a former faculty colleague of Mr. Westcott's at York, said that formative relationship was not purely scholarly.

"It was more like an apprenticeship," said Mr. Lidov. "He [Mr. Westcott] wanted to play the music."

At the time that Mr. Westcott approached Mr. Montgomery,



In his incomplete doctoral dissertation, Bill Westcott wrote that there was evidence that blues music was played on the piano from 1912 into the early 1920s as musicians developed 'a tradition of playing and singing the blues on piano co-equal to that of the blues singer-guitarists.' COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

many musicologists and musicians who were fascinated with the blues and American roots music concentrated on the guitar. Players such as Robert Johnson, Skip James and Charley Patton gained almost mythic status among guitar enthusiasts and scholars.

Mr. Lidov, a composer and author, said he thinks Mr. Westcott made a lasting impact both as a musicologist and player through his deliberate focus on the piano. In his incomplete doctoral dissertation, Mr. Westcott wrote that there was evidence that blues music was played on the piano from 1912 into the early 1920s as musicians quickly developed "a tradition of playing and singing the blues on piano co-equal to that of the blues singer-guitarists."

Rob Bowman, a Grammy Award winning professor of ethnomusicology at York University, was among Mr. Westcott's early students. He said Mr. Westcott helped him understand that early jazz by the likes of King Oliver was not purely improvisational, but had "a system and a grammar" that could be unpacked.

"He was instrumental in my

life," said Mr. Bowman. "He went the extra mile for students. He spent hours with me."

Mary Henderson, another early student of Mr. Westcott, said she was mesmerized by her idiosyncratic professor who would tilt his head sideways to read sheet music up close with his compromised eyesight as he played a grand piano for students.

"As an 18 year old from Newfoundland, I was fascinated by him," said Ms. Henderson, who is now a realtor.

She joined a student choir led by Mr. Westcott, and said she was challenged and impressed by the range of music that Mr. Westcott selected.

"We did Mozart, Gregorian chant, gospel music," she said. "It was incredible."

Ms. Henderson's husband bassist and York music faculty member Al Henderson was also a student of Mr. Westcott's. He recalled social events at York's Bethune College, where music students and faculty would hang out.

"For some reason, even though his eyesight was horrible, he could play ping pong. I asked him, 'Bill, you're pretty much blind, how can you see the ball?' He said,

'I don't know. I just can.'

Mike Cadó, who teaches in York's music department and came to know his older colleague towards the end of Mr. Westcott's full-time teaching career, still uses some of the teaching materials left behind by Mr. Westcott in spiral notebooks.

Mr. Cadó said he was inspired by Mr. Westcott's dedicated pedagogy and unique method of demonstrating at the piano while teaching, as well as his methodology of bringing musical traditions together.

Mr. Cadó was also was gobs-macked by Mr. Westcott's piano playing.

"It was thrilling to see him play. He really drew you into the performance," he said. "It was like seeing a world class European classical pianist. There was the same level of intensity." As a friendship between them developed, they would play ukulele duets on standard tunes like *Sunshine of the Street* and *After You're Gone* and have long chats about the American Civil War, a particular interest of Mr. Westcott's.

In retirement, before his health started to fail, Mr. Westcott and his wife Linda Perkins often visit-

ed the Westcott family farm in south-central Pennsylvania. Ancestors of Mr. Westcott bought the farm during the Civil War.

Ms. Perkins met her future husband when she was a mature student at York in the early 1980s, on leave from her job as a school librarian to study cello. "He was a very lively piano player," she said. "I loved the way he played ragtime, boogie-woogie and blues."

They married in 1983. In the 1990s, they formed a trio with a violinist and Ms. Perkins on cello to play European classical music for friends.

Mr. Westcott's capacity as a crossover artist and composer was underscored when classical pianist Christina Petrowska Quilico performed selections of his music for her 2008 release *Ings*.

Mr. Westcott's love of the ukulele was also "the cross fertilizing factor" in another musical partnership late in his life. Brenna MacCrimmon, a specialist in Turkish and Balkan music, remembers meeting "a sweet, retired professor type" at the Corktown Ukulele Jam in Toronto.

As they got to know each other, Ms. MacCrimmon told her new musical acquaintance that she had long aspired to sing Bessie Smith songs. Mr. Westcott invited her to his home and they began working together and developed a friendship. She loved hearing him play piano.

"Although he was a trained musician who could read music, it was not from the page, but from his body and soul. It was a great pleasure to be in the room with that."

The artistic result of their partnership was *Ragtime Orioles*, a 2019 album by Mr. Westcott featuring several vocal performances from Ms. MacCrimmon. The band, which also featured clarinet, bass and banjo, debuted the album in a performance at Toronto's Monarch Tavern. Many of Mr. Westcott's former faculty colleagues and students attended.

Ms. MacCrimmon said some former students told her, "He gave me a crappy mark, but he was my favourite prof," which she said fits with her understanding of her friend and mentor. "When he saw potential and ability in someone, he wasn't going to coddle them," said Ms. MacCrimmon.

Among her fond memories was a visit to Mr. Westcott and Ms. Perkins's home, where they savoured a shrimp dish Mr. Westcott had learned from Little Brother Montgomery.

Bill Westcott leaves his wife Linda Perkins and cousin, Jane Graham.

Special to The Globe and Mail

## JACK RUSSELL

SINGER, 63

## Front man of Great White was onstage during horrific concert fire

MARK KENNEDY NEW YORK

Jack Russell, the lead singer of the bluesy eighties metal band Great White whose hits included *Once Bitten Twice Shy* and *Rock Me* and was fronting his band the night 100 people died in a 2003 nightclub fire in Rhode Island, has died. He was 63.

"Jack is loved and remembered for his sense of humor, exceptional zest for life, and unshakable contribution to rock and roll where his legacy will forever thrive," said a statement posted Thursday to his Instagram page. The death was confirmed by K. L. Doty, author of Mr. Russell's autobiography, *The True Tale of Mista Bone: A Rock + Roll Narrative*.

Mr. Russell recently stopped touring after announcing he had been diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia and Multiple System Atrophy, which causes loss of coordination and balance, and changes in speech.

Fellow metal stars mourned Mr. Russell, with ex-Cinderella member Fred Coury writing on X: "The world lost 1 of the nicest guys in the business & 1 of the great voices to sail across the airways of the 80s." Poison singer Bret Michaels posted: "To my friend Jack Russell, such an amazing voice. May you rest in peace."

A different iteration of Great White that Mr. Russell led – performing under the name Jack Russell's Great White – was involved in one of the most tragic concerts in U.S. history in 2003. During a show at The Station nightclub in Rhode Island, the band's pyrotechnics sparked a fast-moving blaze that caused a bottleneck as fans tried to flee. The fire killed 100 people, including the band's guitarist, Ty Longley, and injured more than 200 others.

"It was a horrible tragedy," Mr. Russell told *The Roanoke Times* in Virginia in 2010. "I wish we could go back in time and erase it. I wish there was something I could've done about it. This was one of those things where you don't see it com-



Jack Russell

ing – there's no way you can possibly see it coming. You just kind of pick yourself up and move on. You take what life gives you.

The only people criminally charged were Jeffrey and Michael Derderian, the

owners of the Station nightclub, and Daniel Biechele, Great White's tour manager, who set off the pyrotechnics without a permit. The three struck plea deals.

Great White held benefit concerts after the fire to raise money for the Station Family Fund, a charity that helped people who were severely burned, children who had lost parents and others. The band agreed to pay US\$1-million to more than 300 people as part of a settlement.

Mr. Russell was a California native who joined Great White in 1981 and found success with its blend of blues and hard rock, before he left to record a solo album. The band split up in 2001, and Mr. Russell reformulated a version under his own name.

Great White's biggest hit was the Ian Hunter-penned song, *Once Bitten, Twice Shy* from its 1989 album, *... Twice Shy*, peaking at No. 5 on the *Billboard* Hot 100, aided by a popular MTV video.

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