

Inflation rate hits BoC's 2% target in key step toward price stability

Figure marks slowest annual pace in three years, suggesting central bank's fight is nearing an end

MATT LUNDY
MARK RENDELL

Canada's annual inflation rate has returned to the Bank of Canada's 2-per-cent target for the first time since 2021, a milestone for central bankers in their journey to restore price stability and a significant moment for the Canadian economy after the worst inflation surge in a generation.

The Consumer Price Index rose at an annual rate of 2 per cent in August, down from 2.5 per cent in July, Statistics Canada said Tuesday in a report. The result was a touch lower than analyst estimates of 2.1

per cent. On a monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.2 per cent.

"It's been a tough journey. We're glad to see 2 per cent," Bank of Canada senior deputy governor Carolyn Rogers said at an event in Toronto on Tuesday evening. "We want to see a sustainable return to 2-per-cent inflation. So that's still to come."

Canada's inflation rate hit a four-decade high of roughly 8 per cent in mid-2022, part of a global upswing in prices that was spurred by many factors, including supply shocks tied to the pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine, abrupt shifts in consumer spending patterns and unprecedented fiscal stimulus during the health crisis.

Central bankers were caught off guard by the persistence and strength of inflation – having incorrectly diagnosed it as “transitory” – opening up their credibility to attacks from politicians and consumers.

Pocketbook issues have also become a political liability for the federal Liberal Party, which is lagging far behind the Conservative Party in opinion polls. Many voters have tied their shifting support to cost-of-living pressures, including the rapid run-up in housing costs.

To tame inflation, the Bank of Canada raised interest rates aggressively over 2022 and 2023.

■ INFLATION, A6

Liberals stress stakes of next election after loss in second stronghold

MARIEKE WALSH
SENIOR POLITICAL REPORTER
OTTAWA

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his cabinet pledged to forge ahead Tuesday as they played down the loss of a second Liberal stronghold in three months and returned to the House of Commons in a more politically precarious position than before Monday's by-elections.

The minority government has decided to quickly put itself to the test. The House Leader's office said it tentatively scheduled the first Conservative opposition day for next Tuesday, meaning a confidence vote could be held by Wednesday. The NDP and Bloc Québécois have both left open the possibility of propping up the government.

The Liberals' defeat in Montreal's LaSalle-Émard-Verdun riding comes on the heels of their June loss in Toronto-St. Paul's, which marked the first time they lost a seat in Toronto since 2015. The Montreal defeat is only the third time the Liberals have lost the area in the last four decades. The other times were in the 1984 Brian Mulroney Progressive Conservative sweep and the 2011 NDP Orange Wave, led by Jack Layton.

But the message the minority government is taking from the result is not that it needs to change course, but rather that voters haven't yet realized the options facing them in the next general campaign.

■ LIBERALS, A4

Exploding pagers injure thousands in dramatic Mideast twist



People and ambulances gather at the entrance of the American University of Beirut Medical Center on Tuesday after explosions killed at least nine and injured around 2,750 in multiple Hezbollah-controlled areas of Lebanon. ANWAR AMRO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

LAILA BASSAM BEIRUT

Militant group Hezbollah promised to retaliate against Israel after accusing it of detonating pagers across Lebanon on Tuesday, killing nine people and wounding nearly 3,000 others who included fighters and Iran's envoy to Beirut.

Lebanese Information Minister Ziad Makary condemned the late-afternoon detonation of the pagers – hand-held devices that Hezbollah and others in Lebanon use to send messages – as an “Israeli aggression.” Hezbollah said Israel would receive “its fair punishment” for the blasts.

The Israeli military, which has been engaged in cross-border fighting with Iran-backed Hezbollah since the start of the Gaza war in October, declined to respond to questions about the detonations.

The death toll rose from eight to nine on

Tuesday night, while the number of injured remained at 2,750, Lebanon's Health Ministry said.

Hezbollah confirmed in an earlier statement that the deaths included at least two of its fighters and a young girl.

The pagers exploded in southern Lebanon, the southern suburbs of Beirut known as Dahiyeh and the eastern Bekaa Valley – all Hezbollah strongholds.

In one instance, closed-circuit surveillance video carried by regional broadcasters showed a person paying at a grocery store as what appeared to be a small hand-held device placed next to the cashier exploded.

A Hezbollah official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the incident was the “biggest security breach” for the group in nearly a year of conflict with Israel.

The New York Times reported that Israel hid explosive material in the Taiwan-made

Gold Apollo pagers before they were imported to Lebanon, citing American and other officials briefed on the operation. The material was implanted next to the battery with a switch that could be triggered remotely to detonate.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas, which is waging war with Israel in Gaza, said the pager blasts were an “escalation” that will only lead Israel to “failure and defeat.”

UN special co-ordinator for Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert deplored the attack in a statement and said it “marked an extremely concerning escalation” in the conflict.

Washington said it was not involved in the explosions and did not know who was responsible. The U.S. renewed calls for a diplomatic solution to tensions between Israel and Lebanon.

■ LEBANON, A7

Provinces' bold new tool to fight money laundering faces legal scrutiny

ALEXANDRA POSADZKI

First, authorities moved to seize a house on British Columbia's Salt Spring Island, bought for \$1-million cash by the former spouse of a man accused of having ties to a global pump-and-dump stock scheme.

Next, they went after millions of dollars held in the trust account of a recently disbarred lawyer on behalf of an alleged participant in a securities fraud involving a Bob Marley-themed coffee venture.

Then there was the downtown Vancouver safety deposit box stuffed with cash, gold bars and luxury watches belonging to the co-founder of a defunct cryptocurrency exchange.

These asset seizures were carried out with a new legal tool that some Canadian provinces are using to go after the proceeds of alleged crimes. Unexplained wealth orders, as they're known, put a reverse onus on the owner of the property in question to prove that he or she acquired it through legal means, or risk having it confiscated – making it easier for law enforcement to seize property without having to prove that a specific crime occurred. British Columbia and Manitoba have both recently implemented the tool, although Manitoba has yet to use it.

Proponents of unexplained wealth orders argue that they allow law enforcement to disrupt the operations of organized crime groups, which often employ sophisticated money-laundering techniques that make it extremely challenging for investigators to follow the money.

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FRANK GUNN/
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Marieke Walsh on the fallout as Liberals lose a key by-election, while NDP passes its test
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MOMENT IN TIME

SEPT. 18, 1888 | FROM THE ARCHIVES



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NATURE ADVOCATE GREY OWL BORN

His books, films and lectures delivered a ground-breaking message about the importance of protecting Canada's wilderness. He enthralled tens of thousands as he toured North America and Britain — once addressing the future Queen. The eloquent plea came with a commanding personality: He wore a fringed buckskin outfit, lived in a cabin with beavers and described himself as the son of an Apache woman

and a Scottish guide. But there were many shades to Grey Owl. Immediately after his 1938 death, the North Bay Nugget exposed him as a bigamist with no Indigenous ancestry. Archibald Belaney was born in England, moved to Canada as a teen, learned trapping in an Ojibwa community and dyed his skin and hair. Still, admirers hoped the false front would not detract from his truths: "You belong to nature, not it to you." JOY YOKOYAMA (2013)

COLUMNISTS

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Canada's inaction on addressing its aging population is going to make matters worse ■ B4

Health Canada approves Moderna's revamped COVID-19 vaccine, as virus continues to evolve

KELLY GRANT
HEALTH REPORTER

Health Canada has approved an updated version of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine, a decision that means some of the millions of mRNA shots Ottawa has ordered for this season should begin arriving within days.

The federal regulator announced the authorization on Tuesday. Health Canada has not yet approved a new formulation of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, but a decision on that shot is expected soon.

Both revamped vaccines represent an effort by regulators and vaccine makers to keep pace with the COVID virus, which continues to evolve, threatening the immunity that Canadians have acquired through past shots and infections.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved both Moderna's and Pfizer-BioNTech's updated mRNA shots on Aug. 22. A week later, it green-lit a new version of Novavax's protein subunit vaccine, a shot that is also under review by Health Canada.

In Canada, meanwhile, COVID immunizations have not been available in most of the country since the end of August, when the Public Health Agency of Canada asked provinces and territories to withdraw old versions of the shots from the market before Health Canada could sign off on their replacements.

Health Canada told The Globe and Mail earlier in September that new mRNA shots would begin arriving in provinces and territories "within days" of regulatory authorization. Spokesman André Gagnon also said by e-mail that the country would be receiving up to 19 million doses of mRNA vaccines for the 2024-25 respiratory virus season.

Last season, nearly 8.2 million doses of COVID vaccines were distributed across the country between September and June, Mr. Gagnon added. The vast majority were mRNA shots.



Moderna's updated COVID-19 vaccine arrives as new variants of the virus threaten the immunity that Canadians have acquired through past shots and infections. MODERNA VIA THE CANADIAN PRESS

After the new formulations begin arriving, it will be up to provincial and territorial governments to decide when and where to offer them. Some jurisdictions have already signalled their intention to make COVID shots available alongside annual influenza vaccines as they did last year.

Ontario announced last week that it would begin providing flu shots to high-risk people, such as hospital staff and nursing-home residents, beginning early next month. The province's Ministry of Health said last week that it would release more information about its COVID vaccination campaign once the new shots were approved.

Timelines are expected to be similar elsewhere in Canada.

New formulations of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech shots use the same mRNA backbone as past versions, but target a recent descendent of Omicron called KP.2. The target is a close cousin of KP.3.1.1, the fast-moving variant that accounted for an estimated 67.5 per cent of COVID cases in Canada as of Sept. 8.

KP.3.1.1, a sublineage of the JN.1 strain, has two notable mutations, said Fiona Brinkman, a professor of genomics and bioinformatics at Simon Fraser University who monitors the evolution of the virus for the Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network, or CoVaRR-Net.

One mutation increases the virus's ability to evade prior immunity. Another makes it more adept at binding to human cells. "Thankfully," Dr. Brinkman added, "new versions of the COVID vaccines 'look pretty good against what is circulating right now.'"

Canadian public-health authorities don't track cases of COVID as closely as they did at the height of the pandemic, but other surveillance indicators suggest COVID levels rose over the summer.

Nationally, the share of lab-based COVID tests that came back positive in the week ending Sept. 7 reached 18.3 per cent, up from 4.8 per cent in late April. The Public Health Agency of Canada's waste-water testing indicates COVID levels are moderate in most of Canada, although the agency reports data from so few collection sites in some provinces that it can be difficult to get a bead on COVID activity outside of major cities.

Fortunately, most Canadians have hybrid immunity from past infections and vaccinations that protects them from severe COVID illness, said Isaac Bogoch, an infectious-disease physician with the University Health Network in Toronto. "Despite a surge in cases this summer," he said, "we aren't seeing anything remotely close to the scenes that we saw earlier in the pandemic."

Dr. Bogoch emphasized that COVID still takes a toll on senior citizens and immunocompromised people, such as transplant recipients and cancer patients. Unlike influenza, which all but disappears in the summer, COVID sends people to hospital in the hottest months of the year, and has yet to settle into a predictable seasonal pattern.

Despite widespread evidence, agency says election laws don't cover meddling charges

Watchdog wraps up its probe into China's 2021 interference in Vancouver ridings

ROBERT FIFE
STEVEN CHASE OTTAWA

The Office of the Commissioner of Elections Canada found widespread meddling by China and its proxies in the 2021 election defeat of former Conservative MP Kenny Chiu, but the watchdog agency says it is unable to lay charges because the laws fail to take account of this type of foreign interference.

An Aug. 19 redacted report from the Commissioner of Elections Canada tabled at the public inquiry into foreign interference Tuesday said investigators gathered information of multipronged attempts to influence the Chinese-Canadian diaspora in the Greater Vancouver area, including Mr. Chiu's Sturgeon-Richmond East riding.

But the 112-page report concluded there was not sufficient evidence to lay charges of undue foreign influence under the current Elections Canada Act.

While there was a concerted effort by China and its proxies to influence Chinese-Canadian voters, Carmen Boucher, director of enforcement, told the inquiry that elections laws do not take into account this type of activity.

She said the Election Canada Act, for example, only gives investigators the power to lay charges if an individual elector faces acts of intimidation.

"So widespread, systemic efforts to sway a community to act in a certain manner would be very difficult to prove, but it also would also be very unlikely to fall under the specific contraventions of the Act as narrowly as they are written," she said, when asked by an inquiry lawyer what was needed to substantiate a charge.

Ms. Boucher said that her office, which investigates election wrongdoing, does not have the power to create offences to



Liberal MP John McKay, left, and Conservative MP Garnett Genuis appear at a public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral processes on Tuesday in Ottawa.
ADRIAN WYLD/
THE CANADIAN PRESS

deal with this type of foreign interference. The law must be changed by Parliament, she said.

"We are not responsible for creating legislation. We enforce the Act as approved by Parliament," she said. The review was undertaken after a formal request from the Bloc Québécois to re-examine China's election meddling in Mr. Chiu's riding and that of other Conservative candidates in Greater Vancouver.

Ms. Boucher said the report in its largely unredacted form has been sent to the RCMP and Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

"My investigators' role is to identify contraventions to our Act. They are not experts in national-security law and they are

certainly not experts in the PRC and their efforts," she said, referring to the People's Republic of China.

The report was detailed and critical in laying out how China and its Canadian proxies worked to undermine Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) candidates in the 2021 election, particularly Mr. Chiu, an outspoken critic of the Beijing regime.

"Information gathered indicates that impetus and direction was given by PRC officials for the anti-CPC campaign," the report said, citing a 2020 media interview by the then-Chinese consul general in Vancouver, a 2021 media interview by the Chinese ambassador, as well as an article published in the Global Times, a state-run Chinese tabloid, among other examples.

"The overall campaign was carried out and amplified via a multi-pronged and layered approach using Chinese Canadian association individuals, Chinese Canadian business interests as well as the pervasive social media and printed, digital and broadcast media messaging."

The messaging aimed at Mr. Chiu claimed he was an "anti-China racist" because of his support for Uyghurs, pro-democracy Hong Kong demonstrators and what pro-China groups called an "anti-China" Conservative election platform.

The report said investigators were hampered by the fact that

"many Chinese Canadian interview subjects described electors having an anticipatory 'fear' for family or economic well-being based on how the Chinese Communist Party works in China, but they consistently refused to name electors as interview subjects to support this."

Earlier Tuesday, two MPs known as strong critics of Beijing's human-rights abuses told the inquiry they can't be certain that diaspora community contacts were not compromised by Chinese cyberattacks on their parliamentary and personal mobile devices.

Liberal John McKay and Conservative Garnett Genuis, co-chairs of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), testified on revelations earlier this year that 18 legislators in Canada were targeted in 2021 by hackers linked to Beijing.

China's hacking of Canadian members of IPAC was discovered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which passed on the information to Ottawa in 2022. The government then informed Parliament, but MPs and senators were not told of this warning.

In testimony at the inquiry, Mr. McKay called China's state security cyberattacks a "massive operation," although he said House of Commons security assured him the firewall on his parliamentary mobile was not breached.

But Mr. McKay said he remains concerned that hackers from China could have been successful and this would have exposed members of diaspora communities that he deals with on confidential human-rights issues.

"I am reluctantly coming to the conclusion that I may have inadvertently exposed people who communicated with me," Mr. McKay said when asked if the cyberhacking put these contacts at risk. "I am thinking of one particular individual from the Hong Kong community. I am thinking of some of the Falun Gong folks who would be in my contact list."

Mr. Genuis, who conversed with members of diaspora com-

munities on both his personal and parliamentary mobile devices, said China had targeted his personal mobile device. He has no idea if that phone was compromised.

"I have had communications on my personal account with individuals from [diaspora] communities, information that those individuals would not want any malicious actor to have access to," he said.

Both MPs said House of Commons security did not conduct cybersecurity scans of their devices after the attack. Nor did government security agencies such as the Communications Security Establishment or the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

Mr. Genuis said he felt let down that neither the government nor the House of Commons alerted them about the Chinese cyberattacks. They found out from the executive director of IPAC after he was informed by the FBI.

"We could have taken steps to protect ourselves more effectively if we had been informed and we were not informed," Mr. Genuis said. "It remains mysterious to me why no one thought I had a right to know that this information that was very important to how I would protect myself and the people I correspond with."

The inquiry also heard that Ottawa provides zero cyberprotection for personal smartphones MPs carry. It's not uncommon for MPs to carry two devices, with one supplied by the House of Commons and the other a personal phone — a second target for hackers.

Mr. McKay urged the inquiry to provide recommendations to Parliament on strengthening cybersecurity safeguards, including measures to warn parliamentarians properly when they are being threatened by hackers from hostile foreign states.

The Chinese hacking group that went after Canadian MPs had ties to the government in Beijing and had been nicknamed Advanced Persistent Threat 31 or "APT31."

Medical association to apologize for past harms to Indigenous people

KELLY GRANT
HEALTH REPORTER

When leaders of the Canadian Medical Association began thinking of making a public apology to Indigenous people, they wanted to be clear-eyed about why they were saying sorry.

That led to a nearly four-year process of looking into the organization's past and present in preparation for a landmark apology ceremony set to take place in Victoria on Wednesday afternoon.

"Racism, discrimination and colonization live at this abstract level where people kind of know what folks are talking about, but they often project their own ideas about what it means, instead of having more concrete foundations," Alika Lafontaine, a past president of the CMA, which represents physicians across the country, told The Globe and Mail in an interview. "So the CMA did a review of its full history."

The CMA's search of more than 150 years of archives turned up evidence of harms that are well-known to Indigenous people and historians, but less so to the general public. Researchers found the CMA used outdated, racist terms in its communications. They also concluded that some doctors participated in or failed to stop medical experiments on Indigenous patients, and forced sterilizations of Indigenous women as well as the apprehension of Indigenous newborns at hospitals.

The CMA's apology to Indigenous people will be the second by a Canadian medical organization in as many years. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba apologized in January of 2023 for "failing to adequately address Indigenous-specific racism by medical practitioners," and for the "intergenerational trauma, suffering, poor health outcomes, and death that this has caused."

The CMA's apology also comes after high-profile apologies from the federal government and Pope Francis for the mistreatment of Indigenous children in



Dr. Alika Lafontaine will attend the Canadian Medical Association's event in Victoria on Wednesday, where the group will apologize to Indigenous people for past harms. He believes it's important to say sorry for the medical profession's sins, even in cases where doctors were simply carrying out government policy.
JESSE BOILY/
THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Canadian residential schools.

Less attention has been paid to the damage done by Indian hospitals, the segregated and underfunded health facilities for Indigenous people, some of which operated into the 1980s in Canada. The CMA is expected to mention them during the ceremony, alongside the practice of dispatching Inuit tuberculosis patients to southern sanatoria in the 1950s and 1960s. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologized for that practice in 2019.

Indian hospitals are "as big a story and as connected a story as the Indian residential school system," said Mary Jane Logan McCallum, a University of Winnipeg history professor and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous People, History and Archives.

Dr. Lafontaine, an anesthesiologist in Grande Prairie, Alta., who served as the CMA's first Indigenous president in 2022-23, said the CMA felt it was important to say sorry for the medical profession's sins, even in cases where doctors were simply carrying out government policy.

"The CMA didn't own health systems. The CMA was not a funder of segregated care like Indian hospitals," Dr. Lafontaine acknowledged. But he said the actions or inactions of physicians often sustained discriminatory government health policies.

"Take child apprehensions, for example, right? If not for the role of medical professionals, it would be incredibly difficult for folks from government agencies to come and apprehend children. They depended on birth alerts in order to know when to come in."

Birth alerts were used to notify hospitals and child-welfare agencies that a more thorough assessment was needed before a newborn was discharged to a parent deemed high-risk. Some provinces still used birth alerts as recently as 2021, despite critics saying they unfairly targeted Indigenous women and women of colour.

Ian Mosby, a history professor at Toronto Metropolitan University, published evidence in 2013 that about 1,000 malnourished students at six residential

schools were subjected to nutrition experiments run by doctors between 1948 and 1952. Some children were fed experimental flours and vitamins without their knowledge or consent, while others were allowed to nearly starve as controls for the tests.

"The nutrition experiments were not this one-off," Dr. Mosby said. The tests were made possible by the control that paternalistic white officials had over Indigenous people in much of the 19th and 20th centuries. "When we think of what the CMA is apologizing for," he said, "a lot of it has to do with the power that these doctors held over Indigenous people's lives."

Dr. Lafontaine said the CMA's apology will be delivered in five parts. The first two will lay out the high-level findings of the historical review and set the context of the apology. The apology itself will be delivered by Manitoba doctor Joss Reimer, current president of the CMA.

Then, Dr. Lafontaine said, the organization will promise action in the final parts of the ceremony.

That would include working to stamp out the anti-Indigenous racism in health care that lingers in the 21st century. It could also encompass actions that improve health outcomes for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people, who lag behind other Canadians on most key health indicators.

Just last month, the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia reported that life expectancy for status First Nations peoples in the province declined by six years between 2017 and 2021 as a result of the toxic-drug crisis and COVID-19. Both hit Indigenous people harder than most other Canadians.

"I think the challenge with any sort of apology is how do you make it authentic," Dr. Lafontaine said. "And then how do you make sure you turn that authenticity into people actually doing things that actually change things?"

With reports from Xiao Xu and The Canadian Press

Justin Trudeau's by-election take: no change

Despite the defeat in LaSalle, PM's conclusion is that he has to continue

CAMPBELL
CLARK

OPINION



There was, almost in passing, an allusion to reflecting on things. But the word that set the tone for Justin Trudeau's reaction to yet another gut-punch by-election loss was "continue."

"We know we have an enormous amount of work to do to regain people's confidence in LaSalle, and people across the country who are worried by the situation they find themselves in," the Prime Minister told reporters. "So we have lots of work to do and we're going to continue to do it."

This was a very Trudeau-esque acceptance of defeat in the Liberal bastion of LaSalle-Émard-Verdun: a gracious acknowledgment of the fact that so many people are having a rough time, and that for whatever reason, they're taking it out on the government.

Mr. Trudeau's conclusion is that he has to carry on. Continue.

What's more, he said it would help if the public would pay closer attention – presumably because he thinks Canadians would come to their senses if only they'd snap out of their torpor.

"We need people to be more engaged. We need people to understand what's at stake in this upcoming election," he said.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrives at Parliament Hill on Tuesday. He suffered another by-election blow with the LaSalle-Émard-Verdun loss. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oh sure, "there are all sorts of reflections to take," on the result, Mr. Trudeau said, but the "big thing" is to make Canadians understand the choice they face in the next election.

Some of his cabinet ministers, it must be said, mustered an acknowledgment that the voters had sent the Liberals a message, and they had to take lessons from it. Most couldn't actually specify what message, exactly, let alone the lessons, but it was something.

Like Mr. Trudeau, several also said they had to work harder to make Canadians understand the alternatives – in other words, to sharpen the warnings about the dangers of electing Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives.

But none dared whisper the possibility that maybe, just maybe, Canadians aren't listening to the Liberals' message about Mr.

Poilievre because they're too consumed by being fed up with Mr. Trudeau. It certainly wasn't something the Prime Minister was going to entertain.

Remarkably, Mr. Trudeau wouldn't or couldn't deliver the textbook message that prime ministers usually deliver when by-election voters rub their noses in the dirt: I've heard you loud and clear and things are going to change. Mr. Trudeau didn't even crack a window for the prospect of change. Continue.

This wasn't the first time voters in a Liberal bastion had snubbed the party they usually support. Liberals suffered a shock defeat in the June 24 by-election in Toronto-St. Paul's that led to a round of calls for Mr. Trudeau to quit from party poobahs, former ministers and one sitting MP.

The difference with LaSalle-Émard-

Verdun is apparently that Liberals have gotten used to seeing the telltale signs of pending political disaster.

Mr. Trudeau woke up after a second such loss and decided there's no need to signal that he – the Prime Minister – should do anything differently.

Of course, after nine years in power, it's not easy for Mr. Trudeau to offer a course correction that would magically turn Liberal fortunes around.

Last year, he cut seven ministers of his cabinet in a bid to bring in new faces. Two of the departing ministers resigned their seats in the Commons – opening them up for by-elections in Toronto-St. Paul's and LaSalle-Émard-Verdun that turned into debacles for Mr. Trudeau's party.

But it was striking that it was the Prime Minister who was off-message the day after the second shocking by-election loss in just three months.

The Liberal ministers coming and going from a cabinet meeting Tuesday sometimes played down the proportions of the loss but said the government has to respond to voters' frustrations.

The message from the Prime Minister in recent weeks hasn't been that. It's been about his zeal to carry on: that he's keen to fight Mr. Poilievre on the campaign trail, that he is raring to go.

The questions about whether he should lead the Liberal Party into the next election have been in the air for two years, but his instinct when challenged is to double down. He's made it a point of pride to stare past critics, and not listen to the naysayers.

But when you're way behind in the polls and beaten twice on your own political turf, the people are telling you they want something different. Mr. Trudeau doesn't want to hear it.

Liberals: PMO plays down by-election setback amid rising political pressure

FROM A1

"We need people to be more engaged, we need people to understand what's at stake in this upcoming election," Mr. Trudeau told reporters on his way into cabinet Tuesday.

"Obviously it would have been nice to be able to win and hold Verdun, but there's more work to do and we're going to stay focused on doing it."

While the government puts on a calm face publicly, behind the scenes Liberals say Mr. Trudeau and his team appear disconnected and do not appear to appreciate just how bad a sign the defeat is. The talking points that the Prime Minister's Office sent out to other ministers included the line that the results show the next election will be a closely contested race, according to two Liberals.

While the by-election result was close, Liberal support fell significantly from about a 43-per cent vote share in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun in each of the last three general elections to 27 per cent on Monday night.

Two other senior Liberal sources said they were concerned that the Bloc Québécois win in Montreal and the NDP holding their seat in Winnipeg lead to a bigger risk that the three opposition parties are now all emboldened and more likely to defeat the government on a confidence vote this fall. All three parties, the sources said, now see the benefit of running against Mr. Trudeau in the next election, rather than risking his resignation and a new Liberal leader.

The Globe and Mail is not identifying the five Liberals, who were not authorized to discuss internal party machinations.

Bloc Leader Yves-François Blanchet said Tuesday his party is open to keeping the Liberals in



Bloc Québécois candidate Louis-Philippe Sauvé greets supporters during the by-election night party for LaSalle-Émard-Verdun on Tuesday. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

power if they agree to raise Old Age Security benefits for seniors aged 65 to 74. NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh reiterated his position that New Democrats will decide each vote based on what is in the best interest of Canadians.

Both the NDP and Liberals faced must-win by-election races on Monday night, with each acknowledging that losses in their respective strongholds of Winnipeg and Montreal would make things more difficult. The Liberals also publicly set expectations low before the vote to ensure their party didn't wake up shocked on Tuesday, as it did in the wake of the Toronto loss.

Following a nail-biter race that was only decided after 2 a.m., Bloc candidate Louis-Philippe

Sauvé came out on top with 28 per cent of the vote, winning with just 248 more votes than the Liberal, who won 27 per cent of the vote. The NDP, who set expectations high early in the summer that it would win the riding, placed third at 26 per cent. The Conservatives won 11.6 per cent.

On Parliament Hill, the government sought to play down the loss, with Liberal campaign co-chair Soraya Martinez Ferrada telling CTV's Power Play with Vassy Kapelos that it is "media spin" to call LaSalle-Émard-Verdun a stronghold.

The riding was held by former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin for two decades.

The defeat is actually even worse for the government than

the Toronto-St. Paul's by-election loss, said Philippe Fournier, the editor-in-chief of the poll aggregator 338Canada.com.

The second by-election loss means the Liberal defeats can no longer be dismissed as a one-off, he said, noting that in Montreal the Liberal vote share fell by 16 points.

"If you apply this swing in Quebec, there would not be much left of the Liberals in Montreal," Mr. Fournier said.

From a purely numbers point of view, the Liberals should be "extremely worried," he said.

If the Liberals are losing traditionally safe seats in Toronto and Montreal, Mr. Fournier said it leads to the question, "what else is there?"

Both of those by-elections were triggered by the resignations of Liberal MPs who quit after the Prime Minister dropped them from cabinet.

Sébastien Dallaire, the executive vice-president for Eastern Canada with the polling firm Léger, said Monday's by-election result is "definitely a big loss" for the Liberals that fits into a longer standing narrative about the party losing steam with voters.

"We see poll after poll that a majority of Canadians are also saying it's time for change," he said, adding the by-elections point in the same direction.

"It signals that we might be reaching the end of the life of this government."

The NDP narrowly avoided their own tough questions on Tuesday by scraping through with a win in a tougher-than-expected by-election in Winnipeg. Elmwood-Transcona has been held by the NDP all but once in the last four decades, but the party was put to the test by the Conservatives, who sought to equate Mr. Singh and Mr. Trudeau with voters in the riding.

NDP candidate Leila Dance won with 48 per cent to the Tories' Colin Reynolds, who won 44 per cent. The Liberals placed a distant third with 4.8 per cent of the vote.

Despite the close result, the NDP Leader told reporters on Parliament Hill that the win showed voters rejected Conservative cuts. He argued that the NDP was the only national party that was competitive in by-elections in two very different parts of the country.

"We showed Canadians that we can beat Conservatives," he said. "The Liberals showed that they are no longer something Canadians want."

With a report from Kristy Kirkup

Court documents reveal new details of ISIS terror suspect arrested in Quebec

COLIN FREEZE TORONTO
NICOLAS VAN PRAET MONTREAL

A man arrested in Quebec on allegations that he was plotting an ISIS-inspired mass shooting targeting Jews in New York City had no ties to Canada apart from his student visa, according to court documents filed as police sought to arrest him and keep him in custody.

These newly released documents were first filed on Sept. 4, the same day RCMP officers arrested Muhammad Shahzeb Khan. These documents show Canadian authorities feared they could not keep the 20-year-old suspect in custody if they pursued Canadian criminal terrorism charges against him but they believed they could detain him as part of a process to extradite him to the United States to face terrorism charges there at the request of American authorities.

Mr. Khan, a Pakistani national who entered Canada last year on a student visa, and who was living near Toronto, was arrested two weeks ago in Ormstown, Que., a short drive from the U.S. border. He has been charged in the U.S. with one count of attempting to provide material support and resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

Legal documents filed in U.S. and Canadian courts allege he was plotting a terrorist attack on behalf of the Islamic State terrorist group to mark the anniversary of Hamas's Oct. 7 attack against Israel.

U.S. court documents released after his arrest allege Mr. Khan outlined his beliefs and plans on social-media posts and in encrypted chats to informants and undercover police officers in the United States. The documents allege Mr. Khan wrote that "New York is perfect to target Jews" as he described plans to acquire

guns and recruit gunmen.

The documents contain unproven allegations that haven't been tested in court. Mr. Khan's defence lawyer, Gaétan Bourassa, says evidence has yet to be released to him and that he is not prepared to comment on the case at this time.

The court documents filed in Canada say that Mr. Khan was being driven through Ormstown when he was taken into custody by Mounties, who had been independently tracking him and who tipped American authorities he was on the move.

The RCMP arrested Mr. Khan on allegations that he was trying to leave Canada for the purpose of committing an offence for a terrorist group and conspiring to violate the immigration laws of the United States. But the suspect was never formally charged for these offences in Canada.

"The RCMP has grounds to arrest Khan" but "they do not have

enough evidence to keep Mr. Khan in custody," Toronto Police Detective Constable Charlene Smith wrote in an affidavit.

Mr. Khan "is a flight risk," Det. Smith said, adding that the suspect "has no ties to Canada and his family is in Pakistan."

Det. Smith does not explain why police believed Mr. Khan could be released from arrest if authorities pursued Canadian charges. But her statement says police feared the suspect could take another run at the U.S. border if he was let go.

The documents were filed as part of an effort to persuade a Canadian judge to let police re-arrest Mr. Khan later that same day, this time under a provisional arrest power arising from the Extradition Act.

Such procedures take co-ordination. U.S. officials also filed documents in their courts on Sept. 4 in support of the bid to urgently extradite Mr. Khan on

American charges. "Although we understand that Canadian law enforcement is attempting to gather more evidence related to their arrest, Khan will be released shortly if those efforts are not fruitful," reads one U.S. Department of Justice statement of the facts, now also filed in Quebec Superior Court.

Ontario Superior Court Justice Maureen Forestell issued the extradition arrest warrant on Sept. 4.

Mr. Khan made a brief court appearance last week and will remain jailed in Montreal until hearings begin in the winter.

The Canadian court documents describe him as living in Mississauga, west of Toronto.

However, the address listed in the documents appears to be an immigration consultancy and not a residence. On Tuesday, a man who answered the phone there said he did not know of Mr. Khan.



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Wealth: Critics argue that the orders infringe on Canadian Charter of Rights

■ FROM A1

“This is a huge tool for law enforcement to really go after the funds of criminal organizations, and that makes a big difference in sending a message that they can’t operate with impunity here in Manitoba,” said Matt Wiebe, Manitoba’s Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.

But critics argue that the orders infringe on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, for instance by removing the presumption of innocence.

“They’re being asked to come to court and actually prove that they haven’t committed a crime,” said Vibert Jack, the litigation director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, which is opposed to unexplained wealth orders and civil forfeiture in general. “It’s up to the state to prove that a person has committed a crime before they punish them.”

Ultimately, experts say, the matter will be resolved in court. If the new legal tool passes muster, other provinces are expected to follow suit.

British Columbia got the idea for unexplained wealth orders from Britain, which implemented the legal tool in 2018. Nicknamed “McMafia” orders after a book and television series of the same name, they were introduced amid growing concern that London’s luxury real estate market had become a haven for dirty money.

Australia and Ireland have similar regimes. In fact, more than 100 countries have laws that target illicit enrichment, according to an analysis by Andrew Dornbier at the Basel Institute on Governance.

B.C. was mainly focused on learning from Britain’s experience when it crafted its unexplained wealth regime, according to Phil Tawtel, executive director of the B.C. Civil Forfeiture Office. “We certainly looked at other models, but that was the one that most informed us of where we wanted to go and how we wanted to frame our legislation,” Mr. Tawtel said in an interview.

That work was already well under way when the Cullen Commission – a task force struck up by the provincial government to conduct an inquiry into money laundering in B.C. – issued its recommendations in June, 2022. Recommendation No. 101, which urged the province to introduce unexplained wealth orders, “gave us the sense we were on the right path,” Mr. Tawtel said.

The first unexplained wealth order filed in B.C. court related to a global securities fraud scheme operated through a Switzerland-based asset management firm



A home purchased by Alicia Davenport for \$1-million in cash, seen from Steward Road last week on Salt Spring Island, B.C., is one example of a property being investigated for unexplained wealth.

CHAD HIPOLITO/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

originally called Silverton SA. (It was later renamed Wintercap SA.)

The multiyear scheme generated more than US\$165-million in illegal stock sales in at least 50 microcap companies, according to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. It was so complex that unravelling it required the help of more than a dozen international regulators and an analysis of close to 400 bank and brokerage accounts, the SEC said. British citizen Robert Knox, the founder and operator of the firm, was sentenced last year to 36 months in prison after pleading guilty to securities fraud charges.

Last November, B.C.’s director of civil forfeiture filed a court order seeking an explanation for a Salt Spring Island home purchased for \$1-million in cash by Alicia Davenport, the ex-wife of Skye Lee, also known as Georgie Lee.

The forfeiture office alleges in court documents that Ms. Davenport, who listed her occupation as homemaker on a property record, didn’t earn enough money to buy the home. The funds, authorities allege, were proceeds of the Silverton fraud, which had been wired to a West Vancouver law firm called Biancardi Law Corp., supposedly for a loan to Mr. Lee.

In court filings, Mr. Lee and Ms. Davenport state that they have not been involved in any criminal activity and that the money was passed to Ms. Davenport as part of a divorce settlement. Mr. Lee argues that the unexplained wealth order is uncon-

stitutional and violates his Charter rights.

The second unexplained wealth order was made in a forfeiture case involving more than \$3.5-million sitting in a trust account belonging to Ronald Pelletier, a Vancouver lawyer who has since been disbarred. The funds were being held on behalf of Kevin Miller, a Malta resident accused of participating in a multi-million-dollar pump-and-dump scheme involving the stock of Jammin’ Java, a coffee company that used trademarks of the late reggae artist Bob Marley.

Mr. Miller has taken the Law Society of B.C. to court in an effort to recover the frozen funds. In a court document, he states that there is “no direct connection” between the money in Mr. Pelletier’s trust account and the “alleged unlawful activity,” and that he did not acquire the funds through any unlawful activity.

The third order was filed in a civil forfeiture matter involving Michael Patryn, the co-founder of defunct cryptocurrency exchange QuadrigaCX. Mr. Patryn is a convicted felon who served time in the United States for his role in an online marketplace called Shadowcrew.com that trafficked in stolen credit-card numbers and identities. At the time, he went by the name Omar Dhanani.

Mr. Patryn is being asked to prove that he legally obtained the assets seized by the RCMP from a safety deposit box in downtown Vancouver. In court documents, B.C.’s Director of Civil Forfeiture alleges that the more than \$250,000 in cash, 45

gold bars, four luxury watches and other pricey jewellery are the proceeds of unlawful activity linked to Mr. Patryn’s involvement in Quadriga. The Ontario Securities Commission said in a 2020 report that the crypto exchange “operated like a Ponzi scheme,” although the watchdog concluded at the time that Mr. Patryn had left the company in 2016.

In a court filing, Mr. Patryn said the contents of the safety deposit box are “neither the proceeds nor instruments of unlawful activity” and that the manner in which the investigation was conducted violated his Charter rights.

A fourth unexplained wealth order, which was filed on Sept. 9, relates to a black-market cannabis growing operation discovered by police in September, 2023, when they responded to a shooting at a Vancouver home.

All four unexplained wealth orders are before the courts, and none of the allegations contained within them have been proven.

In Britain, only a limited number of orders have been issued since the inception of the regime. That may be in part owing to a high-profile case known as Baker, which seems to have had a chilling effect, according to Jeffrey Simser, a lawyer and asset forfeiture and anti-money-laundering expert.

In that case, the court discharged unexplained wealth orders relating to London properties owned by the wife and son of a Kazakh official who died in an Austrian jail while awaiting

trial for murder charges, noting that the use of complex offshore trusts is not, by itself, evidence of money laundering.

In contrast, a recent settlement in an order against Zamira Hajjiyeva, the wife of a banker from Azerbaijan who is currently serving a 16-year jail sentence in that country for embezzlement and fraud, is “a monster win” for Britain’s National Crime Agency, according to Mr. Tawtel. After a lengthy legal battle, Ms. Hajjiyeva agreed last month to forfeit two properties – a golf club and a £14-million (about \$24.9-million) mansion near Harrods, a London luxury department store where she liked to shop – as part of a settlement.

Experts say that in order to become an effective anti-money-laundering tool in Canada, unexplained wealth orders will have to withstand legal challenges.

“It’s inevitable when we have a new tool like this that it’s going to be tested and it’s going to be held up against the Charter,” said Amber Scott, chief executive officer and co-founder of anti-money-laundering consultancy firm Outlier Solutions Inc. “I think if it ends up being successful in B.C., it’s something that we’ll see from coast to coast to coast,” she added.

Former Supreme Court of Canada justice Thomas Cromwell wrote in a legal opinion for the Cullen Commission that an unexplained wealth order regime modelled after the one in Britain “would not constitute unjustified infringements of any right guaranteed by the Charter.”

Not everyone agrees. The B.C. Civil Liberties Association argues that the orders violate the presumption of innocence as well as privacy rights enshrined in the Charter. Mr. Jack, the association’s litigation director, believes these cases belong in the criminal courts, where there are protections to ensure that innocent people are not punished.

Sanaa Ahmed, a professor in the faculty of law at the University of Calgary and an anti-money-laundering expert, concurs. “The problem that I have with [unexplained wealth orders] is that it’s taking a civil law tool and it’s applying it to criminal law problems,” Ms. Ahmed said. “If money laundering is a crime, then why is it that you think we need to do away with criminal law safeguards?”

Ultimately, it will be up to the courts to decide.

“Our goal is to take these cases into court and let the court adjudicate these applications and weigh in on civil forfeiture writ large, and also the tools employed by this civil forfeiture program,” Mr. Tawtel said.

Inflation: Despite improvement, housing cost continues to remain a major financial pressure

■ FROM A1

Higher lending rates have tempered demand in the economy, helping to curb price pressures, but have also inflicted damage to the labour market, where unemployment is rising.

Even so, the inflation fight appears to be nearing an end. And because of the progress to date, the Bank of Canada has started cutting interest rates, offering some relief to consumers and businesses.

“There’s still a bit of work to do, but there’s no question today was welcome news,” Ms. Rogers said.

Tuesday’s CPI report showed a cooling of inflationary pressures on several fronts.

Prices for clothing and footwear dropped 0.6 per cent in August from July as retailers offered discounts to weary consumers during the back-to-school season. Gasoline prices fell 5.1 per cent on a monthly basis in August.

Housing costs remain a major financial pressure, although there is some improvement in that area. Shelter costs rose at an annual rate of 5.3 per cent in August, down from 5.7 per cent in July.

Another sign of progress is core inflation, which strips out volatile movements in the CPI. The BoC’s preferred measures of core inflation rose by an annual average of 2.4 per cent in August, down from 2.6 per cent in July.

The headline inflation rate of 2 per cent was the lowest since February, 2021. Analysts are expecting another soft reading in September, because gas prices have continued to fall.

Former Bank of Canada deputy governor Paul Beaudry, who left the bank last summer, said

the latest inflation numbers “open the door” to the possibility of half-point interest-rate cuts.

“There should be room to really decrease now, and kind of bring things down quickly,” he said in an interview.

“There’s no reason to wait to accelerate the pace of rate cuts,” said Royce Mendes, head of macro strategy at Desjardins Securities.

“

There’s still a bit of work to do, but there’s no question today was welcome news.

CAROLYN ROGERS
SENIOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR,
BANK OF CANADA

Financial markets are pricing in a roughly 50-50 chance that the BoC cuts its benchmark interest rate by a half-point at its next meeting on Oct. 23, according to Bloomberg data. The central bank has made three consecutive quarter-point cuts since June, taking the policy rate to 4.25 per cent from 5 per cent.

BoC officials have noted that inflation could bump up in the coming months, and according to their July projections, they don’t expect a sustainable return to the 2-per-cent target until well into 2025. The bank’s economic projections will be updated at the October rate announcement.

The U.S. Federal Reserve is universally expected to begin cutting rates on Wednesday. The bigger question is whether it will deliver a quarter-point or half-point cut, an outcome that investors are split over.

Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem has said larger reduc-

tions are possible here if economic conditions are much weaker than anticipated. “If we need to take a bigger step, we’re prepared to take a bigger step,” he said earlier this month.

Former deputy governor Tim Lane, who left the bank in the fall of 2022, said it’s too early to declare “mission accomplished.” But he said the bank’s actions forestalled the kind of inflationary spiral seen in the 1970s and that he felt “vindicated.”

“There’s a pretty widespread view now that we could have started moving more quickly” with interest-rate hikes, Mr. Lane said in an interview. “But when we did move, we moved pretty decisively and we gave clear signals of what we were doing.”

Mr. Beaudry said the return to 2 per cent should help shore up the central bank’s credibility in the eyes of Canadians. Runaway inflation pushed the bank to the centre of public discourse and opened it up to attacks from across the political spectrum, most notably from Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre who promised during his 2022 leadership campaign to fire Mr. Macklem.

“In terms of the credibility of the central bank, I think it is huge,” Mr. Beaudry said. “You got a real challenge thrown at it, with lots of supply shocks, lots of different things.”

After an inflation shock, the goal for central bankers is getting CPI growth back to 2 per cent in a reasonable timeframe – preferably without causing a recession. There will be discussion over whether the BoC accomplished this quickly enough, Mr. Beaudry said. “But I think this is as quick as you could get it, more or less, without having even a higher cost” to the economy.

Instagram to launch teen accounts with limited access, privacy locks

TARA DESCHAMPS

Amid mounting accusations that kids aren’t being kept safe on social media, Instagram says it will automatically give teens private accounts with limited capabilities as their default.

The accounts launched for new underage users in Canada on Tuesday and will be handed to teens already on the platform over the next 60 days.

The account’s default settings include blocking teens from being messaged by people they aren’t connected with and minimizing their exposure to sensitive content such as posts that depict violence or encourage cosmetic procedures.

Parental supervision tools baked into the accounts will allow parents to see who their teen is messaging, when and how long they’re on Instagram, and set screen time limits. Those under the age of 16 will only be able to change the settings with parental approval.

The settings are Instagram parent company Meta Platforms Inc.’s answer to a barrage of concerns that parents, politicians and educators have raised about how much time teens are spending on social-media platforms and what harms they’re encountering online.

“Young girls are being bombarded with inappropriate messages and content,” said Kaitlynn Mendes, a sociology professor at Western University and the Canada Research Chair in inequality and gender.

While Prof. Mendes applauded Instagram taking steps to address these problems, she said “they still have a long way to go.”

Yet Antigone Davis, vice-president and global head of safety at Meta, was hopeful the teen accounts would boost protection for young people. She positioned them as a product of feedback from parents.

Instagram has dabbled with restrictions for teens before, offering parents the ability to set time limits and schedule breaks for their kids, but speaking in London last week, Meta’s global affairs chief Nick Clegg said, “even when we build these controls, parents don’t use them.”

Rival platform TikTok uses similar tools to detect teens and give them one-hour screen time limits that can only be bypassed with a code from their parents.

Over at Snap, parental controls are also available along with tools that can keep teens from being contacted by anyone other than friends or people who already have their phone number and location-sharing is turned off by default.

[ART]



That's amore

The full Harvest moon rises over The Couple sculpture at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea in Northumberland, England, on Tuesday

OWEN HUMPHREYS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamists storm Mali's capital in twin attacks

Assault a sign the militia is expanding far beyond the traditional rebel strongholds

GEOFFREY YORK
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF
JOHANNESBURG

An Islamist militia with close links to al-Qaeda has launched an audacious assault on Mali's capital, attacking a military police academy and the airport base of the Russian troops who prop up the country's military regime.

Videos posted by the insurgents showed several armed jihadists roaming through sections of Bamako's main international airport on Tuesday morning, setting fire to an official state aircraft, a Boeing 737, and firing shots inside the airport's presidential terminal.

They also attacked a dormitory at a paramilitary training academy where students were sleeping. Dozens of people were reportedly killed and injured in the fighting. Gunfire and explosions were heard in the city for hours, while a plume of black smoke was visible above the airport.

The co-ordinated dawn attack on two key security targets is the latest sign of the Islamist insurgency expanding in southern Mali and moving closer to the capital, far beyond the traditional rebel strongholds in northern Mali.

Independent experts said the attack was symbolically important, showing that Mali's military government was unable to defend strategic targets and the insurgents were capable of co-ordinating large-scale attacks on the capital. "This is a watershed event," regional analyst Andrew Lebovich said in a social-media post, citing the "remarkable failure" to protect the international airport.

The airport is one of the main

bases for the Russian troops who were recruited by the military regime after it seized power in a coup in 2021. An estimated 1,000 Russian soldiers are now in the country, accompanying Mali's army in military operations against Islamist militants and Tuareg separatist rebels. The regime ordered the ejection of thousands of United Nations peacekeepers and French troops after the Russians arrived.

An Islamist group affiliated with al-Qaeda, known as JNIM, claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack. It said it inflicted heavy casualties and major damage to aircraft and equipment at the airport and police academy.

The airport is one of the main bases for the Russian troops who were recruited by the military regime after it seized power in a coup in 2021.

The government said it had the situation under control, but it acknowledged that "sensitive points" in the capital had fallen under attack. It ordered the temporary closing of the airport, and flights were diverted away from Bamako for most of the day, although the restrictions were later lifted.

Adam Sandor, a Canadian scholar who studies security issues in the Sahel region, said the attack showed that JNIM is continuing to encircle Bamako, with the airport a prime target. The attack is a "massive hit" to the military government's international reputation, he said in a social-media post. "This is definitive proof of what several analysts of Mali's security politics have warned for months now," he said.

All three of the military regimes in Sahel countries — Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso — recruited hundreds of Russian soldiers

after taking power by toppling civilian governments in coups. But violence has escalated in each of the countries since the coups and the Russian arrival.

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an analysis unit in the U.S. Defence Department, reported that 11,200 people have been killed as a result of violent extremism in the Sahel region this year — a threefold increase since 2021. About half of Mali's territory has fallen outside the government's control, it said.

Tuesday's attack is the second major setback for the Malian and Russian troops in recent weeks. Separatist rebels killed dozens of Russian soldiers last month in an ambush in northern Mali, the bloodiest loss suffered by the Russians since they arrived in the country.

The attack on the international airport was the first such incident in the capital since 2015, when terrorists stormed a hotel and killed 20 people. But insurgents attacked a major military base near Bamako in July, 2022, killing at least six people. The number of violent clashes in southern and central Mali has been escalating for years.

Mali's authorities have tried to crush the rebellion with an increasingly repressive response, including several massacres in villages where rebels were suspected to be operating. They have also cracked down on political opponents and independent media, banning several outlets.

Despite the deteriorating situation and the closing of some Western embassies in the country, Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said last month that Canada will maintain its embassies and aid programs in Mali and neighbouring Burkina Faso.

The government has spent more than \$1.8-billion on aid to the Sahel region in the past six years. "After Haiti, per capita, this is the region we're most investing in in the world," Ms. Joly told The Globe and Mail last month.

Lebanon

FROM A1

It urged Iran — which with its allies Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthis and armed groups in Iraq has formed an "Axis of Resistance" against Israeli and U.S. influence — not to take advantage of any incident to raise instability.

Without commenting directly on the explosions in Lebanon, an Israeli military spokesman said the chief of staff, Major-General Herzi Halevi, met with senior officers on Tuesday evening to assess the situation. No policy change was announced but "vigilance must continue to be maintained," he said.

Hezbollah fighters have been using pagers as a low-tech means of communication in an attempt to evade Israeli location-tracking, two sources familiar with the group's operations told Reuters this year. A pager is a wireless telecommunications device that receives and displays messages.

Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, suffered a "superficial injury" in Tuesday's pager blasts and was under observation in hospital, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said. Reuters could not immediately confirm the report.

The casualties included Hezbollah fighters who are the sons of top officials from the armed group, two security sources told Reuters. One of those killed was the son of a Hezbollah member of the Lebanese parliament, Ali Ammar, they said.

"This is not a security targeting of one, two or three people. This is a targeting of an entire nation," senior Hezbollah official Hussein Khalil said while paying his condolences for Mr. Ammar's son.

Air France announced late on Tuesday it was suspending flights connecting Paris with Beirut and Tel Aviv through Thursday owing to security concerns.

Earlier on Tuesday, Israel's domestic security agency said it had foiled a plot by Hezbollah to assassinate a former senior defence official in the coming days. Hezbollah has said it wants to avoid all-out conflict with Israel but that only an end to the Gaza war will stop the cross-border clashes. Gaza ceasefire efforts remain deadlocked after months of talks mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States.

While they saw a threat of escalation, experts were more skeptical, for now, about the potential for an imminent full-scale Israel-Hezbollah war, which the U.S. has sought to prevent and which it believes neither side wants.

Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel immediately after the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas gunmen on Israel that triggered the Gaza war. Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging fire ever since, while avoiding a major escalation.

REUTERS



Medical centre personnel in Beirut assist people who were wounded and killed when pagers exploded across Lebanon on Tuesday. MOHAMED AZAKIR/REUTERS

ISRAEL PLANTED EXPLOSIVES IN PAGERS SOLD TO HEZBOLLAH, OFFICIALS SAY

Israel carried out its operation against Hezbollah on Tuesday by hiding explosive material within a new batch of Taiwanese-made pagers imported into Lebanon, according to American and other officials briefed on the operation.

The pagers, which Hezbollah had ordered from Gold Apollo in Taiwan, had been tampered with before they reached Lebanon, according to some of the officials. Most were the company's AP924 model, though three other Gold Apollo models were also included in the shipment.

The explosive material, as little as one to two ounces, was implanted next to the battery in each pager, two of the officials said. A switch was also embedded that could be triggered remotely to detonate the explosives.

At 3:30 p.m. in Lebanon, the pagers received a message that appeared as though it was coming from Hezbollah's leadership, two of the officials said. Instead, the message activated the explosives. Lebanon's Health Minister told state media at least nine people were killed and more than 2,800 injured.

The devices were programmed to beep for several seconds before exploding, according to three of the officials.

Hezbollah has accused Israel of orchestrating the attack but has described limited details of its understanding of the operation. Israel has not commented on the attack nor said it was behind it.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity given the sensitive nature of the operation.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Indian officials accused of assassinations named in New York lawsuit

GREG MERCER

A Sikh independence activist is suing the government of India and senior Indian intelligence officials alleged to have hatched two assassination plots, including one that resulted in the death of outspoken temple leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, head of the Khalistan independence group Sikhs for Justice, filed the lawsuit in New York seeking unspecified damages from India for what he calls an "unprecedented attempt to assassinate a U.S. citizen on U.S. soil." The plan to kill Mr. Pannun, detailed in an indictment released by the U.S. Department of Justice, was thwarted in June, 2023, when the hitman hired by the alleged middleman working for Indian security ser-

vices turned out to be an undercover U.S. federal agent.

Mr. Nijjar, an outspoken critic of India and advocate for an independent state in that country's Punjab region, was not so lucky. He was gunned down outside his gurdwara in Surrey, B.C., that same month, in a plot Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told Parliament in September, 2023, appears to have been ordered by India. Four Indian nationals who were residing in Canada have been charged by the RCMP in Mr. Nijjar's murder.

One of the people named in Mr. Pannun's lawsuit is Nikhil Gupta, who is being held in a Brooklyn prison while he awaits trial on charges in the murder-for-hire plot. Three others — Vikram Yadav, a senior intelligence officer in India's spy agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW); former RAW chief Samant Goel; and Ajit

Doval, the country's national security adviser — remain in India.

"While this action is only indicting the foot soldiers, this lawsuit is really against the government of India," Mr. Pannun said.

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa declined to comment on the lawsuit. The Indian embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment. The lawsuit comes just days ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States — but Mr. Pannun said that, although the intelligence officials being sued report to Mr. Modi, he's not named in the suit because he has diplomatic immunity.

Mr. Pannun, whose group is behind an unofficial global referendum for Khalistan's independence from India, says the civil lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for Southern New York is intended to

hold the Indian government accountable for its alleged involvement in the assassination plots. His lawyers acknowledged seeking justice through the criminal courts would be difficult.

"They were successful in killing Mr. Nijjar," Matthew Borden, Mr. Pannun's lawyer, said in a video call. "And the same thing would have happened to Mr. Pannun but for the fact that the person that Mr. Gupta tried to hire was an undercover U.S. agent."

India, which considers many involved in the Khalistani movement to be terrorists, extremists and militant separatists, has denied involvement in both cases. Mr. Gupta, who was arrested in the Czech Republic and extradited to the U.S. in June, has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Richard Rogers, an international lawyer at Global Diligence LLP, a legal advisory firm special-

izing in human rights, international criminal law and sanctions, said India "has been trying to silence Mr. Pannun for years," and accused the country of falsifying evidence against his client through the Interpol red-notice system, requests to law enforcement worldwide to locate and arrest a person, and using its economic and political clout with the U.S. to get away with it.

Mr. Pannun has been accused of using inflammatory language in the past, including telling Sikhs not to fly on Air India in November, 2023, warning their "life will be in danger." Indian officials complained that call for a boycott was a reference to the 1985 Air India bombing, a terror attack orchestrated by Sikh extremists that killed 329 people after taking off from Montreal.

With reports from Associated Press

Canada's nuclear waste needs a forever home. Scientists may be close to finding one

Building deep geological repositories to store spent fuel is tricky, and building trust is trickier still. Here's how experts plan to do so

MARCUS GEE

Canada's Candu nuclear reactors have been running for more than half a century. Ontario, home to all but one of the active reactors, gets about 60 per cent of its electrical power from nuclear, which has the benefit of producing next to no greenhouse gases.

To help meet climate targets while fulfilling the province's electricity needs, the provincial government has announced plans to spend billions refurbishing an aging nuclear plant at Pickering, east of Toronto. It is part of a worldwide trend. After stagnating for years over worries about cost and safety that followed accidents in Chernobyl and Fukushima, nuclear power is getting a fresh look.

But what do we do about the radioactive waste? That problem troubles many Canadians. Canada's nuclear authorities believe that they have the answer: They will isolate the used reactor fuel in a "deep geological repository," or DGR. In other words, they will bury the stuff, entombing it so far below the Earth's surface that no one will ever need to worry about it.

By the end of this year, Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) plans to choose a community that will play host to that unusual tomb. Ignace, in Northwestern Ontario, has already put up its hand, announcing on July 10 that it was officially willing. A second municipality, South Bruce in Southern Ontario, will hold a referendum on Oct. 28.

Wherever it goes, creating the DGR will be a massive undertaking, costing an estimated \$26-billion and taking years of preparation and construction. Earlier this year, the agency invited The Globe and Mail to a testing facility in Oakville outside of Toronto to explain how it would work.

A SCIENCE-FICTION POINT OF VIEW

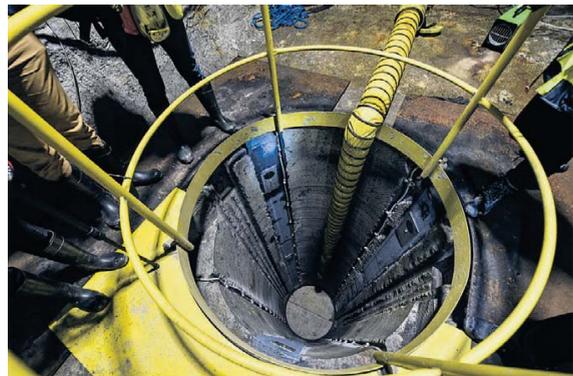
Candu reactors produce energy by putting pellets of uranium in metal tubes of zirconium alloy. The tremendous heat generated by the process of nuclear fission turns water into steam, which is then used to drive electrical turbines.

About the size of an earplug, the pellets have the same generating power as 400 kilograms of coal. The energy from 10 pellets would power an average Canadian home for a year. While inside the reactor, the pellets rest in log-sized containers called bundles. After the fuel is used up, which takes 12 to 20 months, the bundles are removed from the core, still hot and highly radioactive.

The problem is not that they pose any immediate threat to public health. When the bundles come out of the reactor, they go into big holding bays that look like swimming pools. Water is such a good buffer for radioactivity that, according to the experts,



These core samples, seen in 2013, were taken from six different boreholes near the Bruce Power nuclear plant during exploration for a deep geological repository, or DGR. A site for a DGR will require a deep, stable rock formation in which to sink a shaft. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



A borehole eight metres deep is prepared for a geological repository test at Eurajoki, Finland, in 2018. EMMI KORHONEN/LEHTIKUVA/REUTERS



The copper capsule used in Finland's DGR test would be used to store spent nuclear fuel and keep it intact. EMMI KORHONEN/LEHTIKUVA/REUTERS

you can walk around the pool without suffering any ill effects.

After seven to 10 years as it cools and becomes less radioactive, the fuel goes into big, 79-tonne casks that confine the remaining radioactivity within walls of concrete and steel. The casks are good for decades.

The problem is not that the reactors produce an impossible

amount of waste, either. Decades of nuclear-power generation in Canada have yielded 3.3 million fuel bundles. Stacked like firewood, they would fill nine hockey rinks up to the top of the boards.

The problem is that the fuel remains a potential hazard for a long, long - very long - time. Though it loses most of its radioactivity in the first 10 years, bring-

ing it down to one-thousandth of its value when it was removed from the reactor, the remaining radiation lingers on for hundreds, thousands, even hundreds of thousands of years. Only after about a million years does its radioactivity return to a level equal to that of the uranium ore from which it was created.

So, when designing a solution,

the agency had to think in science-fiction terms about what might happen in the distant future.

What if society were to break down after a world war or devastating pandemic, leaving the remaining humans incapable of overseeing a sophisticated waste-storage system? What if another ice sheet like the one that once covered Central Canada were to crush whatever storage system had been devised?

Those are the questions that furrow the brows of the 250 men and women who work at the NWMO, a non-profit created in 2002 and overseen by Canada's nuclear electricity producers.

To answer them, they had to solve two puzzles: where to bury the waste and how to make sure it stays buried.



Left: Candu reactors use pellets of uranium - like these shown during a tour of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's Oakville, Ont., facility last year - to produce energy. The immense heat generated by nuclear fission turns water into steam to drive electrical turbines. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Below: Ulf Stahmer, an NWMO senior transportation engineer, explains the containment of waste uranium during last year's tour. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUZZLE ONE: WHERE TO BURY THE WASTE

The first problem was relatively simple. Just find a deep, stable rock formation in which to sink a shaft. Canada, in its vastness, is blessed with a wealth of them.

Near Ignace lies the Revell batholith, an immense, 2.7-billion-year-old mass of igneous rock formed when magma rose into the Earth's crust, cooling before it reached the surface. At the place where the shaft would go, it is about 40 kilometres long, 15 kilometres wide and three kilometres deep.

Under South Bruce lies the Cobourg Formation. It was formed around 400 million years ago, the result of sediment deposited at the bottom of an equatorial sea. Over the eons, as the globe's tectonic plates shifted and continents drifted, it migrated to what is now Canada and the United States. It takes its name from the City of Cobourg on the shores of Lake Ontario, where it comes to the surface.

Specialists would bore down about 700 metres to reach it, creating a shaft deeper than the CN Tower is tall.

The tough, dense limestone at that depth has few natural faults. It is low in water and, like the Revell batholith, highly impermeable, which means less risk of waste one day leaking into our lakes, streams or groundwater. Earthquakes in both areas are rare and mild.



PUZZLE TWO: CREATING A NUCLEAR-WASTE COFFIN

The second problem is a little more complicated. Once they have built their underground tomb, authorities must ensure the waste stays intact essentially forever. That means devising what amounts to a nuclear-waste coffin.

Drawing on the experience of other countries, the NWMO has settled on nestling the used nuclear-fuel bundles in torpedo-shaped canisters with a copper coating. Over the past couple of decades, it has been working on designing the ideal canister with the ideal coating.

The model it has come up with is 2½ metres long. Engineers figure it is strong enough to survive even if the site were covered by an ice sheet three kilometres deep. That, combined with all the rock and dirt underneath, would subject it to the same weight it would endure if it was placed 4.5 kilometres underwater.

To make sure, they have subjected the canisters to extreme pressure in a “crush-test” lab. One of the crushed canisters is on display in the agency’s Oakville facility. It looks as if it has been stepped on by a giant, yet bears no splits or cracks. The steel chosen for the task is highly ductile, meaning it will bend but not break.

The copper coating is to prevent corrosion. First giving the canister an electroplating bath and then applying more copper by spray nozzle, engineers would create a cladding three millimetres thick. Copper is such a heroic enemy of corrosion that they calculate it would take a million years just to reduce its thickness by one-tenth. Once the spent fuel was placed inside the canister, a dome-like cap would be welded onto one end to seal it.

The final step in a burial is to seal the tomb. For this purpose, engineers plan to use bentonite, a naturally occurring clay used to seal dams, fill up oil-drilling boreholes and even to make cosmetic face masks for skin care. Dense and heavy, it is ideal for keeping things out. In the 1970s, an excavation in Italy’s Umbria region uncovered an ancient forest that had been covered with bentonite. The huge tree trunks were so well preserved that the wood could have been used for making chairs and tables.

Those copper-covered canisters would be nestled in bentonite “buffer boxes.” The boxes would then be stacked like coffins in the DGR burial chamber. The boxes are designed to keep out not just any water that might get into the DGR chamber but the microbes that produce corrosive sulfides. The clay would act as an ally of the canisters’ copper coating.

Bentonite has another key property: It swells. The swelling would fill up any fissures or gaps and make the chamber even more waterproof.

OPPONENTS TO THE PLAN

Despite all the agency’s carefully laid plans, many are not convinced. Some local critics say the whole idea of building a deep geological repository is a mistake. A South Bruce group that is against playing host to the DGR calls it “a centuries-long science experiment.” No one, says the website for Protect Our Waterways, “has ever designed, built, and operated a DGR for high-level nuclear waste, anywhere in the world.”

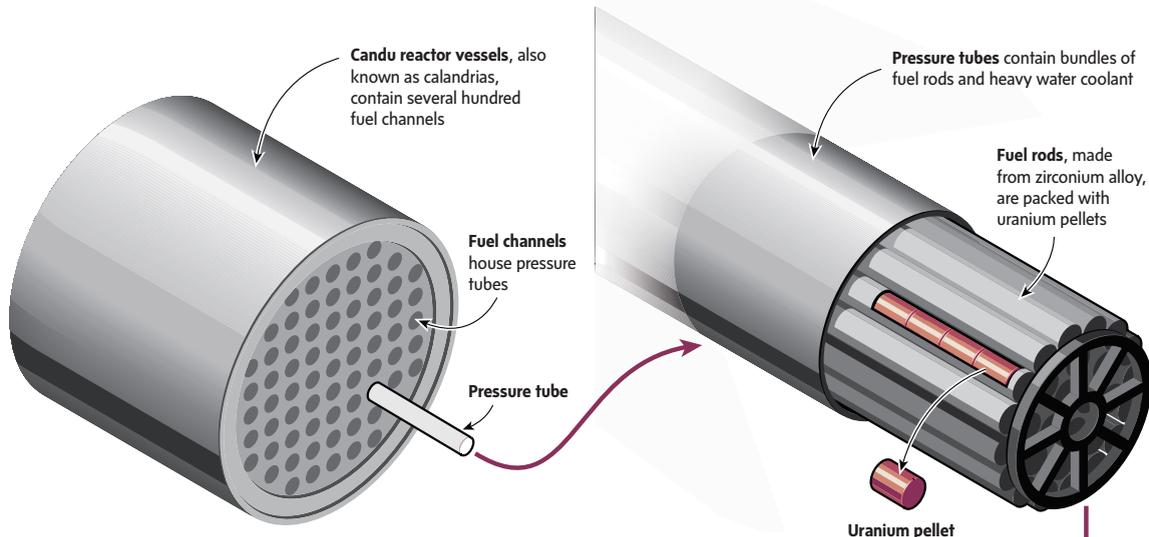
One of the concerns of critics is that, because the DGR has been designed for Candu waste, authorities haven’t done enough to prepare for the novel wastes that might come from new reactor types, such as the small modular reactors Ontario is developing. The agency responds that it is working with potential host communities on ways to manage any new types of waste.

The opposition doesn’t end there. The Green Party of Ontario wants the province to back off on nuclear power altogether. Rather than build more reactors and “add to our huge pile of dangerous nuclear waste,” it says on its party website, the government should bring more solar and wind power on stream.

There are doubts among Indigenous groups, too. First Nations around both South Bruce and Ignace have been talking with the

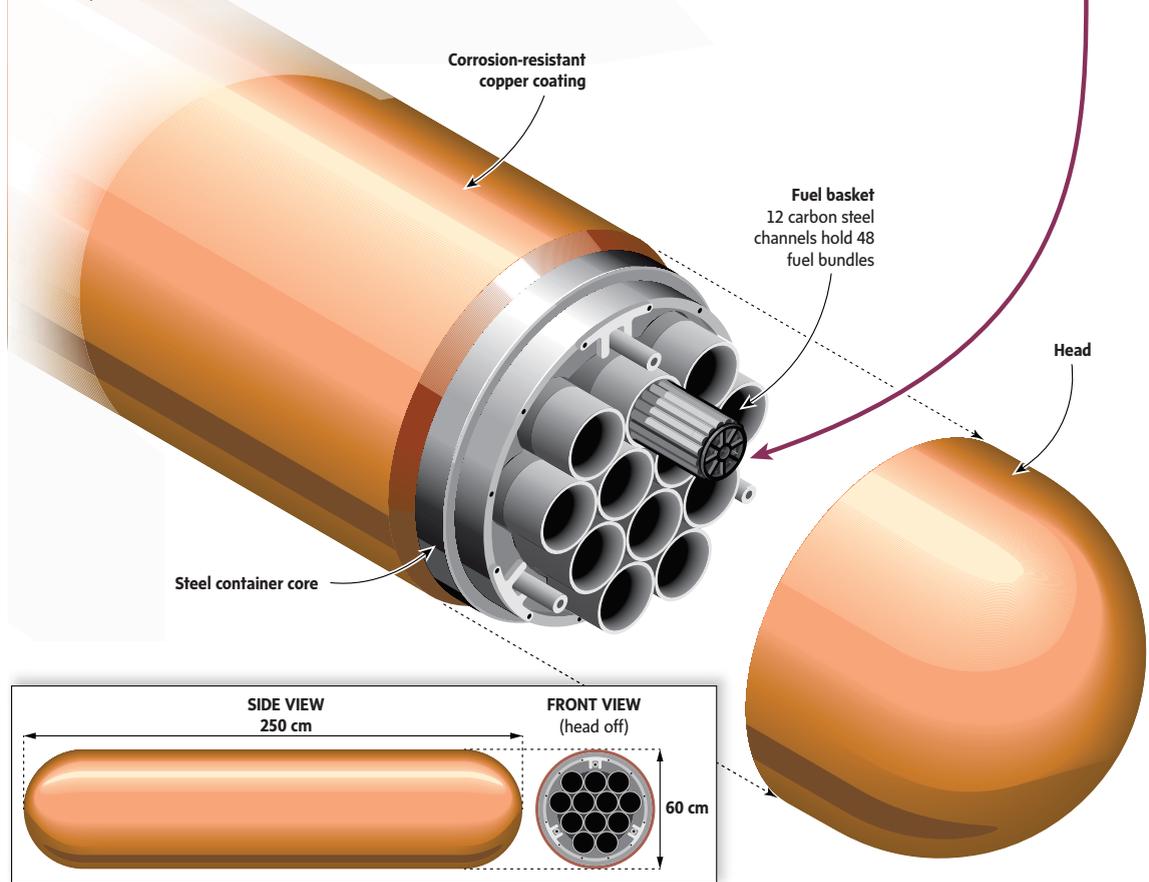
How burying nuclear waste would work

Canada’s nuclear-waste inventory is comprised mostly of spent Candu fuel bundles – more than 3.3 million of them. Each is the size of a fire log and is an assembly of sealed tubes that contain ceramic uranium pellets, the reactor’s fuel. While in service, fuel bundles are housed within a six-metre-long tube, a pressure tube, of which there are hundreds in each Candu reactor. Highly radioactive upon removal, the bundles must be stored in pools of water for a decade before being moved to dry storage containers. From there, the hope is to send them to a deep geological repository for permanent disposal.



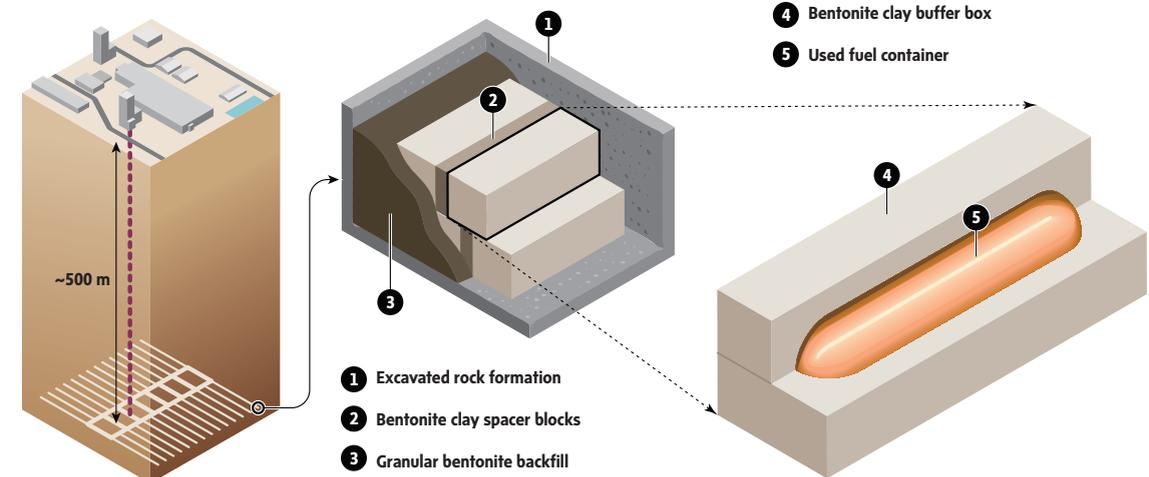
How the Candu bundles would be stored

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization is proposing a nuclear fuel container that would prevent any water from reaching the fuel and radionuclides. It is engineered to remain intact and keep the used nuclear fuel completely isolated until the fuel’s radioactivity has decreased to the level of natural uranium.



Canada’s deep geological repository (DGR)

Constructed more than 500 metres below ground, the repository would consist of a network of placement rooms to store the used nuclear fuel. It would be excavated within a sedimentary or crystalline rock formation that meets the safety and technical requirements of the project. The used fuel containers would be placed inside bentonite clay buffer boxes before being transferred to the placement rooms, where all remaining space around the boxes would be filled with granular bentonite clay. The clay’s low permeability properties help protect the soil and groundwater below the waste.



Note: diagrams are not to scale.

MURAT YÜKSELİR / THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION; NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

NWMO, but are not saying whether they will sign on this year.

DGR PLANS AROUND THE WORLD

The agency, however, says that a broad scientific consensus has emerged that DGR is the best way to deal with waste. Among the countries that are working on it are France, South Korea, Japan, Britain and the United States.

In Finland, authorities have already dug 50 kilometres of tunnels in two-billion-year-old rock. The DGR facility on Olkiluoto Island is the first in the world. Waste containers will come down by elevator to be stored in vertical boreholes.

Sweden has approved plans to build a DGR of its own. To be located near the nuclear plant at Forsmark, 150 kilometres north of Stockholm, it will have space for 6,000 copper canisters of waste

when it opens in the 2080s.

To further reassure the public, the agency notes that even if it succeeds in choosing a willing community this year, at least 10 years will pass before it starts digging, leaving time for environmental assessments and other preparatory steps. It might be another 10 or more years before any waste actually makes the descent into its tomb.

That would bring us to some time in the 2040s. For 40 or so

years after that, big trucks carrying specially designed waste containers would trundle from the reactor sites to the DGR facility, where the fuel canisters would be lowered into their final resting place. When the nuclear tomb is full, it would be filled with crushed rock and more clay.

Finally, the shaft leading down to it would be filled, sealing off the tomb for what amounts to eternity.

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

Canada needs a federal vote this fall

The Trudeau Liberals have now lost a second safe seat in a by-election in three months, although “safe” may be putting it mildly.

Toronto-St. Paul's, which went Conservative on June 24, and LaSalle-Émard-Verdun in Montreal, which went to the Bloc Québécois on Monday, have long been reliable ecosystems for a party that believes its absence from government is somehow unnatural.

In recent general elections, the Liberal candidate in each riding outpaced their rivals by thousands of votes, sometimes winning twice as many the second-place finisher, or even three times.

When the Liberals lost either riding, it was during waves of enthusiasm for another party – Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservatives in 1984 and 1988 in Toronto-St-Paul's; Jack Layton's NDP in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun in 2011 – combined with an electorate that had grown tired of Grit rule.

Given this summer's telltale by-election losses, and the polling that consistently has the Liberals in the neighbourhood of 20 points back of the Conservatives, it's fairly obvious that a similar wave is cresting in Canada.

And yet the next election is not slated for another year, leaving Canadians in the hands of a government that to a majority of them resembles the walking dead.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has repeatedly said that he has no intention of stepping down as Liberal leader, and that he is eager to take on Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre in an election.

He should indulge that eagerness. Canadians should not have to wait another year before having their say. There should be an election this fall, and it would be best if it was triggered by the Liberals themselves.

It is hard to see what this government could pull out of its hat that would reverse its fortunes over the next six to 12 months. The public's self-evident fatigue with the Liberals means that any new policies will likely be met with indifference by a majority of minds that are already made up.

The short timeline until the election that must be called by Oct. 20, 2025, also means that any new government program or fiscal planning whose provisions extend beyond that date has to be viewed with a great deal of skepticism. A five-year deficit projection that reached to fiscal 2030 in a Liberal budget next spring, for instance, would verge on hilarious.

Voters, through their stated intentions to pollsters and especially through their by-election ballots, have made it clear that the Trudeau government has a weak grip on power. The Liberals' efforts to resuscitate themselves, while certainly their prerogative as long as Parliament lasts, are so unlikely to succeed that they are indeed something a zombie government, shuffling toward their doom.

It would be better for voters, and for the country as a whole, for the Trudeau government to use the fall to prepare a mini-budget and put it to the House as a confidence motion by the end of October. If the government survived, fair enough: it would have a reinvigorated mandate to continue into 2025.

If the Liberals fell, then voters would have the opportunity to elect a government with fresh mandate – and also to examine their own intentions.

An election would be an opportunity for Canadians take the real measure of the Conservatives. Mr. Poilievre has had it easy, surfing the dissatisfactions of Canadians, posting snarky social media messages and keeping his broader plans to himself.

A vigorous election campaign would give Canadians the chance to see if there is more to him and his party than rhyming slogans and alliterative nicknames for his opponents.

Most of all, an election would give the country a direction. Canada is a Group of Seven nation that is adrift, caught between a tired left-of-centre government party that can't convince voters it deserves to continue, and a surging right-of-centre opposition party that is chomping at the bit to take over but hasn't yet presented a governing agenda.

The country is meanwhile beset by low productivity, a falling standard of living, worsening climate change, an immigration system in need of repair, rising public debt, a lack of affordable housing and a struggling health care system.

Canadians deserve clarity on how those issues will be addressed, something only an election can provide. Another year of uncertainty and drift should not be in the cards.

The search begins for 12 new submarines...



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BY-ELECTION POSTMORTEM

Re “Liberals lose Montreal riding to Bloc, NDP holds on to Winnipeg stronghold” (Sept. 17): I doubt if replacing Justin Trudeau would have any positive effect on the electoral fortunes of the Liberal Party, even after the loss in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun.

In the first place, as many have observed, there is no one in the wings with the necessary electability qualities; the party would be saddled with the baggage from Mr. Trudeau's leadership anyway. Nor would chances be better if he remains.

When the Prime Minister is promoting a new initiative, putting words in our mouths, he grandly proclaims that it's what Canadians want, or expect. In reality, I see that it's what he is determined to impose. This is all in aid of doing something for the middle class, as he so often repeats.

Current polls show the policies have been largely rejected by the fed-up middle class and Canadians generally. He doesn't get it. ■ **Robert Cowling** Montreal

Re “Poilievre challenges NDP, Bloc to vote down government, but Liberals expect co-operation as House resumes” (Sept. 16): By all means let's give Pierre Poilievre the snap election he so dearly wants.

Not that he's earned it by saying anything substantive or with his use of inflammatory rhetoric, dubious right-wing theories and a willingness to use the notwithstanding clause, but rather because the crushing defeat of the Liberal Party in such an event would finally and more quickly rid them of a leader unable to read the writing on the wall. ■ **Edward Carson** Toronto

PRICE TO PAY

Re “What's the plan, man?” (Letters, Sept. 17): A letter-writer laments the NDP and Conservatives as opportunists for wanting to eliminate consumer carbon pricing, then asks The Globe to enlighten people on how it works.

I will explain: We pay for carbon pricing. We get the equivalent rebate. No change in behaviour.

What a great policy. ■ **Jason New** Foothills County, Alta.

Re “The politics of pragmatism is causing progressive politicians to ditch their climate policies” (Sept. 16): I too hope that our leaders come up with pragmatic energy and climate policies. Public support is key and poll numbers show that taxing Canadians at the pump, despite the rebate, is not the winner it was once hoped to be.

The long-run goal of emissions

reductions would be best assured by fostering clean energy. Wind, solar and other sources of renewable energy are becoming more appealing than fossil fuels, economically and ecologically.

Replacing carbon pricing with tangible support for renewable energy and storage solutions would be a winning policy. And to pay for it? Pragmatism suggests casting an eye on the subsidies currently provided to our fossil-fuel industry.

■ **Rick Carpenter** Ottawa

ANIMAL FARM

Re “Donald Trump's claim of immigrants eating pets was deeply racist. But that wasn't the only offence” (Sept. 16): Contributor Jessica Scott-Reid illustrates the link between racism and speciesism, a belief that humans are superior to all other animals on Earth.

The devaluing of species other than ourselves, as well as elevating certain species above others, allows us to justify extraordinary cruelty: cruelty toward other races and cruelty toward other species. “Othering” is an effective, yet dangerous, power-seeking strategy.

In the words of historian Yuval Noah Harari: “Modern animal farming is ... one of the worst crimes in history.” Yet most of us think nothing of it. ■ **Mary Burge** Toronto

NOW PLAYING

Re “TIFF to screen controversial documentary Russians at War after halting shows amid protest” (Sept. 17) and “Russians at War is an exceptional documentary and needs to be seen” (Sept. 14): In history, multiple regimes have been brought down by disgruntled soldiers. Russian history in particular is replete with cases where failed foreign interventions (in 1905, 1917 and 1991) have sparked revolutions at home.

As someone who hopes for regime change in Russia, I resent those who have waged a campaign of harassment against filmmaker Anastasia Trofimova on the grounds that her film “humanizes” Russian soldiers in Ukraine.

Understanding the realities – and disillusionment – of said soldiers should be considered key to grasping one of the factors that may ultimately end both Vladimir Putin's presidency and his unjust war. ■ **Chris Scott** Peterborough, Ont.

The trailer for *Russians at War*, which will likely be seen far more often than the film itself, is clearly propaganda to me, in that it echoes Vladimir Putin's false historical narrative without correction, when a Russian soldier says, “Russia and Ukraine have always been inseparable.” This claim is

used by Mr. Putin to justify his invasion.

Professor Timothy Snyder's online Yale University course “The Making of Modern Ukraine” and its associated readings show that Ukraine is “an early example of European state formation and an early example of anti-colonial rebellion.” What I took from the course is that Ukrainians and Russians always have been distinct from each other. No propaganda, disguised under the pretext of “war is hell,” can alter that distinction.

The very power of propaganda is utilized when a key message is neatly hidden, yet still distributed to its full intended audience.

■ **Jeff Talbot** Centre Wellington, Ont.

Filmmaker Anastasia Trofimova defends working for Russia Today by saying, “Russia is the world's biggest country and RT is Russia's biggest broadcaster. If you can make the stories that you're not ashamed of, then you go for it.”

Then we read that the U.S. State Department has imposed new sanctions on RT for collaborating with the Russian military, raising funds to arm Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine and functioning as “a key part of Russia's war machine and its efforts to undermine its democratic adversaries.”

Possibly a few reasons not to “go for it.” ■ **Anthony Cantor** Toronto

I am beginning to wonder what country I am living in.

My grandparents were all immigrants to Canada, fleeing three different countries where poverty, oppression and downright hostility among citizens were the order of the day. My parents were born here, grateful to be here and proud to be Canadian. They left old hostilities behind.

We, their children, knew Canada as a peacekeeping nation seeking to end war among hostile nations. Unfortunately, conflicts abroad are now playing out here among fellow Canadians, and even among our politicians.

We should get back to a Canadian identity that means something. We should follow international law and respond accordingly. Above all, regardless of the conflict, we should remember that Canada is the place where many of us sought safety and freedom from the divisive conflicts now playing out on our streets and, apparently, at our film festivals. ■ **C. E. Miall** Toronto

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



OPINION

The Liberals have given up on governing

Last week, the Immigration Minister essentially said that Ottawa is not meaningfully screening temporary residents

ROBYN
URBACK

OPINION



There are a few basic expectations of any federal government: secure the border, nurture trade relationships, keep the federal courts running, maintain and uphold national defence, cultivate economic growth and so on. These are the fundamentals – the responsibilities that a federal government is supposed to have in order – so as to earn the trust to take on ambitious secondary projects. Indeed, when alleged sex offenders (and even those found guilty) are set free because of procedural delays stemming from judicial vacancies, the government has no

business – or credibility – announcing plans for a national school lunch program.

It's become almost trite at this point to observe that the government under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is more interested in announcing than governing – in making plans than actually following through on them, like a dotty teenager with a closet full of abandoned instruments who now swears that pottery is actually her passion. But typically this government has maintained some pretense of responsibility: some professed, if vacant, commitment to keep going to pottery classes and to do the work until the end of the term.

But last week, Immigration Minister Marc Miller essentially said outright that this government is not meaningfully screening temporary residents. Mr. Miller was speaking to the press about Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, the 20-year-old student from Pakistan arrested in Canada earlier this month for allegedly plotting to attack a Jewish community centre in New York. He disclosed that Mr. Khan had arrived in Canada on a student

visa in June, 2023, a month after acquiring it. And then he added: "We take any security breach and any entry into Canada very seriously," but suggested that Canadians "not be naive: A determined individual can gain access to this country and that is for the security services inside our country to apprehend this person if they commit a crime or if they're about to commit a crime. And that's exactly what happened."

Not only was Mr. Miller's statement an astonishing abdication of responsibility (indeed, what's the point of having border regulations at all if we're simply going to rely on authorities here to nab the bad guys after they're already in the country?), but it was also an invitation to those with nefarious intentions to come into the country and test out our security services, since gaining access doesn't appear to be an issue.

Though it was heartening to see the minister express the type of confidence in Canada's security apparatus that was lacking from the Prime Minister and others during the public inquiry on

foreign interference in the spring, it was actually U.S. intelligence services that informed Canadian authorities of Mr. Khan's alleged intentions (just as France apparently informed Canada about Ahmed Fouad Mostafa Eldidi, who was granted citizenship in May; he and his son, Mostafa Eldidi, were arrested in July and charged with plotting an ISIS attack.)

Mr. Miller's statement was particularly unnerving because he's not wrong about the inevitability of bad actors making their way into Canada under the current circumstances. According to data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), 682,060 international study permits were handed out in 2023, the year that Mr. Khan entered Canada. That averages out to more than 1,800 permits issued every single day, which of course wouldn't include other sorts of temporary visas such as work permits, or those who enter Canada as asylum seekers, as tourists or for family reunification. That means that an astronomical number of people were – and still are, with 278,250 student vi-

sas issued in the first three quarters of 2024 – entering Canada every day. It's a volume that makes proper vetting logistically impossible.

This is Governing 101: make sure you have the capacity to screen who is coming in before you open the border, and if you have time, glance at housing, employment and social-service data to make sure you can accommodate those who are staying temporarily. Failure to do so at its most extreme will result in people such as Mr. Khan making their way into Canada, which leaves Canadians to hope and pray that foreign intelligence services are working to keep us safe. And at its less extreme, it will foster an unfair suspicion of newcomers from Canadians who will not, and cannot, trust that their government exerted the necessary checks of applicants before they were granted permission to come to Canada.

If a government can't claim to keep its border secure and weed out potentially dangerous applicants before they arrive on Canadian soil, they have no business governing at all.

The West shouldn't fall for Putin's bluff on Ukraine's long-range missiles

MICHAEL BOCIURKIW
ODESA, UKRAINE

OPINION

Global affairs analyst and senior fellow at the Atlantic Council

Last Saturday, just as a friend and I were tucking into dinner at a popular Odesa eatery, the air raid sirens went off. Within less than a minute, two explosions rang out in the skies above. Ukraine's air defences had kicked in to intercept two Russian ballistic missiles, sparing this historic port city from another devastating blow.

Less than two weeks earlier, residents of the western Ukrainian city of Lviv – the region from where many Ukrainian Canadians trace their roots – weren't so lucky: precision strikes of Russian ballistic missiles and drones killed seven, injured more than 50 and caused massive damage to residential areas.

These all-too-common incidents clearly demonstrate the threat of Russian missiles and drones, and show why Ukraine needs long-range missiles to supplement the patchy protection offered by air defence systems and break the pattern of Russia's attacks.

Ukraine is a massive territory – larger even than France – and protecting every square inch with air defence systems is impossible. That is why the government of President Volodymyr Zelensky has been pressuring Western allies for months for the green light to strike deeper inside Russia, at the very launchpads from where incoming missiles originate.

At the moment, the U.S.-made Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) and Anglo-French Storm Shadow missiles (which



Rescuers search for survivors in Lviv, Ukraine, after an apartment building was destroyed by a Russian missile on Sept. 4. Strikes on the city earlier this month killed seven people, injured more than 50 and massively damaged residential areas. MYKOLA TYS/AP

have a maximum range of 250 kilometres) already in Ukrainian hands are limited to targets situated on Russian-controlled territories in Ukraine, or in Russian regions closest to Kharkiv. The fear in Washington and some European capitals is that, by easing restrictions on how Ukraine can use missiles supplied by the West, it would provide Russian President Vladimir Putin with the excuse to reach for the unthinkable: tactical nuclear weapons. The Kremlin dictator has threatened to use them in the past but hasn't done so, knowing that it would invite a massive retaliation – and anger his closest superpower ally, China.

But the lame-duck administration of U.S. President Joe Biden is succumbing to Mr. Putin's bluffing and delaying permission for

Ukraine to use the greater range. Even the persuasive arguments of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who last week visited the White House, have failed to change American policy. Neither did credible reports that Iran was shipping short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use against targets in Ukraine.

It is high time Western allies abandon the drip-drip approach of aiding Ukraine. Had they grown the backbone sooner to provide Ukraine with everything it needs, the course of the war would have changed long ago in Kyiv's favour. Instead, Russian troops are now trying to take all of the remaining Donetsk region. Every delay is a gift to Mr. Putin.

The time lag has allowed Russian military leaders to further fortify bunkers and move poten-

tial targets further away from Ukraine. It has also given Russia more time to pummel Ukrainian critical infrastructure, such as power generation facilities and sub-stations, to the point that massive outages are now forecast for the upcoming winter. One senior energy insider in Kyiv told me that the damage has been so extensive that Ukrainians need to brace themselves for a worst-case scenario this winter, including evacuating to neighbouring countries.

With the clock ticking down to the U.S. presidential elections in November, which could result in a second Donald Trump presidency, there's no time for dilly-dallying on whether Kyiv needs better missile-strike capability. It now looks like a final decision won't be made until the United Nations General Assembly at the end of the month.

Hopefully by then, decision-makers will arrive in New York convinced that future-proofing Ukraine's muscle power is the best way to prevent Mr. Trump from handing Mr. Putin a victory via a one-sided peace plan that calls for the Kremlin hanging on to all the territories it has seized from Ukraine.

Of course, giving Ukraine long-range strike capability could prolong the war and even provoke Mr. Putin to use alternative sinister means to harm Ukraine, such as triggering an accidental explosion at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is Europe's largest and sits on land occupied now by Russia.

But is the alternative outcome better: more civilian Ukrainian deaths and damage to critical infrastructure that could trigger another massive flow of asylum-seekers toward Europe – and further irreversible damage to the NATO alliance's credibility?

Trudeau partakes in that great Canadian tradition: overstaying his welcome

ANDREW
COYNE

OPINION



I suppose it could have been worse for the Liberals. For example, their candidates in Monday's by-elections might have ended the night by donning Conservative colours and shouting "vive la révolution."

But as it was, all they did was lose a riding in Montreal they've held almost continuously for 40 years – a riding they won by more than 20 points in 2021 – while taking just 4.8 per cent of the vote in the other, in Winnipeg. It was one of the worst showings by a governing-party candidate in any by-election in our history. (The worst, according to the economist and statistics maven Trevor Tombe: the Conservatives in Laurier-Sainte-Marie in 1990, with 4.5 per cent.)

This, of course, on top of the loss in Toronto-St. Paul's that began the summer. The question is

inescapable: If Liberal seats are no longer safe on the Island of Montreal or in the centre of Toronto, where are they safe? And the answer, if the polls are anything to go by, is: nowhere.

The last five polls, all by reputable pollsters – Nanos, Abacus, Ipsos, Leger, Angus Reid – put the Grits an average of 20 points behind the Conservatives. They have been at least 15 points behind for the better part of a year.

There are precedents for a governing party being that far behind for that long: the Conservatives in 1993, the Liberals in 1984.

They didn't end well for the incumbents. I've looked at polling data back to 1940: There is no case of a government coming back to win from this kind of deficit, especially this late in the cycle.

Indeed, on current form the Liberals are headed for one of the worst shellackings in their history. Some recent seat projections have them finishing in fourth. And yet the Prime Minis-

ter is adamant: "I'm not going anywhere."

Of course he isn't. If there is one constant in Canadian political history, it is the Prime Minister Who Stays Too Long. Of Justin Trudeau's 22 predecessors in the office, just two – Mackenzie King in 1948, and Lester Pearson in 1967 – went out on top and on their own terms, handing off to their successor in time to win the next election. (A third, Robert Borden, retired on the advice of his doctors in 1920; however, his chosen successor, Arthur Meighen, was defeated in the election the following year.)

Twelve prime ministers were sent packing by the voters, including not only such one-term wonders as Alexander Mackenzie or R. B. Bennett, but storied names like Wilfrid Laurier and Louis St. Laurent – and Stephen Harper. Two died in office: Sir John A. Macdonald, by then every one of his 76 years, and Sir John Thompson, poor fellow, who died of a heart attack at 49.

Five more resigned. Of these

three – Sir John Abbott, Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Jean Chrétien – did so unwillingly, the latter exceedingly so, following several years of internecine warfare with his successor, Paul Martin. Two more – Brian Mulroney in 1993 and Pierre Trudeau in 1984 – retired only after it was clear they were heading for a thumping, having set their party irrevocably on course for catastrophe.

The last two examples, oddly, might argue for keeping Justin Trudeau on. The truly disastrous election defeats governments have endured have not been, typically, under the Old Man, but the new. Changing leaders was the great hope of governing parties in 1984 and 1993; both surged ahead, briefly, in the polls. But in neither case, needless to say, did the surge last.

By contrast, the other sitting prime ministers to be defeated in an election (including Macdonald, King, Meighen and Trudeau the elder, the only prime ministers to lose one election and win the next) still managed

to hold onto an average of 34 per cent of the seats: about 115 seats in today's House of Commons. At this point the Liberals would have to count that as a miraculous deliverance.

Still, managing defeat is a long way from victory. If, as seems likely, Mr. Trudeau's government were to fall in a non-confidence vote, probably over the spring budget, he would be just the seventh prime minister in our history to suffer this fate. (Macdonald in 1873 and King in 1925 were almost certain to do so, but resigned rather than see the question put to a vote.)

Of the six previous, four – Meighen in 1926, John Diefenbaker in 1963, Joe Clark in 1979 and Mr. Martin in 2005 – went on to lose the ensuing election. Just two – Pierre Trudeau in 1974 and Mr. Harper in 2011 – were able to convert parliamentary defeat into electoral victory. And both were ahead in the polls at the time – not 20 points behind!

GARY MASON will return.

LIFE & ARTS

TRAVEL | OPINION | PUZZLES | WEATHER

In Ecuador, I pushed myself to the limit

The Andes loomed large and the Amazon ran deep, but it was local moments that Vivian Vassos loved best

Lizbeth Morales is lighting candles in the unexpected darkness, while her mother, Isabel, gestures where best to place them. We're in their dining room in northern Ecuador, a home the 24-year-old shares with her parents and siblings. Her baby sister races around the room chasing after the family dog.

The power's gone out but the wooden table has enough light for me to help with the cooking. My Spanish is spotty but talk isn't required to roll dough into small rings. Isabel then pops them into the frying pan and the *pristiños* come out golden and crisp. The skinny doughnut is dipped in syrup just before eating, and served at special occasions. Tonight's occasion is a house party welcoming my group of travellers to Yunguilla, just north of the capital, Quito.

I'm exploring with Intrepid Travel, and the dozen others in our small-group trip are billeted with other families to learn the ways of their community.

More than two dozen families participate in the home-stay program, and it is one of my favourite moments on this eight-day adventure. By working with Intrepid, this Ecuadorean family maintains control over their traditions, culture and land. It is a true representation of what sustainable travel means.

But I've begun this story at the end. What it took to get here is another story altogether.

On this active hiking trip, I experienced incredible highs and lows, both physically and mentally. But I don't regret any of it; travel is often about pushing your boundaries (and knowing when it's time to stop and sit by the fire).

Visiting Ecuador, where the Andes loom large and the Amazon rain forest runs deep, takes preparation. Leading up to the trip, I worked out regularly, eschewed alcohol and drank more than my daily share of water to help my body get ready.

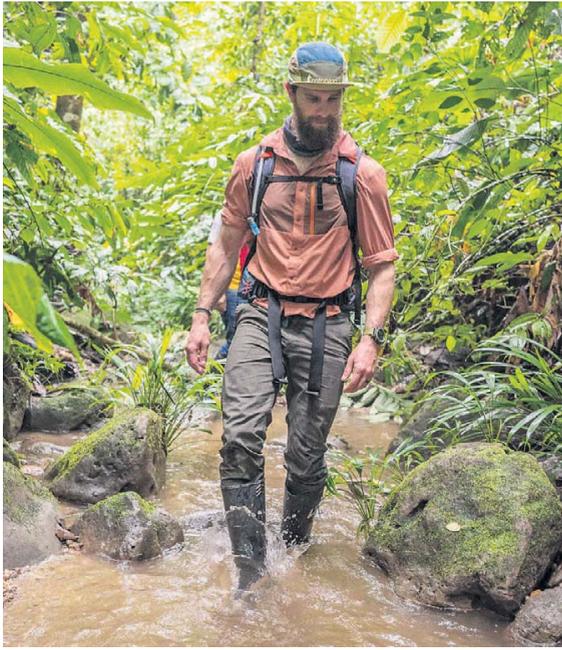
I expected the altitude to throw me for a loop, but I felt fine. After landing in Quito, many travellers experience shortness of breath, which is not unusual in a city sitting at 2,850 metres elevation.

My Intrepid guide Eitel Solorzano tells me that some Ecuadorians believe they are closer to heaven here. They're not far off: According to American Geographic, Ecuador – and, more specifically, the volcanic Mount Chimborazo – is the closest place on Earth to the moon.

We spend our first day exploring the Old Town of Quito with Solorzano to help us acclimatize. At first glance, Quito could be Old San Juan, with its tightly knit, colourful colonial architecture. I enjoy fresh fruits at the Mercado Central and wonder at the neoclassical buildings of



Intrepid's small-group Ecuador Highlands tour includes activities such as horseback riding with views of the Cotopaxi volcano and homestay visits with local families. PHOTOS BY MARIO HERNÁNDEZ/INTREPID TRAVEL



Rubber boots are essential for a two-hour trek through the jungle. The reward for sticking it out is a spectacular view.

Plaza de la Independencia. Dinner that night is a fancy, white-tablecloth affair at the Casa Gangotena boutique hotel. The feast gives a halo of security – maybe this trip won't be as intense as I think?

The next morning, we pile in to a minibus and set out on a winding four-hour drive to Tena, a small city within the Amazon rain forest. From here, we'll take motorized canoes to reach our destination for the next two nights, Liana Lodge. Located on the banks of Arajuno River in the Amazon, it's only accessible by boat, and not after nightfall.

As we round one bend of the road, our van brakes. A car has slid down a cliff and the tow trucks have blocked both lanes to hoist it up. The scene is chaotic with rubberneckers. The wreck is sobering and we wait more than an hour before the road is cleared.

By then, our guides are

worrying about the time.

Solorzano is on the phone, speaking to his boss, trying to make arrangements if we can't beat the sunset. (That's what I love about guided trips: If something goes amok, someone is working on a Plan B.) Our driver laughs it off, telling Solorzano he'll get us to the lodge's canoes on time. And he does, just as dusk threatens.

While we skim over the water up the river, I savour the moment. It's pinch-me significant – my first time in the Amazon rain forest. Are there piranha? Will we meet tribes that rarely connect with our definition of civilization? The sun is kissing the horizon, but I resist the urge to dangle my fingertips in the water.

As we pull up to Liana, I note a candlelight glow through the trees. We're off the grid here. We'll spend two days in the jungle with no electricity. Strangely, there are no torches or

solar-powered lanterns to light the slick uphill path to our cabins. Use your phone, one person suggests. I do – at least until the battery dies.

(That night, travellers and guides will jockey for the outlets located at reception, the only place where there is power – at least some of the time.)

Inside my rustic-chic cabin at Liana, the humidity is palpable and the matches are damp. Finally, the two candles catch and I get washed and dressed for dinner (adding a layer of bug spray for good measure). Mercifully, there's hot water.

Only slipping once on my way back to the lodge, I'm welcomed by a blazing fire pit surrounded by low benches and a long wood table set with candlelit lanterns. At once, calm sets in. We all crack open a beer by the fire before moving to dinner. The meal begins with a delicious soup made from plantain, garlic and onions and an uncomplicated entrée of white rice and fish with salad. Everything comes with fiery house-made hot sauce.

It's been a long day, but not long enough to stop me from taking a guided nighttime trek into the jungle. I follow our guide, excited and nervous. At last count, there were 2.5 million species of insects in the Amazon rain forest; throw in about 1,000 types of frogs, and you've got a nocturnal cacophony that only nature can orchestrate.

The jungle is alive, it vibrates in my ears, matching my heart beating against my chest – then the flashlight reveals some of its wonders: tiny amphibians, geckos and grasshoppers crawling over vibrant green plants, barely distinguishable from the leaves; stick bugs, bats and spiders, oh my! I catch my breath and instinctively check my hair for creepy crawlies.

The next day, we are asked to wear rubber boots for our uphill, two-hour trek through the jungle. Our guide leads the way, wielding his machete to clear the path through particularly thick foliage.

I missed the support of my

favourite hiking boots on this challenging hike, but I was glad to wear the wellies – in some places, we're near knee-deep in a stream, in others, up to our ankles in mud, manoeuvring at times by gripping tree roots or branches. It's tough going but I refuse to slow down (if only to admire the rainbow of blooms and massive trees).

I've promised myself to keep up with this group, many of whom are 20 years my junior. I've pushed myself before: slept on dirt floors in Thai homestays; followed gorilla rangers and their machetes in Uganda; spent a day in Zero G at astronaut training camp at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama. This is doable, too.

The reward for sticking it out is spectacular. Purple orchids, pink hibiscus and bright orange birds of paradise bloom from the forest floor, kapok trees offer a green canopy above. I find joy in the natural beauty, and silently congratulate myself for making it here on my own two feet.

By Day 6, many in our group are exhausted, from the hikes, from the altitude, from the stomach bugs – even my mindful use of bottled water hasn't quite saved me. And on this day, we face the Andes.

At least we're booked into a night at the cozy Hacienda Por Elvenir, about a 90-minute drive from Quito, near Cotopaxi National Park.

Co-owner Jorge Pérez explains the hotel has been in the family for five generations. He points out art collected over the years and reminds me about the spa with steam and sauna and hot tubs.

I feel my adventurous resolve waning. While some in our group horseback ride in the shadow of the Cotopaxi volcano, and others mountain bike, I call timeout. This laid-back, comfortable lodge is just what I need. There's a chair by the roaring fireplace and a glass of red wine with my name on it. I've also got views of Cotopaxi, the snow-capped giant, one of the tallest active volcanoes in the world. Today, that's good enough for me.

IF YOU GO

Intrepid's Ecuador Highlands tour runs throughout the year. The eight-day tour starts at US\$1,093 and includes accommodations, many meals and transfers but not international flights. www.intrepidtravel.com/ca

Pack light and carry good gear. You may be expected to shlep your own luggage, over sometimes wet and slick terrain. Cotopaxi outdoor gear has the Allpa Travel Pack collection of backpacks and roller bags, made from lightweight, water-resistant, durable materials, which stood up to the conditions I experienced on this trip.

Special to The Globe and Mail

The author was a guest of Intrepid Travel and Cotopaxi. Neither company reviewed or approved the story before publication.

Judge orders Sean (Diddy) Combs to be jailed, denied bail

LARRY NEUMEISTER
MICHAEL R. SISAK
JENNIFER PELTZ NEW YORK

Sean (Diddy) Combs was headed to jail Tuesday to await trial in his federal sex trafficking case, after a judge ordered him to be held without bail in a case that accuses him of presiding over a sordid empire of sexual crimes.

The music mogul pleaded not guilty Tuesday to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking. He's accused of inducing female victims and male sex workers into drugged-up, sometimes dayslong sexual performances dubbed "Freak Offs." The indictment against him also refers obliquely to an attack on his former girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, that was captured on video.

Prosecutors wanted him jailed. His attorneys proposed that he be released on a US\$50-million bond



Sean (Diddy) Combs

to home detention with electronic monitoring. U.S. Magistrate Judge Robyn Tarnofsky sided with the government.

Combs, 54, was led out of court without being handcuffed. The Bad Boy Records founder

is accused of striking, punching and dragging women, throwing objects and kicking them – and getting his personal assistants, security and household staff to help him hide it all.

"Not guilty," Combs told a court, standing to speak after listening to the allegations with his uncuffed hands folded in his lap.

"Mr. Combs physically and sexually abused victims for decades. He used the vast resources of his company to facilitate his abuse and cover up his crimes. Simply put, he is a serial abuser and a serial obstructor," Assistant U.S. Attorney Emily Johnson told a court. She also said he had "extensive and exhaustive history of obstruction of justice," including alleged bribery and witness intimidation.

His lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, acknowledged Combs was "not a perfect person."

"There has been drug use. He has been in toxic relationships," Agnifilo told the court. The

lawyer said Combs was receiving "treatment and therapy for things that he needs treatment and therapy for."

He maintained that the case stemmed from one long-term, consensual relationship that faltered amid infidelity. He didn't name the woman, but the details matched those of Combs' decade-long involvement with Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura.

The "Freak Offs," Agnifilo contended, were an expansion of that relationship, and not coercive.

"Is it sex trafficking? Not if everybody wants to be there," Agnifilo said, arguing that authorities were intruding on his client's private life.

Prosecutors, however, said in court papers that they had interviewed more than 50 victims and witnesses and expect the number to grow. They said they would use financial, travel and billing records, electronic data and communications and videos of

the "Freak Offs" to prove their case. Combs nodded his head at times as his lawyer spoke and occasionally leaned over to converse with them when they were not. The impresario watched other parts of the proceeding expressionlessly, looking straight ahead.

Combs was arrested late Monday in Manhattan, roughly six months after federal authorities conducting a sex-trafficking investigation raided his luxurious homes in Los Angeles and Miami.

A conviction on every charge in the indictment would require a mandatory 15 years in prison with the possibility of a life sentence.

The indictment describes Combs as the head of a criminal enterprise that engaged or attempted to engage in sex trafficking, forced labour, interstate transportation for purposes of prostitution, drug offences, kidnapping, arson, bribery and obstruction of justice.

■ COMBS, A14

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ILLUSTRATION BY CATHERINE CHAN

Why is the house I couldn't wait to leave now a fond memory?

FIRST PERSON

These places weren't always ours, they belonged to someone before and will be passed on to others after us, Prabhjot Kaur writes

What is it about houses? Do they ever truly leave you? Even when you think you've left them for good, they somehow manage to creep into your dreams, waking you with the longing you never knew existed.

They tug at your heart, making you wonder if you brought the key to it with you or left it behind. Those houses summon you at the most unexpected hours of the day. No matter how content a home you live in, every time adult life taunts you, a part of you yearns to return to that warm childhood house and snuggle up in that little bed you shared with your siblings. The house you couldn't wait to grow out of is now a refuge-giving memory.

Then there are houses you were hesitant to move into but which became your sanctuary over time. Houses that teach you responsibility and make you pay the bills. Houses where you learn to do chores, cook, clean and do laundry like clockwork. Where you learn to become a host and

cherish relationships. Even though you know you'll eventually leave, you keep loving these houses for the love and learnings they gave you. When you do leave, those houses don't leave you. They cling to you like misty memories that make you let out a deep sigh when you see the rain fall on an icy December night, the first snowflake of winter or the cold and sleepy sunset of an October evening. Those houses live in you.

And there are houses that you build while building your family. The houses whose every nook and corner you have measured. The house where your firstborn slept their first night. The house that witnessed a baby taking its first step, throwing its first tantrum, eating its first meal. Whose furniture fulfilled the criteria of being stain-proof and washable. This house has a wall dedicated to measuring your children's height and the other walls are smothered with crayons and punctured with numerous tiny holes from the birthday banners. How do you move out of these houses? And even if you do, the house comes along, and you carry it in your heart. These places make you feel like you left a piece of your heart behind when you left the town.

But our houses weren't always ours. They belonged to someone before us and probably to someone else before them. They will belong to someone else after us. Somebody will call them their own; the wall with your proudly displayed DIY artwork that haunts you in your dreams will hide behind a bookshelf. The corner where

you watered a giant planter and stained the floor will hold a tiny cat bed. Someone will be making their memories in your haven while a piece of your heart still flutters in there somewhere.

The other day, I walked down a street in my neighbourhood and saw some precious houses that were probably built by the town's first settlers. People who came looking for a peaceful life leaving the known behind. The name plates still carried the dates those houses were first established to shelter their families: 1865, 1902 and 1914. I wondered how many hearts were still fluttering in those houses and if someone somewhere far away was still thinking of the countertops inside or the trees in the yard that their children once climbed.

Houses shelter and nurture you in exchange for a little piece of your soul. They exchange their keys with yours. They provide for you in return for a tiny place in your heart where they could creep into now and then as some faded memories. Those misty memories that knock on your door as an unannounced acquaintance on a Christmas Eve. That's what I love about old houses: You can never take them out of you. Because they were never just houses, they were homes – the homes you made from those houses.

Prabhjot Kaur lives in New Westminster, B.C.

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

Indigenous artist Rebecca Belmore wins Audain Prize

KATE TAYLOR

Indigenous artist Rebecca Belmore is the winner of 2024 Audain Prize, the Audain Foundation announced Tuesday. The \$100,000 prize, one of the richest arts awards in the country, is given annually to a senior British Columbia artist. Belmore, an Anishinaabekwe artist from the Lac Seul First Nation, north of Dryden, Ont., works in both Vancouver and Toronto.

Her multidisciplinary work, including installation, photography and performance, often addresses social and political issues surrounding Indigenous experience.

Last year, she created a large public art piece for the Polygon Gallery in North Vancouver that featured giant orange and blue shirts made of tarpaulin and mounted on the building's façade, in reference to the residential school survivors. Another of her most recognizable works is the photograph *Fringe* of 2008, now in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada. It shows a partially naked woman lying on her side, facing away from the viewer. Her mid-section is covered with a white drape but her whole back is exposed to reveal a long diagonal scar slicing her almost in two. A red beaded fringe has been sewn on to it, echoing droplets of blood. Belmore's 1991 work *Ayum-ee-aawach Oomama-mowan: Speaking to Their Mother* is a giant wooden megaphone that has been installed outdoors in multiple Canadian



Artist Rebecca Belmore's multidisciplinary work often addresses social and political issues surrounding Indigenous experience. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

locations, encouraging the public to speak to Mother Nature.

Her recent solo shows include *Turbulent Water* at the Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia, in 2021, *Reservoir* at the Audain Art Museum in Whistler, B.C., in 2019 and *Facing the Monumental* at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto in 2018. In 2005, she represented Canada at the Venice Biennale.

Previous recipients of the Audain Prize, which was established in 2004, comprise a

composing and music publishing.

The *Hotline Bling* artist will receive the award in recognition of his "unmistakable influence on the music industry and songwriting prowess," SOCAN said in a news release.

Other special achievement winners include Toronto rapper K'naan and the

Hamilton rock band Arkells, who will be presented with a national achievement award for their "outstanding impact on the Canadian music landscape."

This year's SOCAN Awards will take place Sept. 24 in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Combs

FROM A12

Combs and his associates wielded his "power and prestige" to intimidate and lure women into his orbit, "often under the pretense of a romantic relationship," the indictment says.

It says he then would use force, threats and coercion to get the women to engage with male sex workers in the "Freak Offs" – "elaborate and produced sex performances" that Combs arranged, directed, masturbated during and often recorded, creating dozens of videos.

He sometimes arranged to fly the women in and ensured their participation by procuring and providing drugs, controlling their careers, leveraging his financial support and using intimidation and violence, according to the indictment.

The events could last for days, and Combs and victims would often receive IV fluids to recover from the exertion and drug use, the indictment said.

During the searches of Combs's homes earlier this year, law enforcement seized narcotics, videos of the "Freak Offs" and more than 1,000 bottles of baby oil and lubricant, according to prosecutors. They said agents also seized firearms and ammunition, including three AR-15s with defaced serial numbers – two of them, broken into parts, in his bedroom closet in Miami.

Combs's lawyer said his client didn't own the guns at his house, noting that he employs a security company.

The indictment portrays Combs as a violent man who choked and shoved people, hit and kicked victims and sometimes dragged them by their hair, causing injuries that often took days or weeks to heal. His employees and associates sometimes witnessed his violence and kept victims from leaving or tracked down those who tried, the indictment said.

In a court filing, prosecutors accused Combs and an unidentified co-conspirator of kidnapping someone at gunpoint a few days before Christmas in 2011 in order to facilitate a break-in at another person's home. Two weeks later, they wrote, Combs set fire to someone's vehicle by slicing open its convertible top and dropping in a Molotov cocktail.

All of this, prosecutors allege, was happening behind the façade of Combs' global music, lifestyle and clothing business.

As the threat of criminal charges loomed, Combs and his associates pressured witnesses and victims to stay silent, offering bribes and supplying false narratives of what happened, the indictment says.

In November, Ventura filed a lawsuit saying he had beaten and raped her for years. She accused Combs of coercing her, and others, into unwanted sex in drug-fuelled settings.

The suit was settled in one day, but months later, CNN aired hotel security footage showing Combs punching and kicking Ventura and throwing her on a floor. After the video aired, Combs apologized, saying, "I was disgusted when I did it."

The indictment refers to the attack, without naming Ventura, and says Combs tried to bribe a hotel security staffer to stay mum about it.

Douglas Wigdor, a lawyer for Ventura, declined to comment Tuesday.

Combs and his lawyers denied similar allegations made by others in a string of lawsuits.

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DRAKE TO RECEIVE 2024 SOCAN SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD

While many believe Drake came up short in his lyrical feud with Kendrick Lamar, he's claimed a major victory at the 2024 SOCAN Awards.

The Toronto rap star will be named songwriter of the year in the performer category at the awards bash celebrating the best in Canadian songwriting,

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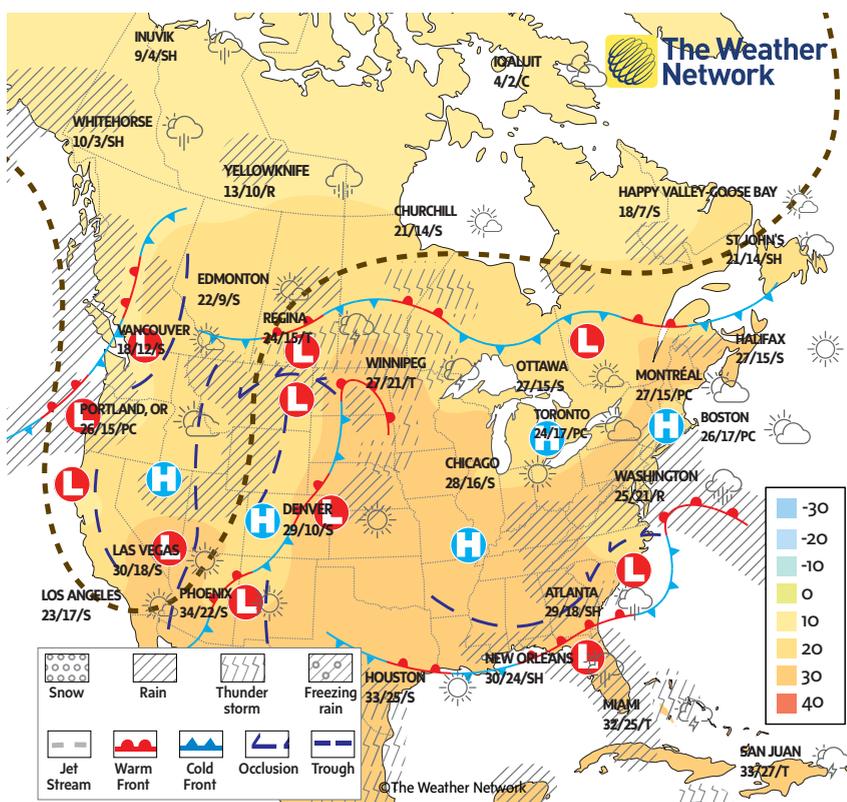
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WORLD FORECAST

Table with columns: CITY, TODAY, TOMORROW, FRIDAY. Lists cities like AMSTERDAM, ATHENS, BANGKOK, BEIJING, BERLIN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, FRANKFURT, HONG KONG, JERUSALEM, LAS VEGAS, LONDON, LOS ANGELES, MADRID, MIAMI, MOSCOW, NEW DELHI, NEW YORK, NICE, ORLANDO, PARIS, PHOENIX, ROME, SAN FRANCISCO, SEOUL, SINGAPORE, SYDNEY, TOKYO, WASHINGTON.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: CITY, TODAY, TOMORROW, FRIDAY. Lists cities like BANFF, BARRIE, BRANDON, CALGARY, CHARLOTTETOWN, CHICAGO, CHURCHILL, CORNER BROOK, CORNWALL, EDMONTON, HALIFAX, HAMILTON, HUNTSVILLE, IQALUIT, JASPER, KELOWNA, KINGSTON, LONDON, MONTREAL, NIAGARA FALLS, NORTH BAY, OTTAWA, PRINCE GEORGE, PETERBOROUGH, QUÉBEC, REGINA, SASKATOON, SAULT STE MARIE, SAINT JOHN, SEPTÎLES, ST. JOHN'S, SUDBURY, THUNDER BAY, THOMPSON, TORONTO, VAL-D'OR, VANCOUVER, VICTORIA, WHISTLER, WHITEHORSE, WINNIPEG, YELLOWKNIFE.



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

BRIDGE
BY STEVE BECKER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

The bidding:

Table showing bidding for North, East, South, West. North: 1[D], 4[S], 5[D], 6[S]. East: Pass, Pass, Pass. South: 1[S], 5[C], 5[S]. West: Pass, Pass, Pass.

Opening Lead – 10 of diamonds.

NORTH

♠ K Q 6 3
♥ A 7
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ K 10 2

WEST

♠ J 10 9 4
♥ K 9
♦ 10 9 8 6
♣ J 8 3

EAST

♠ —
♥ J 6 5 3 2
♦ J 4 2
♣ Q 9 7 5 4

SOUTH

♥ A 8 7 5 2
♦ Q 10 8 4
♣ K 5
♠ A 6

Bad luck is a factor in the outcome of many hands, but there are cases where bad luck can be overcome by good management. Here is a typical example.

Assume you're in six spades and West leads a diamond. At first sight, your only loser appears to be a heart, but when you win the diamond with the king and play the ace of trump, East shows out, and your stock plummets. The slam apparently must now go down one.

But if you have the proper attitude, you realize that all is not yet lost. The situation is not as hopeless as it looks, because you

can still get home safely if the rest of the cards are favourably placed.

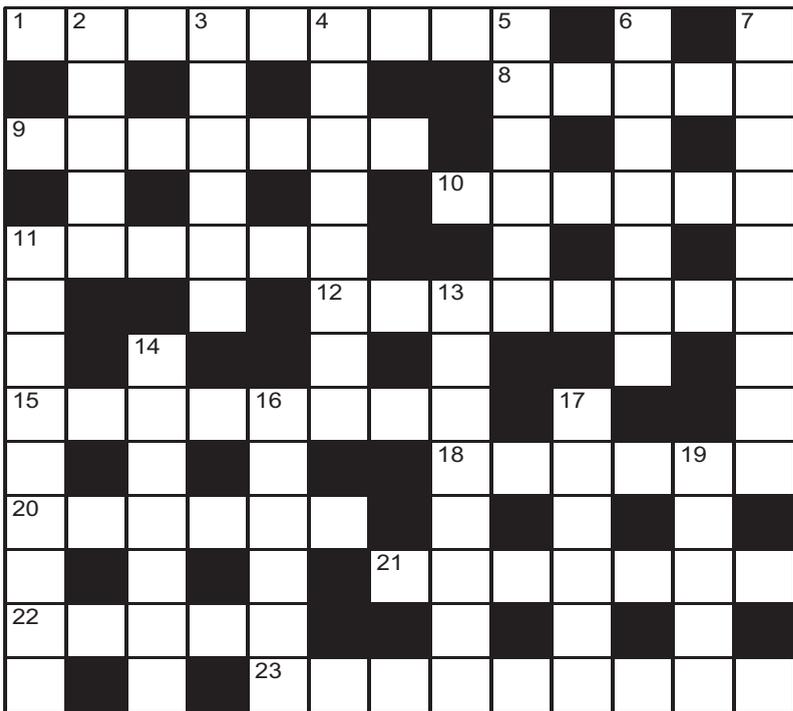
Since there is no way of escaping the trump loser, you set your sights on avoiding the heart loser. You will need some luck to meet this goal – namely, that West was dealt the king of hearts and that you can eventually force him to lead from it.

So you cash the A-K of clubs and ruff a club. Next you play the A-Q of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Finally, you cash the K-Q of trump and, at trick 11, exit from dummy with

a trump.

West has no alternative but to win the trick, and, with only the K-9 of hearts left, he must lead one of them. Whether he leads the nine or the king doesn't matter – in either case you don't lose a heart trick and so make the slam.

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

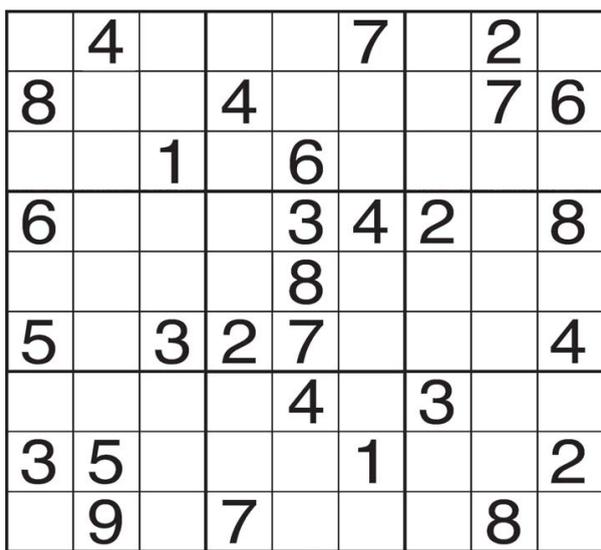
- ACROSS: 1 End with a shout and a squeak (5,4); 8 Main result of canoe capsizing (5); 9 Removal time guaranteed (7); 10 Barbershop singer (6); 11 Make merry and take in a show (6); 12 Expressed at even greater length (8); 15 Hip seams split by stress (8); 18 Goes off with the prizes (6); 20 First start then finish in ridicule (4,2); 21 See jazz group going round Asian capital (7); 22 A charge on collection (5); 23 It brings down the tone when depressed (4,5)
- DOWN: 2 Not insignificant regal order (5); 3 They're worn to order perhaps (6); 4 Unconcerned about being negligent (8); 5 I get involved with tall love story (6); 6 They may be required to be met (7); 7 Tributes paid to confederated labour (5,4); 11 Once rises develop in shares it may disappear (9); 13 A ticket and a drink is what many travellers need (8); 14 Foreign vessel is shrouded in silence (7); 16 Those in the majority (6); 17 Romeo's disposition is melancholic (6); 19 Scales in need of some calibration (5)

QUICK CLUES

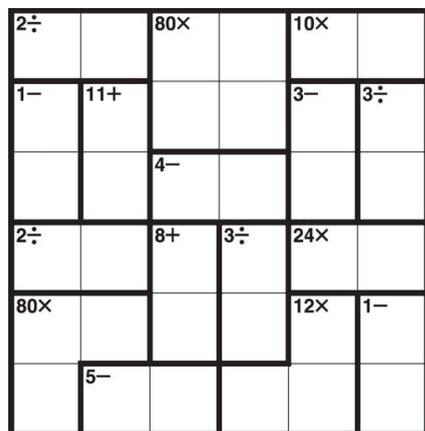
- ACROSS: 1 Difficult situation (5,4); 8 Circumvent (5); 9 Rumour (7); 10 Recoil instinctively (6); 11 Single long step (6); 12 Subvert (8); 15 Arousing compassion (8); 18 Consider (6); 20 Robbery of ships at sea (6); 21 Diabolical (7); 22 Course taken in travel (5); 23 Resist (9)
- DOWN: 2 i.e. (2,3); 3 Recluse (6); 4 Period of surveillance (8); 5 Limit of one's resources (6); 6 Weariness (7); 7 Lacking resolution (4-5); 11 A broadcast serial drama (4,5); 13 Intrude beyond boundaries (8); 14 Horseman's footrest (7); 16 Abstain from (6); 17 Deeply shocked (6); 19 Hold sway (5)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



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



KENKEN

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Secular, 4 Stamp, 7 Rove, 8 Ferryman, 10 Maligner, 12 Seethe, 13 Aithene, 15 Sweepstake, 18 Approach, 19 Kind, 20 Sprig, 21 Spinner.

DOWN: 1 Scram, 2 Cavalier, 3 Reeled, 4 Screen test, 5 Army, 6 Pinnacle, 9 In the wrong, 11 Relation, 12 Sandals, 14 Fences, 16 Eider, 17 Spar.

YESTERDAY'S QUICK

ACROSS: 1 Succumb, 4 Basis, 7 Ugly, 8 Sedative, 10 Far-fetched, 12 Modify, 13 Vagary, 15 Wet blanket, 18 Inimical, 19 Harp, 20 Legal, 21 Ecuador.

Solutions to today's Sudoku and Kenken can be found in the Life & Arts content area of the A section. Crossword solutions will be with tomorrow's puzzles.

REPORT ON BUSINESS

OTTAWA/QUEBEC EDITION ■ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 ■ GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

 S&P/TSX 23,677.70 -24.37	 DOW 41,606.18 -15.90	 S&P 500 5,634.58 +1.49	 NASDAQ 17,628.06 +35.93	 DOLLAR 73.55/1.3596 -0.02/+0.0003	 GOLD (oz.) US\$2,592.40 -16.50	 OIL (WTI) US\$69.96 +0.94	 GCAN (10-YR) 2.89% +0.02
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Changes to immigration policy put foreign students in limbo

Thousands of workers with postgraduation permits may fail to obtain permanent resident status

VANMALA SUBRAMANIAM
FUTURE OF WORK REPORTER

More than 200,000 international students will see their work permits expire by the end of 2025 – many of them, however, might not successfully obtain permanent residence status in that time frame because of recent changes in immigration policy.

New data obtained by The Globe and Mail from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada show that there are

203,260 international students in Canada who hold postgraduation work permits that will expire in the next 15 months. Almost 70,000 of those permits expire between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024.

Postgraduation work permits (PGWP) are issued for between nine months and three years to foreign students who have obtained a diploma or degree at a Canadian college or university.

Obtaining permanent residency as a PGWP holder used to be a fairly predictable process under Express Entry, an immigration system launched in 2015. The system

effectively prioritized high-skilled workers and foreign graduates from Canadian institutions who had Canadian work experience, awarding them a score under the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) and then issued invitations to apply for permanent residence every two weeks to those with the highest scores.

In 2016, the Liberals streamlined the Express Entry system even further to favour international students by awarding them bonus points for having studied at a Canadian postsecondary institution.

■ STUDENTS, B6

Mortgage changes could boost housing sales, realtors, brokers say

RACHELLE YOUNGLAI
REAL ESTATE REPORTER

The relaxation of Canada's mortgage rules has the potential to be a game changer for the housing market, which has been mired in slow sales for about two years.

Realtors and mortgage brokers said they have been inundated with calls since the federal government unveiled two mortgage reforms on Monday that will make it easier for buyers to afford pricier homes.

"We were answering calls pretty consistently all day," said Christine Cowern, founder and managing partner of the Christine Cowern Real Estate Team, who has sold homes in the Toronto area for 17 years. "Our clients' feedback has been that anything to help them relieve monthly financial pressure is a great thing," she said.

Under the new rules, buyers will be allowed to make a smaller down payment on homes up to \$1.5-million instead of up to \$1-million.

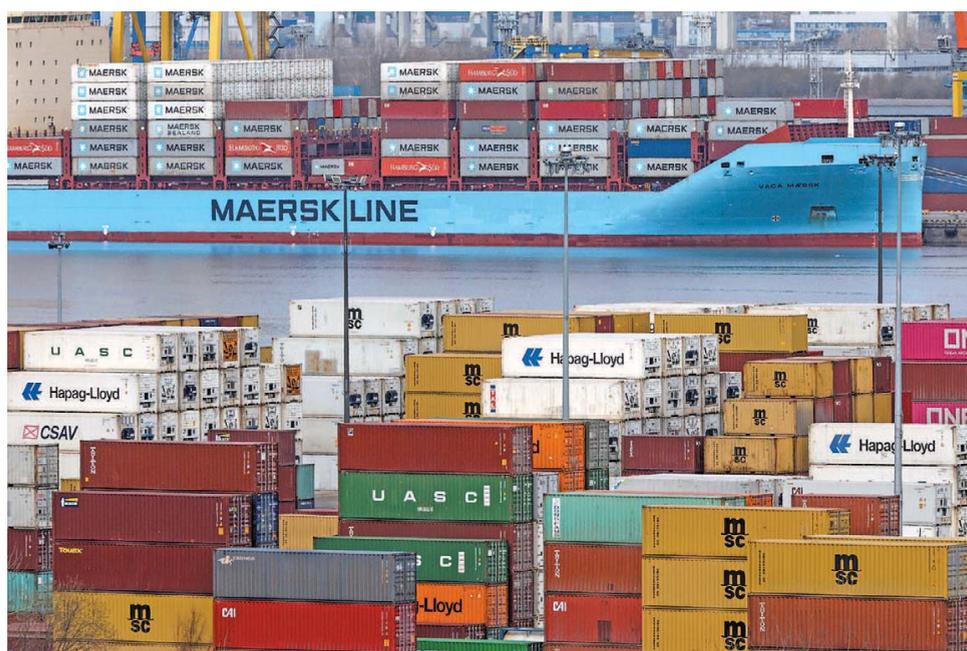
And first-time homebuyers will be allowed to stretch out their payments over 30 years instead of 25 years, which will reduce monthly mortgage payments. The new rules are to go into effect Dec. 15, ahead of the traditionally busy spring selling season.

■ MORTGAGES, B5

Opinion Ottawa continues to stoke housing demand instead of supply ■ B4

How the new mortgage rules could change the math for homebuyers ■ B8

[TRANSPORTATION]



Denmark's AP Moller-Maersk, the world's second-biggest container-ship company, says it expects its business to expand roughly in line with global GDP this year – about 3 per cent, based on the OECD's forecast. REUTERS

Why Maersk isn't losing sleep over fears of a global trade war

Shipper says today's supply chains can adapt quickly to shocks

ERIC REGULY
EUROPEAN BUREAU CHIEF
ROME

Tariffs are rising around the world and Donald Trump could trigger a global trade war if he is elected U.S. president in November. The world's logistics industry knows this only too well, none more than Denmark's AP Moller-Maersk, the world's second-biggest container-ship company.

Traffic will no doubt slow on certain trade routes if tariffs shoot up. But Maersk does not expect its 700 ships to cross oceans with shrunken cargoes if economic nationalism and "near-shoring" – businesses bringing their supply lines closer to home – gathers momentum in some countries.

In an interview with The Globe and Mail, Charles van der Steene, Maersk's Dutch-born president of its North American division, including Canada, said today's supply chains have shown a remarkable ability to adapt quickly to sudden trade friction driven by political factors or crises brought on by climate change or war.

In spite of jacked-up tariffs in various countries, he expects Maersk's business to expand roughly in line with the rise in global GDP this year; the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development expects unchanged growth of 3.1 per cent this year. Exports to the United States from China are down – they plunged 20 per cent, to US\$427-billion, in 2023 – but those from other relatively low-cost countries, among them Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and India, are rising.

■ SUPPLY CHAINS, B6

U.S. to increase scrutiny of bank mergers over antitrust concerns

LAUREN HIRSCH

In the Biden administration's final months, regulators are poised to increase antitrust scrutiny of the U.S. banking industry as part of a broader push to discourage mergers that the White House sees as damaging to consumers and the economy.

On Tuesday, the Democrat-led board of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. voted 3-2 in favour of putting in place more stringent guidelines for evaluating bank deals.

Under the new rules, which were last updated in 2008, the FDIC would require more details from banks proposing to merge and would take into account a broader array of effects when evaluating a deal. The rules are the culmination of a process started after the Biden administration's executive order in 2021 to more aggressively scrutinize competition in industries from technology to agriculture.

Also on Tuesday, the U.S. Justice Department withdrew from a framework established in 1995 that guided how it evaluated deals.

■ BANKS, B6



AVIATION
Boeing restarts labour talks as it seeks to end strike ■ B5

MATT MCKNIGHT/REUTERS

RETAIL
7-Eleven parent's new security rating won't affect a possible buyout, Japan says ■ B2

ENERGY
ATCO submits regulatory application for \$2.8-billion pipeline project ■ B3

COMPANIES

BALLARD POWER SYSTEMS ..	B9
CELESTICA	B9
DYE & DURHAM	B2
KINAXIS	B3
PRAIRIESKY ROYALTY	B9
PREMIUM BRANDS HOLDINGS	B9



[MANUFACTURING]

Up in smoke

Firefighters spray water onto a fire as flames rise at the Motor Oil refinery in Agioi Theodoroi, Greece, on Tuesday

STELIOS MISINAS/REUTERS

Attempt to oust Dye & Durham director can't happen at meeting: judge

Former chairman can still pursue other options to push out his board nominee

SEAN SILCOFF
TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

An Ontario Superior Court judge has complicated, but not blocked, efforts by ex-Dye & Durham Ltd. chairman Tyler Proud to remove his nominee to the board.

Justice Michael Penny denied a request by Tyler Proud and his personal holding company OneMove Capital Corp. to require the Toronto real estate software company, led by brother Matthew Proud, to add a proposal to an upcoming special shareholder meeting to vote off his nominee to the board, Edward Prittie, and replace him with hedge fund manager Eric Shahnian.

At the meeting, called at the behest of activist Engine Capital LP, shareholders are to vote on whether to remove three directors — former chairman Brian Derksen, chair Colleen Moorehead and Leslie O'Donoghue — and replace them with nominees of the hedge fund, which owns 7.1 per cent of the stock.

It was postponed from its original Aug. 20 date because of the litigation. Ms. O'Donoghue resigned this summer. Another activist, Blacksheep Fund Management, also plans to put forward a nominee.

OneMove had also asked the board to add its proposals to the meeting circular. While D&D agreed to nominate Mr. Shahnian, it rejected the request to put forward the proposal to vote off Mr. Prittie, arguing it was invalid because it was related to a personal grievance and had nothing to do with company's business affairs.

Under an investor rights agreement, each of the brothers' holding companies is entitled to nominate a director (who isn't Tyler Proud) at shareholder meetings as long as they own 5 per cent of the stock.

Tyler's OneMove Capital has 8.4 per cent but lacks the unilateral right to remove its nominee from the board.

Mr. Prittie has been his nominee since the company went public in 2021 and elected every time.

Justice Penny concluded that according to Ontario business law a shareholder seeking to remove a director must requisition a special meeting for that purpose "and cannot impose such drastic action simply as a 'tag-along' proposal to a different meeting called for a different purpose."

But the judge disagreed with D&D that Tyler Proud was motivated by a personal grievance or that his effort was unrelated to business affairs.

"The company has not dis-

charged its burden of showing the proposal has been advanced in order to vindicate a personal claim or grievance."

Court filings show Tyler Proud and other shareholders grew increasingly frustrated with D&D's strategic direction, mounting debt, pace of acquisitions and board oversight over management over the past two years. Several investors, including OneMove, pushed chairman Mr. Derksen, when he was still chairman, to resign last fall, then withheld their support for him at the December annual meeting when he didn't.

Tyler Proud told the court he lost confidence in Mr. Prittie this year after learning a search for a new chair wasn't being conducted by the board's corporate, governance and nominating committee but by his brother and Mr. Derksen, and after D&D did a dilutive stock offering months after buying back shares at a higher price.

Justice Michael Penny also ruled the investor rights agreement does not stop OneMove from asking shareholders to remove its nominee 'at a properly constituted shareholder meeting.'

After asking Mr. Prittie to quit to no avail, he decided to take a more formal route by piggybacking on the Engine meeting.

If OneMove had won, it could have led to four dissident-backed outsiders joining the seven-member board, upending the power balance. Now, just three spots will be in contention, leaving four incumbents, assuming D&D appoints a friendly replacement for Ms. O'Donoghue beforehand.

OneMove said in an e-mailed statement it was reviewing the ruling, adding D&D's arguments "highlight the board's desperation to avoid a reckoning with its shareholders and distract from long-standing and ongoing poor governance." D&D's litigation lawyer Joe Groia said: "I hope Tyler comes to his senses and realizes his conduct is not helping the company or its shareholders."

But Justice Penny also ruled the investor rights agreement does not stop OneMove from asking shareholders to remove its nominee "at a properly constituted shareholder meeting."

That means Tyler Proud could either just wait until the annual general meeting in December and propose another nominee, or requisition a separate special meeting to remove Mr. Prittie, Toronto corporate lawyer Phillip Anisman, who isn't involved in the case, said after reviewing the ruling.

U.S. economy on solid ground as retail sales surprise on the upside

LUCIA MUTIKANI WASHINGTON

U.S. retail sales unexpectedly rose in August as a decline in receipts at auto dealerships was more than offset by strength in online purchases, suggesting that the economy remained on solid footing through much of the third quarter.

The report from the Commerce Department on Tuesday also showed retail sales were a bit stronger than initially thought in July. It combined with the decline in the unemployment rate last month to push against financial market expectations for a half-percentage-point interest-rate cut from the Federal Reserve on Wednesday. U.S. central bank officials started a two-day policy meeting on Tuesday.

The Atlanta Fed raised its third-quarter GDP growth estimate to a 3-per-cent annualized rate from a 2.5-per-cent pace after the data. The economy grew at a 3-per-cent pace in the second quarter.

"There does not appear to be any reason for Fed officials to start out with a larger 50-basis-points rate cut because whatever stress there is in the labour market, it isn't translating into weaker economic demand," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWBONDS. "If this is an economy on the brink of recession, consumers certainly don't see it."

Retail sales increased 0.1 per cent last month after an upwardly revised 1.1-per-cent surge in July, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau said. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast retail sales, which are mostly goods and are not adjusted for inflation, falling 0.2 per cent after a previously reported 1-per-cent jump in July. Estimates ranged from a 0.6-per-cent decline to a 0.6-per-cent gain.

Retail sales increased 2.1 per cent on a year-on-year basis in August. Online store sales rebounded 1.4 per cent after falling 0.4 per cent in July. Sales at gasoline stations dropped 1.2 per cent, reflecting lower prices at the pump. Cheaper gasoline is likely freeing money for other spending.

Sales at sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument and book stores increased 0.3 per cent. Building material and garden equipment store sales edged up 0.1 per cent.

Sales at miscellaneous retailers shot up 1.7 per cent, while those at health and personal-

care outlets increased 0.7 per cent.

But sales at food services and drinking places, the only services component in the report, were unchanged after rising 0.2 per cent in July. Economists view dining out as a key indicator of household finances.

Furniture store sales fell 0.7 per cent. Receipts at electronics and appliance outlets dropped 1.1 per cent, while those at clothing retailers decreased 0.7 per cent. Receipts at motor vehicle and parts dealers dipped 0.1 per cent and department store sales tumbled 1.1 per cent.

Some of the decline in sales was likely owing to lower prices rather than volume. Prices for goods, including furniture, have been on a downward trend.

Financial markets saw a roughly 59-per-cent probability of a 50-basis-points rate cut on Wednesday, down from 67 per cent before the retail sales data were published, according to CME Group's FedWatch Tool. The odds of a quarter-point rate reduction were around 41 per cent, up from 33 per cent earlier.

Stocks on Wall Street were trading higher, with the benchmark S&P 500 briefly setting an intraday record high.

The dollar nudged up against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury yields rose.

The Fed has maintained its benchmark overnight interest rate in the current 5.25-per-cent-to-5.5-per-cent range for more than a year, having raised it by 525 basis points in 2022 and 2023.

Most economists expect the central bank to cut interest rates by 25 basis points on Wednesday, arguing that the economy is not in enough distress to warrant the half-percentage-point reduction being anticipated by financial markets.

The unemployment rate fell to 4.2 per cent in August after four straight monthly increases lifted it to a near three-year high of 4.3 per cent in July. The jobless rate has been largely driven by increased labour supply from immigration, which is now slowing.

Layoffs remain low by historical standards, leaving the labour market in a position to continue generating steady wage gains that are supporting consumer spending and the overall economy. Subsiding inflation is lifting household's purchasing power.

REUTERS

7-Eleven parent's new security rating won't affect buyout, Japan's Finance Minister says

MAKIKO YAMAZAKI TOKYO

The new classification of 7-Eleven's parent company as "core" to Japanese national security will not raise hurdles to a potential buyout, Japan's Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said on Tuesday, comments that appeared aimed at easing investor concerns about the move.

"We can't say the core classification makes a buyout more difficult," Mr. Suzuki told reporters, days after Seven & i Holdings Co. became one of 88 companies added to the government's list of companies regarded as crucial to national security.

The change prompted speculation among some market participants that Seven & i, which was previously designated as "non-core," was attempting to better defend itself from a potential takeover by Canada's Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.

Seven & i this month rejected a US\$38.5-billion offer from Circle-K owner Couche-Tard, citing concerns about price.

The potential deal is being closely watched not only for the implications for the retail industry — where it would create a globe-spanning convenience-store giant — but also for further clues about the trajectory of Japan's governance reform.

The benchmark Nikkei share average has powered through a series of record highs this year, a once seemingly impossible feat, as foreign investors have rallied behind what they see as meaningful governance change.

Any whiff of protectionism such as blocking of foreign takeovers on less-than-credible grounds could blunt enthusiasm for both the stock market and mergers and acquisitions (M&A), market participants have said.

"In principle Seven & i's reclassification to core-sector should not change the deal outcome," Jefferies analysts said in a note on Tuesday. "It's a litmus test for government resolve on enhancing corporate/shareholder value through a fair M&A market."

It was not immediately clear what part of Seven & i's sprawling businesses justified the change. The conglomerate runs a security business and a bank, both of which are widely seen as more crucial to Japan's security than its vast network of 7-Eleven stores or its Denny's family restaurants.

Finance Ministry officials said repeatedly at a Friday briefing that the national-security classifications that appear in its list are mainly self-reported by companies and not a government acknowledgment that those in the "core" list are crucial for national security.

Whether a business categorized as "core" is crucial or not will be determined during an actual review, they said.

"Japanese companies had long been unattractive targets, so buyout proposals like this are welcome, especially as Japan is eager to expand foreign direct investment," one senior government official told Reuters.

"A buyout by Couche-Tard will boost Japan's market reputation," the official added.

When a company is categorized as core, foreign entities seeking to buy a stake of 1 per cent or more in the Japanese firm must in principle file for a national security review with the Japanese government prior to the purchase.

In cases where control is sought, however, Mr. Suzuki said prior notification for a review is mandatory "regardless of whether they are categorized as core or non-core."

REUTERS



ATCO Energy Systems' chief operating officer says the Yellowhead Mainline pipeline will be 'an integral part' of a lower-carbon energy ecosystem. LOUIS OLIVER/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

ATCO submits regulatory application for massive \$2.8-billion pipeline

Project expected to be able to deliver up to 1.1 billion cubic feet a day of natural gas

EMMA GRANEY
ENERGY REPORTER

Calgary-based ATCO Energy Systems Ltd. has taken a major step forward on its massive \$2.8-billion natural gas infrastructure project, submitting the first regulatory application for its Yellowhead Mainline pipeline.

The pipeline's planned capacity has already grown since ATCO announced the project in May. If approved, it will consist of approximately 230 kilometres of natural gas pipeline from west of Edmonton to Fort Saskatchewan, just northeast of the provincial capital. The pipeline is expected to have the capability to deliver up to 1.1 billion cubic feet a day of natural gas, reinforcing Alberta's natural-gas network for its growing population and industries.

Wayne Stensby, the chief operating officer of ATCO Energy Systems, told The Globe and Mail that the project emphasizes not just the importance of natural gas to Alberta's economy, but the versatility of the fossil fuel as well.

Yellowhead Mainline, which is essentially a massive expansion of Alberta's existing natural gas transmission system, is the largest infrastructure project in ATCO's history. The plan is to use it to pipe gas to petrochemical companies as the building blocks for their products, to building material companies for low-carbon cement, and to companies manufacturing hydrogen products and their derivatives – many of which will be incorporating carbon capture into their operations to lower greenhouse-gas emissions.

One of those customers is Dow Chemical, for its Path2Zero project – the planned expansion and retrofit of an existing ethylene plant outside Edmonton with carbon-capture technology so it can triple production by the end of the decade.

ATCO chief executive Nancy Southern said in May that she hoped the Yellowhead Mainline project would also boost development in Alberta's Industrial Heartland, a region in Fort Saskatchewan where more than 40 companies

produce fuels, fertilizers, power and petrochemicals.

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

Hydrogen is light, storable and energy-dense. When burned, it produces no direct greenhouse-gas emissions, making it an attractive form of decarbonization. One way to produce hydrogen is by using high-temperature steam to produce hydrogen from a methane source such as natural gas.

Both the federal and Alberta governments have 2050 net-zero greenhouse-gas emission targets. Mr. Stensby said Tuesday the Yellowhead Mainline will be "an integral part" of a lower-carbon energy ecosystem.

"If you look at the ultimate use of the natural gas, I think it fits very well into an ever-reducing carbon economy," he said.

"That, in some ways, is the advantage of the Alberta Industrial Heartland. There are a number of these projects and a number of parties that are working together to bring some of the best minds in the world together to continue to create the energy and the products that we all need, with lower carbon waste."

The original blueprint for Yellowhead Mainline had the system running about 200 kilometres, with a maximum capacity of one billion cubic feet a day of natural gas. Mr. Stensby said the preliminary design identified a number of potential routes of the project, which will likely make it longer and larger than first estimated.

And while infrastructure projects can often exceed their deadlines and budgets, Mr. Stensby said he's hopeful that Alberta's "constructive regulatory regime" will help avoid any massive hurdles, while still giving Yellowhead Mainline the appropriate level of scrutiny.

"If you compare it to perhaps some of the other large projects that have occurred in the last few years, in many ways there are some advantages," he said. "The terrain is a little less challenging; we're not having to go through the mountains, for example, or other areas. So we remain very optimistic."

ATCO Energy Systems expects Yellowhead Mainline construction to begin in 2026 and the project to be on-stream in the fourth quarter of 2027.

“ If you compare it to perhaps some of the other large projects that have occurred in the last few years, in many ways there are some advantages. ... The terrain is a little less challenging; we're not having to go through the mountains, for example, or other areas. So we remain very optimistic.

WAYNE STENSBY
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
ATCO ENERGY SYSTEMS

Kinaxis hires Goldman Sachs for financial advice, but board doesn't seem keen to sell

SEAN SILCOFF
TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

Kinaxis Inc. has hired investment banker Goldman Sachs to advise the company on maximizing shareholder value after recent challenges at the Ottawa software company that have weighed on the stock.

But selling the company, which makes software for supply chain management, does not seem to be high on the priority list. "The board strongly believes that execution of its strategic plan is the best path to maximize shareholder value," Kinaxis said in a news release.

That was met by a fierce rebuke from Kinaxis investor Irenic Capital Management LP, which said in a statement, "We are deeply concerned that the board is not acting responsibly or in the best interests" of the company or shareholders by considering a potential sale. That, it said, "is the right and logical next step." For the board to indicate it plans to stay the course "is irresponsible and contrary to the fiduciary duties of the Kinaxis directors. The Board cannot make a decision about the best path without first considering the alternative paths – and it is clear the Board is simply unwilling to do that."

Kinaxis spokesperson Joel Shaffer said "the Board is focused on enhancing value for shareholders, is fully aware of its fiduciary duties, and will continue to act accordingly."

The move to hire Goldman is one of several changes announced Tuesday and follows last month's surprise announcement that chief executive John Sicard will depart at the end of 2024, as well as subsequent calls by shareholder Daventry Group LP to sell the company, calling it the victim of "self-inflicted and avoidable" mistakes that have left it "dramatically undervalued."

Kinaxis said it then hired Goldman Sachs for financial advice on generating better shareholder returns after the board canvassed shareholders on "the best approaches going forward." ATB Capital Markets analyst Martin Toner said in a note that he believed the company would try to improve its marketing, including selling new products to existing customers. The stock was down slightly in early afternoon trading. Kinaxis also said chairman

Robert Courteau, who replaced Ian Giffen when he left the board this year, would assume a more hands-on role, working closely with Mr. Sicard until a permanent CEO is hired to replace him. Mr. Courteau's title has been bumped up to executive chair for the time being, and long-time board member Angel Mendez has been named lead independent director.

Mr. Sicard's departure was announced in late August along with the unexpected exit of chief sales officer Claire Rychlewski after just a few months on the job. The outgoing CEO will remain an adviser to the company through 2025.

The company also revealed Tuesday that it had hired an unidentified "leading management consultant firm" to work with it on initiatives to increase value, improve profitability margins and capture more of a market it estimates is worth US\$16-billion. Kinaxis is on track to generate between US\$483-million and US\$495-million in sales this year, but its stock has stalled in recent quarters, trading at a discount to other enterprise software companies over concerns about top-line growth. Its share price fell sharply last month after it trimmed its subscription-revenue growth forecast for the year to between 15 per cent and 17 per cent.

Kinaxis has been a stalwart of Canada's software scene and traded at a premium to other software stocks at various points in its 10 years as a public company. The 40-year-old enterprise's product is considered an industry leader, and it boasts blue-chip giants such as Volvo AB, Exxon Mobil Corp. and Pfizer Inc. as customers.

Like other vendors to large enterprises, it has been affected by higher interest rates and economic uncertainty, as clients throttle or stretch out spending plans. At the same time, it hasn't invested as aggressively in growth as it could have, National Bank financial analyst Richard Tse said recently. In a note Monday, Royal Bank of Canada analyst Paul Treiber said sales execution "has been a challenge for the company" and that fixing it "should be priority No. 1."

Still, analysts are positive about its long-term prospects, believing revenue growth can return to the 20-per-cent-plus range if the company applies the proper focus to its issues.

WOODLAND BIOFUELS TO INVEST \$1.35-BILLION AT PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA FOR RENEWABLE FUEL PLANT

Canadian renewable fuel company Woodland Biofuels Inc. announced on Tuesday an investment of US\$1.35-billion at the Port of South Louisiana to establish a renewable natural gas (RNG) plant and ultragreen hydrogen facility.

The Toronto-headquartered company uses waste biomass to produce sustainable biofuel, which can then be used in transportation, heating and electricity generation.

The new facility will be located at the Globalplex facility at the Port of South Louisiana, the

company said in the release, with the first phase of commercial operations set to start in 2028.

Phase 1 of the Woodland project could see the removal of 210,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, and Phase 2 could remove nearly 660,000 tonnes, storing them underground.

The privately held company did not disclose any financial details of the deal.

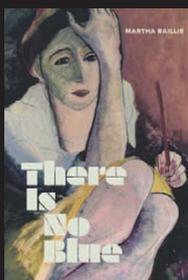
The Louisiana Economic Development would offer a package worth US\$250-million in incentives to Woodland Biofuels, the company said. REUTERS



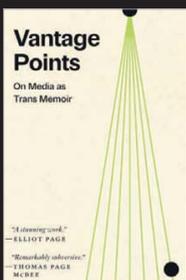
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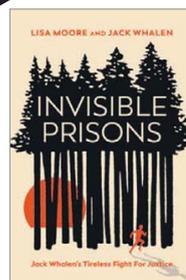
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Jenny Heijun Wills

OPINION & ANALYSIS

Ottawa's new mortgage reforms are flawed

The federal government keeps stoking housing demand instead of addressing supply

DANIEL DORMAN
PETER COPELAND

OPINION

Daniel Dorman is the managing editor and director of operations at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and a contributor to Young Voices.

Peter Copeland is the deputy director of domestic policy at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute.

The federal government just announced what it is calling the “boldest mortgage reforms in decades to unlock home ownership for more Canadians.” Unfortunately, there are good reasons to be skeptical that the proposed measures will help anyone buy a first home.

The government is implementing two new measures: increasing the \$1-million price cap for insured mortgages to \$1.5-million and expanding the eligibility for 30-year amortizations to all first-time homebuyers and all buyers of new builds.

The first is meant to address the fact that mortgage insurance is mandatory when the down payment is less than 20 per cent of the sale price; that affects many prospective buyers in markets where the average home price is more than \$1-million.

The second measure, expanding the eligibility for 30-year mortgages, stretches the loan over a longer period and therefore allows buyers to make lower monthly payments.

Both are flawed. The message, “Don’t worry, millennials, you can buy a home, you’ll just have a lot more debt for a lot longer,” isn’t the winning policy the government seems to think it is. Providing more paths to finance million-dollar homes is simply failing to address the core issues of

limited supply and out-of-control prices.

In essence, Canada has a lack of housing supply, not a lack of demand. These measures seem likely to simply widen the pool of eligible buyers without concretely increasing supply or dealing with the residential construction industry’s productivity problem.

When the government first announced limited eligibility for 30-year mortgages in June, it claimed the measure was targeted enough to avoid creating demand: “To make it easier for younger Canadians to reach the dream of home ownership and to encourage new supply, while avoiding inducing housing demand, the government has carefully designed this measure to only apply to first-time buyers purchasing newly built homes.”

But now they’re throwing caution to the wind. And, as we know, when demand goes up, so do prices. It is conceivable that these measures will do more harm than good.

Counterproductive housing

policies are also not without precedent. The First Home Savings Account, which offers an attractive, tax-advantaged way to save for a down payment, is another example of a solution destined to simply drive demand.

Where to from here? The government should start by following its own advice and sticking to measures that won’t increase demand.

Many of the most important levers to address housing supply lie at the provincial and municipal levels. However, local politicians often lack the incentive to expand urban and suburban boundaries, amend zoning laws or streamline permit processes. These decisions can spark backlash from voters concerned about environmental issues, urban sprawl or high-rise developments in their neighbourhoods.

Provincial governments could mitigate these concerns by implementing targeted regulatory changes in specific municipalities, thereby distributing the responsibility for development

more evenly. If the federal government were serious about tackling the housing crisis, it could work with the provinces to break the political deadlock where needed policy changes are often avoided to appease well-housed voters. In exchange, Ottawa could offer provinces much-needed infrastructure funding to incentivize reforms that, while unpopular with some, would be embraced by voters eager to enter the housing market.

Moreover, the federal government needs to take a hard look at its immigration policy over the past few years. Our policy can’t be considered “compassionate” if newcomers struggle with housing insecurity. We’re letting in a great deal more people than we’re building houses for. With its focus on mortgages and lending policy, the government is only making it look like it’s doing something.

These latest mortgage reform policies will only spur demand – and demand is already spinning out of control.



Fans take pictures in front of an Oasis mural in Manchester, England. Liam and Noel Gallagher are reuniting for a tour across Britain and Ireland. CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Why we need dynamic pricing for Oasis concert tickets – and other items, too

DAVID JONES

OPINION

Director at Cambridge Economic Policy Associates, a fellow-in-residence at the C.D. Howe Institute and an associate at the Canadian Centre for Health Economics

A fortnight ago, in response to huge demand, ticket prices surged for the 1990s Britpop band Oasis’s long-awaited reunion tour across Britain and Ireland.

Dynamic pricing – the practice of allowing prices to fluctuate in response to changes in market conditions – is rarely a fan’s favourite. Just ask Wendy’s customers about the chain’s previous plans to introduce it in 2025. But step back and we’ll see that dynamic pricing – when used in the right context and appropriately implemented – fulfills an important role.

If a good or service is in short supply, allowing the price to rise can naturally identify who wants it the most, similar to an auction. It narrows the field of buyers to those who offer the highest prices and have the greatest willingness to pay, albeit there may be an equity trade-off, as rising prices are less of a disincentive for high-income households and wealthy corporations.

Therefore, dynamic pricing helps to manage the level of demand. For example, allowing energy prices to increase during peak demand is an efficient way to manage capacity. It helps energy system operators avoid blackouts and incentivizes flexible customers to use cheaper energy during off-peak hours. In Britain, British Gas offers half-price electricity to customers on Sunday afternoons. This can even increase the proportion of renewable energy consumed.

Dynamic pricing also induces supply. Uber provides the best example: As prices surge, more potential drivers may be incentivized to offer their services. As a potential rider, we don’t like the price surge, but we still prefer to pay the higher price than to stand in the cold.

And we should keep in mind that dynamic prices don’t always go up – they sometimes fall. If you’ve ever bought food with a half-price sticker at the supermarket, you’ve benefited from dynamic pricing. Much of the unfavourable sentiment surrounding dynamic pricing is because many people only associate it with higher prices.

Lastly, dynamic pricing may help to reduce the size of unofficial secondary markets. Concert tickets are a good example: If ticket prices for the Oasis reunion tour were very low, it

would incentivize ticket scalping owing to high potential profits. Although dynamic pricing means higher profits for the bands and their management teams, it at least deters unofficial ticket agents from crowding out potential buyers during the formal sale process.

The golden thread is that dynamic pricing offers benefits to at least some groups of potential customers. There is some method in the madness.

Our instinctive outrage toward dynamic pricing requires a sense check. Is dynamic pricing a vehicle for corporations seeking to increase their profits? Almost certainly, but this is by no means exclusive to dynamic pricing: Firms often set high prices without those prices being dynamic.

The Oasis ticket pricing controversy boils down to three main issues.

First, it wasn’t clearly communicated that dynamic pricing was in use. There is a whiff of sneakiness that customers don’t like. It could even have legal consequences, with Britain’s Competition and Markets Authority announcing that it will investigate the incident.

Second, dynamic pricing for highly anticipated events creates a sense of helplessness and uncontrollability over the eventual price paid. There is limited visibility for customers over the length of the online queue and the price that will be charged once they reach the front of the line.

In contrast, in some circumstances (such as flights and hotels) we more readily accept that prices could change. But in these cases, customers can typically guard against high prices by booking in advance.

Third, and most importantly, no one likes paying more for something, particularly when it is unexpected. This is not specific to dynamic pricing, but is certainly exacerbated by it, and therefore makes dynamic pricing a natural target for frustration around higher prices.

Improvements to the recent Oasis experience are clearly possible. Most obviously, through clearer communication around the pricing rules in play, which particularly helps to protect vulnerable customers. Dynamic pricing can also exist within a hybrid pricing system to ensure that low-income households are not entirely priced out. For example, some tickets for the Wimbledon tennis tournament are set aside for people who physically queue up each day.

But the villain isn’t specifically dynamic pricing itself. In the right context, dynamic pricing has much to offer. With increasing digitization, data-driven algorithms and artificial intelligence, we’re likely to see more dynamic pricing in the years to come.

Time is running out to deal with costs of aging on our economy

PARISA MAHBOUBI
WILLIAM ROBSON

OPINION

Parisa Mahboubi is a senior policy analyst at the C.D. Howe Institute, where William Robson serves as president and chief executive.

Canada is facing a demographic shift that will put immense strain on our health care system and public finances.

We currently have about three working-age (18-64) adults for every senior (65+). By 2067, we will have only two working-age adults per senior. This shift will slow growth in the economy and government revenues while pushing health care expenses up.

The resulting fiscal pressure will be felt across the country, but will be much more intense in some provinces and territories than in others. For example, Newfoundland and Labrador, where the population is aging rapidly and the working-age population is falling, will face especially daunting challenges. Our projections show that it would need to raise the taxes the provincial government collects itself by an astounding two-thirds just to meet the rising costs of health care.

Expressing the required increase in provincial tax rates across the country as a liability comparable to more familiar measures of government debt yields similarly staggering numbers. In Ontario alone, the projected cost increase over the next 45 years has a present value of \$723-billion, equivalent to 70 per cent of the province’s gross domestic product (GDP). The equivalent national figure is more than \$2-trillion.

This pressure will lead to more and louder calls for increased federal transfers to struggling provinces. But experience has taught some important lessons about the limits, and even the perils, of federal money. When the federal government itself gets into fiscal trouble, previously promised money can dry up. Federal transfers blur accountability for actually delivering good health care services. And bailing out one or two provinces could precipitate a political, and even a fiscal, crisis. Far better would be to address the revenue and health care cost issues in more systematic ways.

On the revenue side, the focus must be raising productivity and the tax base. Each worker will need to produce more to sustain their own wages and support public services. More investments in human and physical capital can equip Canadian workers better to adapt, compete and earn high wages. Expanding the tax base by increasing work-force participation, particularly among parts of the population that currently participate less, will also mitigate the effects of demographic aging.

Shifting toward consumption taxes such as the GST/HST (the federal goods and services tax and the federal/provincial harmonized sales tax), which are

less sensitive to demographic shifts, could provide a more stable revenue stream. Consumption taxes capture revenue from spending, which remains more constant even as the population ages, making them a crucial component of a sustainable fiscal strategy.

On the expense side, seniors inevitably require more medical attention than younger people, so containing health care costs will be largely a matter of shifting the focus of senior care from expensive hospital and long-term care settings to more cost-effective home and community-based care. That would not only produce better care per dollar spent, it would also align with the preference of many seniors to receive care in or closer to home. Expanding the roles of nurse practitioners and pharmacists in providing care can also help manage health care costs without sacrificing quality. These health care professionals can perform many tasks currently handled by doctors, freeing up physicians to focus on more complex cases.

We currently have about three working-age (18-64) adults for every senior (65+). By 2067, we will have only two working-age adults per senior.

We also need to address a widespread misconception about long-term care. Many Canadians mistakenly believe that governments will cover most of their future care needs, leading to inadequate private savings and investment in appropriate services. A clearer delineation of public and private responsibilities, alongside policies that encourage personal savings, is essential.

Ideally, we would prefund more of the services seniors will need in their later years, akin to the reform of the Canada Pension Plan in the 1990s. Requiring today’s workers to contribute more toward their future long-term care needs would distribute costs more equitably across generations and reduce the burden on future taxpayers. A similar approach would make sense for the drug treatments we know more of us will need over time.

The demographic challenges we face are significant. The slow pace of change should not lull us into complacency. Every year of inaction reduces our options and increases the cost of eventual solutions.

This is about ensuring inter-generational fairness and maintaining the quality of life that Canadians expect and deserve. We need political leaders to move beyond short-term thinking and focus on long-term reforms. And as citizens, we must be ready to adapt – working longer, saving more and adjusting expectations about the public services we should expect in our later years.

Aging is already squeezing the budgets of Canadian governments. We should act before it gets worse.

Boeing, union negotiators to resume contract talks

The development comes days after thousands of workers went on strike

NIRAJ CHOKSHI

Boeing Co. and its largest union restarted contract negotiations Tuesday with the help of federal mediators, days after thousands of workers rejected a previous offer and went on strike.

The walkout, which began Friday, has already drastically slowed the company's production of commercial airplanes because most of the union's more than 33,000 members work in manufacturing in the Seattle area. The company makes several airplanes, including the 737 Max, its most popular, in two factories outside the city. If the strike lasts for several weeks, analysts estimate that Boeing, which was already in a financially precarious position before the stoppage began, could lose billions of dollars.

Workers last week overwhelmingly rejected a tentative contract



A walkout by Boeing staff has already drastically slowed the company's production of commercial airplanes. JENNIFER BUCHANAN/REUTERS

that Boeing and union officials had negotiated, saying that it fell well short of what the union had initially sought on raises, retirement benefits and other issues. But in a message to employees Monday, Boeing's chief financial officer, Brian West, said that the company was "working in good faith" on a new deal that reflected worker feedback and allowed the company to return to normal op-

erations.

Tuesday's meeting is taking place in Seattle, where small teams from Boeing and the union have convened with representatives from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, a government agency that helps to resolve labour disputes.

For Boeing, the consequences of the walkout will depend on its length.

The union's last strike, in 2008, lasted nearly two months. Boeing said in securities filings at the time that because of the strike, it delivered 104 fewer planes than expected that year, and its annual revenue dropped US\$6.4-billion.

Boeing has since moved assembly of its 787 Dreamliner to a non-union plant in North Charleston, S.C. If the current strike lasts as long as the previous one, it could still cost Boeing at least US\$3-billion, according to an estimate from Cai von Rumohr, a research analyst at the investment bank TD Cowen.

In his message Monday, Mr. West, the chief financial officer, said that Boeing would establish cost-cutting measures, including freezing hiring and non-essential travel. The company is also considering temporary furloughs and planning "significant" cuts to purchases from suppliers, he said.

Most of the workers covered by the talks are represented by District 751 of the machinists union in Seattle. A small number work at a parts plant in Portland, Ore., and are represented by District W24 of the union.

When negotiations began in March, workers were resentful of the loss of pension benefits a decade ago, which the union had sought to reinstate, and the decision to move the assembly of the 787 from Washington to South Carolina. At the time, the union said it was seeking a 40-per-cent raise.

The offer that the workers rejected last week included a 25-per-cent raise, an increase in 401(k) contributions from Boeing and a commitment to build a new commercial plane in the Seattle area.

The strike is the first big public test for Kelly Ortberg, who became Boeing's CEO last month.

The company's deliveries of the 737 Max were rising last year after the pandemic disrupted its operations and supply chain. But that recovery was derailed when a panel blew off one of the jets during an Alaska Airlines flight in January. The episode renewed concerns about Boeing's commitment to quality and safety five years after two fatal crashes involving the 737 Max.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Mortgages: Agent says prospective homebuyers are excited about changes

FROM B1

Conrad Zurini, owner of Re/Max Escarpment Realty in the Hamilton region, said he fielded calls from more than a dozen clients with questions about how much they will save in monthly payments as well as about concerns the reforms will drive up home prices.

Mortgage insurance, which protects banks if a homeowner defaults on their mortgage payment, is currently not available if a home costs more than \$1-million.

The insurance is required if the down payment is less than 20 per cent of the purchase price, which means prospective buyers

have had to have at least \$200,000 for a down payment for a home that is priced at \$1-million.

With the mortgage-insurance threshold set to rise to \$1.5-million in mid-December, more people will be able to buy in the Vancouver and Toronto regions where the typical home price tops \$1-million.

"Houses valued between \$1-million and \$1.5-million will see a surge in demand," said James Laird, co-founder of mortgage brokerage and lender CanWise.

Mr. Zurini, who has sold homes in the Hamilton-Niagara region for three decades, said the higher insurable amount will allow buyers to compete just over

the \$1-million mark and perhaps offer \$1,050,000.

Tuli Parubets, a mortgage agent with Mortgage Scout in Toronto, agreed the changes would help buyers compete for homes in that range. Ms. Parubets said she received about 17 calls from borrowers and realtors on the day the reforms were announced. She said her prospective homebuyers were excited about the changes and said one of her clients is now considering a townhouse with a garden instead of a relatively cheaper condo.

Royal LePage has said the higher insured value means buyers will have an easier time buying in more than a dozen ci-

ties where the median price of a detached home is between \$1-million and \$1.5-million.

Those cities include Ajax, Brampton, Burlington and Milton in Ontario as well as Langley, Abbotsford, Kelowna and Victoria in B.C.

"It will make a dramatic difference in all our expensive markets," said Neil Bosdet, a sales representative with Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty, who has sold homes in the Victoria region for a dozen years.

Home sales have been slow since the Bank of Canada started raising interest rates in early 2022. Although the central bank cut interest rates three times since June, activity remains slow

as mortgage rates are still relatively expensive. The most recent national sales numbers in August continued to be below historical monthly averages.

Mr. Bosdet described the market as quiet and said the mortgage reforms along with the interest-rate cuts will help bring back first-time homebuyers.

He called the higher insurance cap a "really big" change and said the new measures "opens up so much more."

First-time homebuyers accounted for 44 per cent of all the purchases with mortgages in Canada in the first quarter of this year compared with just over 50 per cent in 2014, according to data from the Bank of Canada.

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2025 TRIPS

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- PORTUGAL May 2 - 9
- SPAIN May 11 - 18
- NORWAY May 19 - 26

[INFRASTRUCTURE]



What a bore

Mining engineers inspect the progress of the Mary Ann tunnel boring machine in the Bromford Tunnel – HS2's gateway to Birmingham – on Tuesday in Water Orton, England.

CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Supply chains: Companies are building production lines beyond China amid global trade war fears

■ FROM B1

"The global supply chain we know today has been built over many decades," Mr. van der Steene said. "We'll see adjustments, in some cases triggered by political motivations, but we don't believe it will change fundamentally as a result. For example, in Asia, the 'China Plus One' strategy is seeing many of our customers expand their sourcing footprint to Southeast Asia."

He was referring to the relatively new business strategy of manufacturers investing in other countries besides China to build supply chain diversification.

Maersk was founded in 1904 in Denmark, evolved into a container business in the 1970s and 1980s, and has a market value of US\$23-billion. It and its big-name rivals, among them China's COSCO and Switzerland's Mediterranean Shipping, have used fleets of ever-bigger container ships and an expanding network of logistics hubs to turn oceans and seas into highways.

Exports from Southeast Asia are surging even as American and European tariffs crimp Chinese exports.

A September McKinsey & Co. report noted Southeast Asia's rising role in global supply chains. Foreign direct investment in new manufacturing sites in China fell 17 per cent between 2019 and 2023; it rose 20 per cent in Southeast Asia in the same period. "Southeast Asia is emerging as a global manufacturing hub, presenting opportunities for logistics companies," McKinsey said.

Companies everywhere are building production lines beyond China. For instance, Italy's Pinarello, a maker of expensive carbon racing bikes, recently added a Vietnamese factory to supplement its Chinese one. The upshot for Maersk and other logistics players is whatever China takes away, Southeast Asia and India will give.

"Pure economic decision-making, with the arbitrage of labour costs and the diversification of supply chains, are forcing manufacturers to look for different ways to



AP Moller-Maersk was founded in 1904 in Denmark, evolved into a container business in the 1970s and 1980s, and has a market value of US\$23-billion. JON NAZCA/REUTERS

get their goods to the West," Mr. van der Steene said.

Still, there is no doubt that a full-fledged trade war between the United States and China, or the U.S., the European Union and China, could cut trade on some routes. Earlier this month, Mr. Trump said that, if elected, he would impose a tariff of 100 per cent on imports from countries that move away from the dollar.

He had already promised to impose tariffs of 10 per cent to 20 per cent on all imported goods, and as high as 60 per cent on Chinese goods, as part of his America First economic agenda.

The Democrats have embraced tariffs, too. The United States, under President Joe Biden, has placed 100-per-cent tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles. Canada did the same in August. The EU has also imposed tariffs on Chinese EVs, though at far lower levels than the American and Canadian ones.

Adapting to tariffs is not the only issue at Maersk. Dealing with natural disasters and wars also requires quick strategic shifts. A severe drought dropped water lev-

els in the Panama Canal last year and into this year, forcing ships to wait weeks to cross. In the Red Sea, attacks on shipping by Yemen's Houthis have seen logistics companies, including Maersk, divert most or all of their traffic around the Cape of Good Hope, adding nine or 10 days to the journey between Asia and northern Europe.

Mr. van der Steene said the company has been agile in dealing with the Red Sea crisis. It boosted shipping capacity by 6 per cent to 7 per cent to make up for the longer shipping times around South Africa. It also has a fleet of 10 freighter aircraft – "We have our own airline" – that can deliver goods to any customer who needs a crucial product in a hurry.

"The network we have built up goes beyond ships," he said. "Along with ocean terminals, it now includes trucks, planes, trains and warehouses."

"So, no, we are not really worried about tariffs going up in some countries. If there is a disruption, we can pivot quite quickly from one entry point to the other and still deliver the goods for our customers."

Banks: Agency to ensure local communities would benefit from deals

■ FROM B1

Assistant attorney-general Jonathan Kanter has said that the 1995 rules, which predate the rise of financial technology, need modernizing. The Justice Department will now assess banking mergers through the same updated, tougher guidelines it uses for every other deal.

While the Justice Department does not have direct authority to approve banking deals, regulators often refer to its competitive analysis in making their decisions. After approval by regulators, the Justice Department can generally still sue to block a deal.

The question of how to oversee bank mergers has been especially divisive in the wake of last year's regional banking crisis. Some officials and regulators, including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, have argued that more consolidation among the roughly 4,100 small U.S. banks could help steady industry volatility. Others question any banking deal that shifts power away from a community or threatens to close vital community branches.

Under current rules, the FDIC assesses the competitive landscape for bank deals primarily by looking at overlapping geographic areas in which customers make bank deposits. The proposed rules, published earlier this year, would expand that process to consider other criteria, such as a bank's lending to small businesses and the impact of a deal on certain groups of customers. To support its assessment, the agency would request analyses prepared by the merging banks about the competitive effects.

The question of how to oversee bank mergers has been especially divisive in the wake of last year's regional banking crisis.

The FDIC would also request data from companies to prove that a deal would benefit the local community – for example, by allowing a bank to increase its lending limits. As a condition for approving a deal, the agency would give itself the authority to monitor whether a bank had abided by its promises.

Deals creating banks larger than US\$100-billion in assets would get heightened scrutiny, with regulators evaluating the extent to which the new bank is interconnected with the financial system, among other factors.

The FDIC is one of three agencies that approve banking deals, alongside the Federal Reserve and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. In 2019, the FDIC approved the merger of BB&T and SunTrust Banks that created Truist Financial Corp. It does not have oversight of Capital One Financial Corp.'s US\$35.3-billion acquisition of Discover Financial Services, which is currently being scrutinized by the Fed and the OCC.

The proposed changes have generated significant pushback from the banking industry, as well as from some former regulators, who argue that they are overly discretionary and could have the unintended impact of weakening smaller banks.

The rules "would leave the outcome of a proposed merger unclear and primarily at the discretion of the FDIC, and in doing so make the process increasingly arbitrary and uncertain," Sheila Bair, a former chair of the FDIC, and Thomas M. Hoenig, a former vice-chair of the FDIC, wrote in a comment about the proposal.

"This will have a chilling impact on positive M&A banking activity," they added, "including among regional banks where consolidation could strengthen their ability to compete with the mega banks."

Others have lauded the new rules.

"Bank executives propose mergers when they're good for business," wrote Sherrod Brown, a Democrat who chairs the Senate committee on banking, housing and urban affairs.

It's the job of agencies like the FDIC, he said, to make sure mergers are "also good for consumers and communities. For too long, the impact of proposed mergers on people's livelihoods has been an afterthought."

Students: Ottawa's current immigration policy aims to reduce level of temporary residents, stabilize level of permanent ones

■ FROM B1

By the end of August this year, there were 471,810 PGWP holders, more than triple the number of permit holders from 2018, according to federal government data.

But as the number of permanent-residency (PR) hopefuls increased, a series of policy changes made during the pandemic unintentionally made it more difficult for PGWP holders to transition to PR status.

Ottawa halted a policy introduced during the pandemic that granted 18-month extensions to PGWPs to help ease a labour shortage. Those extensions would have enabled those with expiring PGWPs to wait out a backlog in PR applications that had accumulated during the pandemic.

The government also changed its criteria for selection within the Express Entry system – it began prioritizing French speakers and people with job experience in health care, skilled trades, agriculture, transportation and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields as opposed to those with Canadian-specific education and experience. PR draws for the Canadian Experience Class immigration stream that most PGWP holders use were paused for almost three years, between August, 2021, and May, 2024. When draws resumed, the cut-off score to gain permanent residency in the Express Entry system had increased substantially, making it almost impossible for many applicants with a Canadian education and work experience to

qualify. Recently, hundreds of international students on expiring PGWPs set up a protest site in Brampton, Ont., campaigning for Ottawa to grant them an extension to their visas and a "fair pathway" to permanent residency – specifically, a guarantee that draws from all streams of the Express Entry system will be conducted regularly.

IRCC did not respond specifically to a query from The Globe about the percentage of PGWP holders with permits expiring in 2024 and 2025 that will be granted permanent residency.

Historical data from Statistics Canada show that between 2016 and 2020, approximately 40 per cent of PGWP holders were granted PR status within two years of receiving their work permit. Between 2011 and 2015, 73 per cent of PGWP holders obtained permanent residency within five years of receiving their work permit.

In an e-mailed statement, the ministry noted that work experience gained through holding a PGWP did not necessarily guarantee permanent residency.

Aissa Diop, director of communications for Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, said that the government's current policy on immigration is to reduce the level of temporary residents and stabilize the level of permanent residents. "Part of the reduction in temporary residents includes transitioning some of them to permanent residency. But if they don't qualify under any permanent resident program, then they have to go home.

We cannot keep opening the taps saying everyone is welcome here," she told The Globe in a recent interview.

There were 2.8 million temporary residents in Canada as of the first quarter of 2024, according to data from Statistics Canada. They comprise 6.8 per cent of the total population, up from 3.5 per cent two years ago. Temporary residents include international students, people on temporary work permits and asylum claimants.

There is an immense disconnect between the government's proposed permanent resident approvals and the number of temporary residents already in the country, notes John Carlaw, an assistant professor at Toronto Metropolitan University specializing in immigration and refugee policy. Canada is aiming to admit 485,000 permanent residents in 2024, 500,000 in 2025 and another 500,000 in 2026. This year, Ottawa is planning to issue permanent residency to 110,770 applicants in the Express Entry pool, the most popular PR pathway for PGWP holders. Next year that number is 117,500.

"We have hundreds of thousands of people coming to Canada, many of them international students, with the expectation that they would obtain permanent residency," Dr. Carlaw said.

"But the figures the government sets out for PR in their immigration levels plan does not recognize the extent of migration into Canada. We are not providing a clear pathway to permanent residence for many."

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How new mortgage rules affect homebuyers

While the changes will make it easier for first-time buyers to purchase a home, they could wind up paying much more in interest

ERICA ALINI

New federal rules would help homebuyers access lower mortgage rates for pricier properties and pay smaller instalments over a longer time period, but the changes would also allow borrowers to take on more debt and pay more interest on it.

Under the coming regime, set to take effect Dec. 15, buyers will be able to get a mortgage with default insurance – which is mandatory for those with less than a 20-per-cent down payment on their home – for properties worth as much as \$1.5-million, up from a cap of \$1-million.

The federal government, which announced the new rules Monday, will also allow first-time homebuyers to take a maximum of 30 years to repay an insured mortgage on any type of home. And all buyers, including investors, will have access to 30-year mortgages if they are buying a newly built home. Until recently, buyers with less than 20 per cent down could take a maximum of 25 years to repay their debt.

While the new rules will make it easier for first-time buyers to purchase a home, they could pay tens of thousands of dollars more in interest if they take out bigger mortgages and take longer to pay them off, according to Penelope Graham, a mortgage expert at financial products comparisons site Ratehub.ca.

“This is an important caveat that should be taken into consideration by anyone weighing their payment options,” Ms. Graham said in an e-mail.

Consider a buyer who purchases a property worth \$649,096 – equivalent to the average home price in Canada as of August – with a 10-per-cent down payment, which would require mortgage insurance. Today, this buyer would have to take a mortgage with an amortization – the time it takes to pay the mortgage – no longer than 25 years in most cases.



ISTOCK PHOTO

Taking 30 years instead of 25 years to repay an average mortgage

Calculations are based on a home price of \$649,096 (the national average in Canada for August, 2024), a 10-per-cent down payment and a five-year fixed mortgage rate of 4.09 per cent (the best available as of Sept. 16, 2024 on Ratehub.ca). Please note that the calculation of overall mortgage charges assumes that borrowers maintain the same interest rate over the life of the mortgage instead of renegotiating it every few years at the end of each mortgage term, as they would do in real life.

	MONTHLY PAYMENT	INTEREST PAID AFTER 5 YEARS	TOTAL INTEREST PAID OVER THE LIFE OF THE MORTGAGE
25-year amortization	\$3,198	\$114,704	\$357,000
30-year amortization	\$2,895	\$116,640	\$439,827
Difference	-\$303	\$1,936	\$82,827

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: RATEHUB.CA

Buying the average Toronto home with the new minimum down payment and a 30-year mortgage

Calculations are based on Toronto's average home price as of August, 2024, which was \$1,082,200. We assume that current down payment rules for insured mortgages will apply to homes worth up to \$1.5-million. In such a scenario, the minimum down payment would be 7.69 per cent. The 4.79-per-cent mortgage rate reflects the lowest available five-year fixed rate for an uninsured mortgage as of Sept. 16 on Ratehub.ca. The 4.09-per-cent rate was the lowest insured five-years fixed as of the same date.

	LOWEST MORTGAGE RATE	DOWN PAYMENT	MONTHLY PAYMENT	MORTGAGE SIZE*	TOTAL INTEREST PAID OVER THE LIFE OF THE MORTGAGE
20% down and 25-year amortization	4.79%	\$216,440	\$4,932	\$865,760	\$613,932
7.69% down and 30-year amortization	4.09%	\$83,220	\$4,993	\$1,038,940	\$729,505
Difference	0.7 percentage points	-\$133,220	\$61	\$173,180	\$115,573

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: RATEHUB.CA

(At the start of August, new measures came into effect allowing 30-year insured mortgage amortizations for first-time homebuyers purchasing newly built homes.)

With a competitive 4.09-per-cent, five-year fixed rate, their

monthly payment would be \$3,198, according to calculations provided by Ratehub. If the same borrower was able to sign up for a 30-year amortization, their payment would shrink to \$2,895, or \$303-a-month lower.

But by taking longer to hack at their mortgage, they'd be paying more in interest.

For simplicity, let's assume this homeowner sticks with the same interest rate throughout the life of their mortgage. (In real life,

their rate would likely change every few years when their mortgage comes up for renewal.) With a 30-year amortization, the interest charges would add up to \$439,827, or nearly \$83,000 more than if they'd chosen a 25-year mortgage.

Now let's look at a first-time homebuyer eyeing a \$1,082,000 home, equivalent to the average home price in Toronto. Currently, they would need 20 per cent down both to qualify for a mortgage at this price and, except in the case of a newly built home, be able to stretch their amortization to 30 years.

According to Ratehub, the mortgage reforms could allow this borrower to qualify for a 30-year mortgage with a down payment potentially as low as 7.69 per cent, assuming current rules on minimum equity requirements will apply when the new policy takes effect.

In this scenario, their minimum down payment would drop from \$216,440 to a much lower \$83,220.

The monthly mortgage payment, on the other hand, would remain roughly the same. This reflects the assumption that, under the new rules, the borrower would have to pay for mortgage insurance but also be able to access so-called insured mortgage rates. Such rates are typically lower than those lenders offer on loans that don't require insurance against the risk of borrowers defaulting on their payments.

But taking five years longer to pay off a significantly larger mortgage would cost the borrower nearly \$145,000 more in interest, the Ratehub calculations show. Still, the new rules mean buyers will no longer have to pony up a minimum of 20 per cent down for homes priced between \$1-million and up to \$1.5-million, as is currently the case.

“The ability for first-time home buyers to now take out insured mortgages and make minimum down payments on homes priced above \$1-million will open up additional home type options for this group,” Ms. Graham said.

Under the current rules, many young buyers are limited to purchasing condos in the country's priciest markets because they can't save for a 20-per-cent down payment on a home worth \$1-million or more, she added.

Divorce in your 40s and early 50s can upend your finances

MARY GOODERHAM

Divorce is costly at any age, but couples who split between 40 and 55 years old often take an especially painful hit, decimating the funds they need for retirement. For many, it means selling a family home they've been trying to pay off and taking on mortgage debt again.

“A divorce in your 40s and early 50s can turn your financial world upside down,” says Karen Erickson, a certified financial planner who is an executive financial consultant at IG Private Wealth Management in Kelowna, B.C. She says a breakup for someone in Generation X “will have an impact on what kind of housing you can now have, when you can retire and your dreams of what your retirement lifestyle will look like.”

She estimates that a divorce between 40 and 55 can delay retirement by as much as 10 years. Regrouping and coming back to basics is critical. “You need to figure out where you can live, how can you save and how to get some of those dreams back again,” Ms. Erickson says.

According to Statistics Canada, the average age at which Canadians divorced in 2020, the most

recent year for which data is available, was 46 years old. That number has steadily risen from 36.2 years old in 1980.

A StatsCan report published in 2022 shows there has also been a continuous rise in the age at marriage of those couples who divorce, from 23.7 years in 1980 to 30.7 years in 2020. And there is an increase in the average duration of marriages that end in divorce, to 15.3 years in 2020 from 12.5 years in 1980.

Olivia D'Amazio, an associate at Shulman & Partners LLP, a family-law practice in Toronto with offices in Vaughan, Ont., and Ottawa, says marrying at an older age can mean individuals may have brought assets into the union. These are “commingled” and must be divided equally if the separating couple did not sign a marriage contract (or a cohabitation agreement in a common-law relationship) which can cause conflict and escalate legal costs.

The firm is seeing many breakups among people aged 40 to 55 caused by the fallout from the COVID-19 crisis, which she says, “really forced people to assess where they are and where they want to be.” Couples in that age range were hit by the stresses of working from home, which brought “a

more drastic change in their lives,” she explains, as did the lowering or loss of income brought about by the global pandemic.

“Finances have always driven conflict and divorce, but what I've seen is the long-COVID effect of trying to make it work since 2020 and realizing it won't,” Ms. D'Amazio says, noting that Gen Xers have more housing debt and are more affected by the economy.

Shannon Tatlock, a certified financial planner at Kevin R. Williams Financial Services Inc. and president of Red Sky Financial, in Moncton, N.B., says Gen Xers can end up selling homes and toys such as RVs and boats at a loss, just when they should be putting money away for retirement.

“I've had many conversations with clients who are newly divorced who want to retire at 63, and it's just not possible,” she says. “That can be really hard to hear.”

Ms. Tatlock, 40, divorced in 2021, so she knows the ins and outs of the process and its aftermath. She's pursuing a designation as a chartered financial divorce specialist, allowing her to help couples come up with a plan that keeps legal costs reasonable while divvying up their assets.

Drawing up a separation agree-

ment is a major part of the process, with both parties calculating their net assets on the date of marriage and separation. This includes property, bank accounts, investments, registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) and pensions. The person with the higher net family property is required to make an equalization payment to the other.

Ms. Tatlock says keeping this process smooth and “the fighting to a minimum” is essential to avoid protracted and costly legal battles. Her own divorce was amicable, but the couple still paid a total of \$8,000 in legal fees.

The best plan for couples divorcing in their 40s and early 50s is to downsize the homes they each move into, Ms. Tatlock says. Budgeting – or cash-flow planning, as she calls it, so her clients “don't recoil as much” – is important. People who previously split the costs of accommodation, utilities, insurance, car payments, etc. are shocked at how it adds up.

Ms. Erickson says some people rent accommodation post-divorce and keep their investments for retirement, while others buy a home with a down payment from their retirement savings with the expectation that their home equity will cover their old age. She ad-

vises buying, noting that new rules around first-time home buyers' plans means that when you divorce and sell the matrimonial home you can get access to up to \$35,000 from your RRSP toward the down payment on a house.

Ms. Tatlock says some divorcing Gen Xers may rely on aging parents to pass money onto them as a gift or inheritance, “but I tell people to not bank on it.” She notes people are living longer and may need their funds; one in four Canadians is expected to live to 100.

Divorce is a wake-up call that gets many people who've taken a hit in their 40s and 50s to focus on future plans, Ms. Tatlock says. Many approach new relationships open-eyed, keeping their finances and even homes separate. Those who end up living together or getting married a second time usually draw up cohabitation agreements and marriage contracts so “anything that's mine is mine, and what's yours is yours.”

Ms. Tatlock points out that such agreements can be written up any time and even long into a union, as long as both parties agree.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Bond investors debate recession risks with Fed easing finally at hand

GERTRUDE CHAVEZ-DREYFUSS
NEW YORK

Bond investors are more cautious and divided over prospects for recession in the world's largest economy, with the U.S. Federal Reserve poised to cut interest rates on Wednesday for the first time in more than four years.

Proponents of a soft-landing scenario said recent weak U.S. da-

ta do not suggest the economy is falling off a cliff and might not even point to recession. Some hard-landing believers, on the other hand, cited worrisome trends in the jobs market that could push the economy into a deep downturn and force the Fed to aggressively slash rates.

At the end of its two-day policy meeting starting on Tuesday, the Fed is widely expected to reduce its benchmark overnight rate,

which has been in a 5.25-per-cent to 5.50-per-cent target range since last July.

On Monday, U.S. rate futures have settled on a 59-per-cent chance of a supersized 50-bps cut and a 41-per-cent probability of 25 bps, according to LSEG calculations. For 2024, the futures market is implying about 122 bps in cuts and roughly 250 bps of easing by September next year.

Former New York Fed presi-

dent William Dudley pushed for a 50-bp cut on Monday, saying rates on the front end of the curve remain far above neutral, after last week making the case in a forum in Singapore.

“There's a disconnect between the bond market and the Fed,” said Byron Anderson, head of fixed income at Laffer Tengler Investments in Scottsdale, Ariz. “The market is definitely more bearish than the Fed. But some-

body is going to be wrong.”

Investors will also focus on the Fed's quarterly economic projections, including rate expectations, referred to as the “dot plot,” which signals how much easing central bankers expect. The Fed “dots” in June were consistent with cuts of about 125 bps in 2024 and 2025 in a soft-landing outcome.

REUTERS

Is this debt-free oil stock a smart buy?

RPC Inc. shows strong financials and consistent performance

BENJ GALLANDER
BEN STADELMANN

OPINION

CONTRA GUYS

Co-editors of *Contra the Heard Investment Letter*

Feeling a little gloomy? Perhaps it is not because the workload tends to pick up in the fall or that you miss your kids laughing in and around the house. (Or do you?) Maybe the fact that September is the worst month of the year for stocks is getting you down? Or maybe you are looking ahead and thinking that the volatility of October is coming fast, and although that month has generally been positive, some of the worst crashes have occurred as the spooks of Halloween approach.

Quite simply, Benj rarely ever buys at this time of year. As many readers know, December is his month for chowing down on positions while tax selling is in full swing. That, as a general rule, knocks down the prices of the stocks that are in his swing zone, the beaten, unloved companies that have been losers. The pattern never really changes, which is comforting for him but might not mean enough activity for countless buyers. He is not looking for action, which, as a general rule, hinders results, but top-notch financial returns.

One stock that Benj bought in December, 2021, which has done reasonably well but has certainly not been a grand slam, is RPC Inc. (RES-NYSE), an oilfield services

provider. Purchased at US\$4.16 and currently trading around US\$6.45, the initial sell target of US\$21.24 is miles away. This company is a geographical heavy-weight operating in the United States, Africa, Argentina, Canada, China, Latin America, Mexico, and the Middle East. Where is it not?

RES has numerous attributes that get The Contra Guys excited. A key one is that insiders own more than 60 per cent of the company. That is huge. While revenues click in at US\$1.6-billion, the recent sales drop includes a 17-per-cent decrease in pressure pumping, the firm's largest business. That was somewhat offset by an increase of 8 per cent in the rest of the revenues.

The company is debt-free. RPC has been profitable in eight of the past 10 years, with net income in the most recent quarter of US\$32.4-million. It has more than US\$260-million in cash, and the company is on the prowl for acquisitions. That can be either good or bad, of course, depending on the prey. However, given the excellent financial situation of the corporation, it would not surprise to see RPC as the quarry for an organization looking to expand. Naturally if it happens, that would be done at a premium.

One ingredient that could help push up the stock price is if the dividend is increased. It is currently at US\$0.04 a quarter; in 2019, it was US\$0.10, but management, which seems quite conservative, decided that a cut was prudent. This is a cyclical industry after all.

The executive of the firm is exceedingly stable. Chief executive Ben M. Palmer served as the chief financial officer from 1996 and became president and CEO in 2022. The previous CEO/president, Richard Hubbell, took on the position in 2003 and became executive chairman in 2022.

RPC operates in an exceptionally competitive field, and a highly skilled management team is critical. This has aided RPC in introducing new products and services so that it remains a leading-edge, competitive outfit.

We never buy with a time frame in mind for when a stock will be sold. There are simply too many variables that can impact how long it takes a position to reach a target price, if ever. But as you have likely seen us write before, being paid a dividend to wait makes any holding period more worthwhile.

We are very wary that a major downturn might be lurking in the weeds waiting to leap out and plunder the stock market. From this angle, it seems overdue. That gives us pause to do any buying.

A few clues. First, economist Robert Shiller's cyclically adjusted price-to-earnings (CAPE) ratio has only been higher twice in history and major stock market declines have followed. Second, the largest decline in U.S. M2 money supply since the depression has taken effect. Third, tack on to that the longest historical yield-curve inversion ever (Although parts of the yield curve have recently fallen out of inversion, there are others still showing the unnatural state of short-term bond yields coming in higher than long-term yields). These are huge warnings signalling that a substantial decline could be in the works, and it could be a good time to cash in some profits and even crystallize some losses. At the same time, it is quite possibly not an ideal moment to be dumping more money into the stock market.

For those investors considering buying RPC, it is worth noting that if markets get trounced, RPC will not be immune. Personally, if Benj was looking to buy more, he would wait until December to add to his stash.

TSX streak ends as industrial shares fall, U.S. markets nearly unchanged

Canada's main stock index ended lower on Tuesday, pressured by declines for the industrial and consumer staples sectors, as investors weighed the signal the Federal Reserve could send about the economic outlook if it opts for an oversized rate cut. U.S. stocks closed nearly unchanged.

The S&P/TSX Composite Index ended down 24.37 points, or 0.1 per cent, at 23,677.70, its first decline in five sessions, after notching an all-time closing high on Monday.

Markets were leaning toward a half-percentage-point rate cut by the Fed, rather than a quarter-point move, at the expected start of an easing cycle on Wednesday.

"The market will be happy with a 50-basis-point cut as long as there's no indication of prolonged or deeper weakness in the economic environment than the market expects," said Kevin Headland, co-chief investment strategist at Manulife Investment Management.

The economically sensitive industrials sector in Toronto fell 0.8 per cent as railroad stocks lost ground. The consumer staples sector was down 1.5 per cent. It was pressured by declines for food retailers, including a drop of 3.2 per cent for the shares of Loblaw Cos. Ltd.

Energy was a bright spot, rising 1.5 per cent, as the price of oil settled 1.6 per cent higher at US\$71.19 a barrel on mounting supply disruptions.

The Bank of Canada has already begun lowering borrowing costs, moving in 25-basis-point steps. Speculation rose that the central bank would increase the size of its cuts as domestic data Tuesday showed the annual inflation rate slowing to two per cent in August.

U.S. stocks gave up earlier gains that had vaulted the S&P 500 and Dow Industrial Average to record highs.

The benchmark S&P 500 index touched 5,670.81 earlier in the session, after fresh economic data eased worries of a sharp slowdown in the U.S. economy. The latest report from the U.S. Commerce Department showed retail sales rose unexpectedly in August, after a decline in auto dealership receipts was offset by strength in online purchases, suggesting the economy was on solid footing through most of the third quarter.

"Expectations were pretty well entrenched before calling into today's economic data and what they showed was generally a growth environment, but a relatively slow-growth environment," said Russell Price, chief economist at Ameriprise Financial Services in Troy, Mich..

Mr. Price said the size of the cut could either stoke inflation fears or increase worries the Fed is moving too slowly to avoid a recession.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.04 per cent, the S&P 500 gained 0.03 per cent and the Nasdaq Composite gained 0.20 per cent.

Microsoft, up 0.88 per cent, was the biggest lift to the S&P 500, as shares rose after the AI front-runner's board approved a new US\$60-billion share-buyback program and hiked its quarterly dividend by 10 per cent.

REUTERS, GLOBE STAFF

Eight REITs benefiting from falling interest rates

ARJUN DEIVA

8 REITs for current interest rates

NUMBER CRUNCHER

CFA, MBA Candidate at the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Real estate investment trusts poised to benefit from falling interest rates.

THE SCREEN

CIBC recently predicted aggressive cuts to interest rates of 50 basis points in both December and January. They expect rates to bottom out at 2.25 per cent in June, 2025, a significant drop from the current Bank of Canada interest rate of 4.75 per cent. As savings rates fall in lockstep with interest rates, investors may be on the lookout for other sources of yield.

REITs stand out in this environment for their ability to offer both high dividend yields and potential capital gains. They

typically rely on extensive debt to fund property acquisitions and developments, making them particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates. Lower rates translate to reduced borrowing costs and increased profitability.

To identify REITs that will benefit from falling rates, I used FactSet's screening tool and applied the following parameters:

- Traded on the S&P/TSX Composite
- Market capitalization greater than \$1-billion
- FactSet Sector - "Real Estate Investment Trusts"
- Dividend yield greater than 3 per cent
- Variable debt as a percentage

of total debt greater than 10 per cent, highlighting companies that will benefit the most from lower interest rates

The eight remaining companies were ordered by a multifactor ranking of dividend yield, price-to-funds from operations (a key real estate valuation metric of profitability), price-to-book, and variable debt as a percentage of total debt.

WHAT WE FOUND

Allied Properties Real Estate Investment Trust, an urban office space developer, topped our screen with an impressive 9.5-

per-cent dividend yield. With 39.2 per cent of its debt classified as variable, it stands to greatly benefit from rate cuts. However, its interest coverage ratio of 1.6, a measure of how easily a company can cover interest expenses with earnings, is below the screen's average of 2.6. This additional risk may explain why Allied Properties is trading at the lowest price-to-book and price-to-funds from operations ratios. Despite these risks, the REIT is well positioned for a strong recovery as interest rate reductions ease its debt burden.

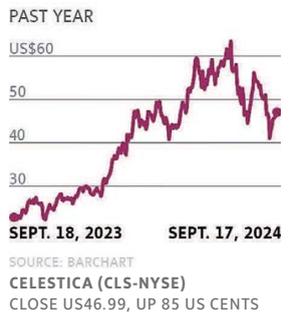
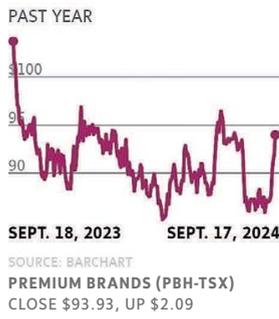
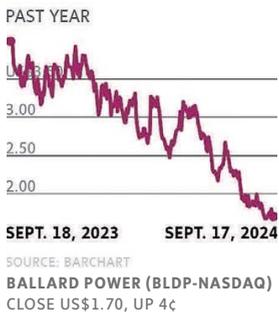
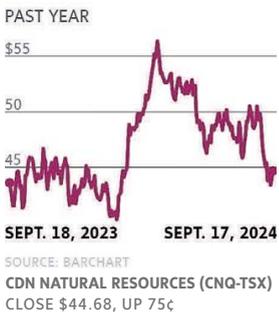
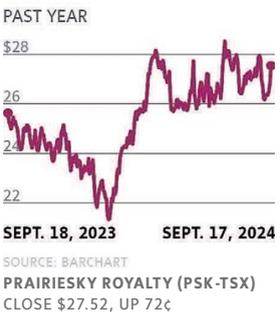
RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust, a retail-focused real estate manager, ranked No. 2 on

our screen with a 5.4-per-cent dividend yield. Notably, 48.6 per cent of RioCan's debt is variable, indicating substantial upside from rate cuts.

RioCan's tenant base includes resilient consumer staple companies such as Loblaw and Shoppers Drug Mart, providing some downside protection should rate cuts be less aggressive than anticipated.

The information in this article is not investment advice. The author assumes no liability for any consequence relating directly or indirectly to any action or inaction taken based on the information contained above.

EYE ON EQUITIES DAVID LEEDER



Citing a more constructive outlook on its future multilateral drilling prospects, RBC Dominion Securities analyst Michael Harvey upgraded **PrairieSky Royalty Ltd.** to "outperform" from "sector perform" previously. "While we are mindful of PSK's elevated valuation, we see the company's suite of assets as top-tier, which should ultimately be the key long-term driver of value," he said. **Target:** His target is now \$33, rising from \$31 and the \$30.02 consensus.

Pointing "oil softness driven in large part by refinery margin compression, demand weakness, and potential oversupply dynamics into 2025," RBC's Global Energy Research team reduced their oil and natural gas projections through next year on Tuesday. **Target:** That led analyst Greg Parody cut his target for **Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.**, which is his top pick in the sector, to \$59 from \$62 with an "outperform" rating. Consensus is \$55.38.

National Bank Financial analyst Rupert Merer sees **Ballard Power Systems Inc.** "right sizing the business for the visible future" after announcing a major restructuring. "BLDP is making the right moves to ensure its long-term position as a leader in fuel cells, and if the market takes shape, we believe it will be well positioned," he said. **Target:** Mr. Merer reaffirmed his "sector perform" rating and US\$3 target. Consensus is US\$3.05.

TD Cowen analyst Derek Lessard sees **Premium Brands Holdings Corp.** on "the cusp of significant outperformance" and trading at a near decade-low valuation. "Given the increasingly stable operating environment, we see PBH on the cusp of more materially benefiting from its multiyear investment cycle (in capacity/automation/innovation)," he added. **Target:** Naming it one of the firm's "Canada Best Ideas," he kept a "buy" recommendation and \$129 target. Consensus is \$110.89.

TD Cowen analyst Daniel Chan sees **Celestica Inc.** trading at an "attractive" multiple following a recent sell-off. "At 11 times calendar 2025 estimated P/E and NTM PEG [next 12-month price/earnings-to-growth] of 0.6, we believe this is a lucrative entry point for investors," he said. **Target:** Also naming it to the "Canada Best Ideas" list, he maintained a "buy" rating and US\$61 target. Consensus is US\$64.11

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS



S&P 500
PAST 12 MONTHS



DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE
PAST 12 MONTHS



S&P GLOBAL 100 INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS



TSX INDEXES AND SUB INDEXES

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TSX COMPOSITE IND	23677.70	-24.37	-0.10	276234	12.97
TSX 60 INDEX	1420.98	-2.93	-0.21	174399	12.35
TSX COMPLETION I	1418.60	4.71	0.33	101834	15.70
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	801.32	3.39	0.42	74609	14.14
TSX VENTURE COMPO	582.35	0.30	0.05	22726	5.33
TSX CONSUMER DISC	290.57	0.12	0.04	5967	6.33
TSX CONSUMER STAP	1024.56	-15.28	-1.47	5007	18.36
TSX ENERGY CAPPED	263.57	3.94	1.52	98060	8.89
TSX FINANCIALS CA	446.13	0.19	0.04	51827	16.23
TSX HEALTH CARE C	26.74	0.19	0.72	1950	12.73
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	462.96	-3.87	-0.83	10674	9.58
TSX INFORMATION T	230.87	-0.14	-0.06	8289	8.52
TSX MATERIALS CAP	395.22	-0.55	-0.14	47020	24.69
TSX REAL ESTATE C	351.32	-2.45	-0.69	6255	13.53
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	373.56	-1.83	-0.49	55443	31.54
TSX GLOBAL MINING	120.35	-0.26	-0.22	135771	6.46
TSX INCOME TRUST	227.74	-1.42	-0.62	6792	9.72
TSX PREFERRED SHA	619.98	-0.45	-0.07	1413	14.72
TSX COMMUNICATION	166.64	-0.59	-0.35	10913	-3.43
TSX UTILITIES CAP	311.55	-1.15	-0.37	11657	10.29

TSX VOLUME
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
CNO CANADIAN NATU	44.68	0.75	1.71	40022	2.94
CVE CENOVUS ENERG	22.72	0.36	1.61	14095	2.90
BNS BANK OF NOVA	71.49	-0.04	-0.06	10886	10.84
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	50.66	0.74	1.48	9473	19.34
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	85.51	0.02	0.02	8439	-0.19
POW POWER CORP OF	42.51	0.16	0.38	7425	12.13
BCE BCE INC	46.95	0.24	0.51	5375	-10.01
TRP TC ENERGY COR	63.07	-0.48	-0.76	5356	21.85
PPL PEMBINA PIPEL	55.29	-0.03	-0.05	5211	21.20
MF MANULIFE FIN	38.43	-0.01	-0.03	5151	31.25
GWO GREAT-WEST LI	45.90	0.38	0.83	4503	4.65
CM CANADIAN IMPER	83.74	0.15	0.18	4345	31.25
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	4.26	0.07	1.67	4219	-2.74
NTR NUTRIEN LTD	63.78	0.49	0.77	4212	-14.56
CXB CALIBRE MININ	2.69	0.07	2.67	4154	97.79
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	55.51	-0.45	-0.80	4027	16.37
VRN VEREN INC	8.77	0.23	2.69	3884	-4.57
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	2.66	-0.08	-2.92	3817	-59.82
BTO B2GOLD CORP	4.46	-0.07	-1.55	3474	6.44
ABX BARRICK GOLD	27.85	-0.03	-0.11	3303	16.33

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ACO-X ATCO LTD CL	46.31	-0.10	-0.22	189	19.76
BNS BANK OF NOVA	71.49	-0.04	-0.06	10886	10.84
BLM BAUSCH LOMB	25.30	1.14	4.72	14	11.60
BAM BROOKFIELD AS	61.93	0.52	0.85	737	16.37
BN BROOKFIELD COR	68.42	-0.08	-0.12	1073	28.73
BIPC BROOKFIELD I	56.53	-0.67	-1.17	222	20.95
BYPY-PR-A BROOKFI	22.90	0.57	2.55	1	35.91
BNT BROOKFIELD WE	68.37	-0.09	-0.13	20	9.27
CU-PR-R CANADIAN	83.74	0.15	0.18	4345	31.25
CWB-PR-B CANADIAN	27.33	0.04	0.15	1	11.20
CPX CAPITAL POWER	48.57	-0.32	-0.65	456	28.36
DRM DREAM UNLIMIT	30.63	0.30	0.99	82	35.23
ELF-PR-F E-L FINA	22.41	-0.04	-0.18	3	14.92
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	55.51	-0.45	-0.80	4027	16.37
ENB-PR-V ENBRIDGE	23.25	0.00	0.00	2	10.56
ENB-PP-F ENBRIDGE	23.14	0.09	0.39	1	6.44
EIF EXCHANGE INCO	50.69	0.13	0.26	60	12.39
FFH FAIRFAX FINAN	1688.58	3.60	0.21	24	38.12

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
FTS FORTIS INC	61.66	-0.33	-0.53	1294	13.12
GLI GILDAN ACTIVE	61.97	0.05	0.08	310	41.42
GRU-UN GRANITE RE	81.68	0.68	0.84	87	7.08
GWO GREATWEST LI	45.90	0.38	0.83	4503	4.65
H HYDRO ONE LTD	47.77	-0.17	-0.35	548	20.33
IAG IA FINANCIAL	106.91	0.98	0.93	14	18.35
ISV INFORMATION S	30.00	0.42	1.42	11	35.26
LB-PR-H LAURENTIA	22.30	0.15	0.68	7	48.67
MF MANULIFE FIN	38.43	-0.01	-0.03	5151	31.25
PWC POWER CORP OF	42.51	0.16	0.38	7425	12.19
PWF-PR-R POWER FI	23.19	-0.04	-0.17	2	13.57
PWF-PR-R POWER FI	23.10	-0.05	-0.22	9	13.01
QBR-B QUEBECOR IN	34.12	-0.43	-1.24	716	8.25
MNT ROYAL CANADIA	35.85	0.05	0.14	19	32.78
PHYS SPROTT PHYSI	27.09	-0.19	-0.70	28	28.45
SLF SUN LIFE FINA	76.69	-0.12	-0.16	603	11.60
TVK TERRAVEST CAP	99.00	0.16	0.16	30	123.73
VVSG VANGUARD CAN	50.06	0.04	0.08	1	0.08
WSP WSP GLOBAL IN	231.71	-1.54	-0.66	155	24.75
WFG WEST FRASER T	126.58	1.78	1.43	95	11.66

TSX GAINERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
MPCC MADISON PAC	4.98	0.73	17.18		-12.63
HREU BETAPRO EQL	19.88	2.58	14.91	1	34.78
BTCO-U 3IQ COINSH	9.54	0.98	11.45		38.66
TSAT TELESAT CORP	15.30	1.30	9.29	5	10.71
PMET PATRIOT BATT	3.82	0.30	8.52	202	-61.53
ICE CANLAN ICE SP	4.10	0.30	7.89	1	0.00
MOGO MOGO INC	1.65	0.12	7.84	28	-32.10
RAY-B STINGRAY DI	7.83	0.48	6.53		30.50
BRAG BRAGG GAMING	7.10	0.43	6.45	21	4.72
SFTC SFOITCHE C	18.86	1.10	6.19	8	22.47
CVO COVEO SOLLUTIO	6.35	0.36	6.01	193	-33.85
CFP CANFOR CORP	16.69	0.89	5.63	418	-6.50
ITE INVECO SP I	21.43	1.06	5.20		
ETC EVOLVE CRYPTO	12.43	0.61	5.16	54	35.70
ESP BROMPTON ENER	4.15	0.20	5.06	1	24.25
FHG FIRST TRUST U	53.00	2.51	4.97	1	16.92
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	95.54	4.45	4.89	601	79.55
CGY CALIAN GROUP	47.43	2.20	4.86	47	-17.21
BBD-A BOMBARDIER	95.44	4.36	4.79	22	78.63
EPRX EURPRAXIA PHA	3.73	0.17	4.78	25	-30.54

TSX LOSERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
DIJA DOREL INDUS	6.11	-0.83	-13.96		-6.00
GTWO G2 GOLDFIELD	1.75	-0.20	-10.26	548	139.73
SBI SERABI GOLD P	1.59	-0.16	-9.14	71	130.43
LCFS TIDEWATER RE	2.13	-0.20	-8.58	29	-73.61
PRB PROBE GOLD IN	1.76	-0.15	-7.85	233	31.34
OPT OPTIVA INC	3.84	-0.32	-7.69		16.36
DRX ADF GROUP INC	11.60	-0.96	-7.64	190	67.63
SLR SOLITARIO ZIN	1.02	-0.08	-7.27	32	37.84
IFA IFABRIC CORP	1.11	-0.08	-6.72	28	0.00
FAR FORACO INTERN	1.98	-0.14	-6.60	116	-3.41
AVNT AVANT BRANDS	1.09	-0.07	-6.03	9	-74.05
GGD GOGOLD RESOUR	1.26	-0.08	-5.97	268	-6.67
ISO ISOENERGY LTD	2.85	-0.17	-5.63	291	-22.76
CRDL CARDIOL THER	2.91	-0.17	-5.52	115	164.55
BITU-U BETAPRO IN	3.65	-0.20	-5.19	28	-39.57
DHT-U DRI HEALTHC	8.91	-0.47	-5.01	1	-6.21
HAI HAIVISION SYS	5.40	-0.28	-4.93	37	52.97
ASCU ARIZONA SONO	1.48	-0.07	-4.52	140	-15.43
PRYM PRIME MINING	1.55	-0.07	-4.32	86	3.33
CSCI COSCIENS BIO	5.57	-0.23	-3.97		-38.11

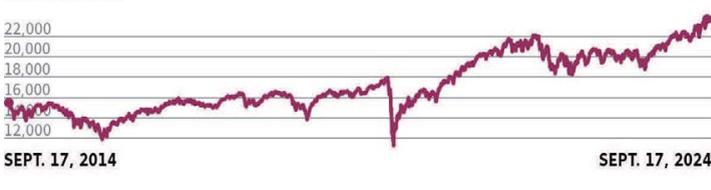
TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	212.19	1.25	0.59	90	-23.81
LIRC LITHIUM ROYA	5.90	-0.05	-0.84		-33.56

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
LCFS TIDEWATER RE	2.13	-0.20	-8.58	29	-73.61
WPRT WESTPORT FUE	6.58	-0.11	-1.64	29	-24.54

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX
PAST 10 YEARS



S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX STOCKS
LARGEST STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG		CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG		CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AAV ADVANTAGE OIL	9.17	0.16	1.78	373	7.50	CG CENTERRA GOLD	9.37	0.02	0.21	974	18.46	IVN IVANHOE MINES	18.01	0.17	0.95	1294	40.16
AOI AFRICA OIL CO	1.86	0.04	2.20	432	-25.30	CEU CES ENERGY SO	7.23	0.02	0.27	702	112.46	JWL JAMIESON WEL	33.35	0.08	0.24	17	5.11
AEM AEGNICO EAGLE	11.91	-0.28	-2.36	1495	54.04	CSF USUN CHARTWELL	15.58	-0.13	-0.83	236	32.94	KEL KELL EXPLORAT	8.37	0.19	2.32	1024	28.57
AC AIR CANADA	16.49	0.09	0.55	1935	-11.77	CHP-UN CHOICE PRO	15.13	0.03	0.20	201	8.46	KFY KEYERA CORP	41.13	-0.01	-0.02	1268	28.41
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	27.80	-0.34	-1.21	722	56.00	CCA COGECO COMMUN	67.19	-0.53	-0.78	30	13.21	KMP-UN KILLAM APA	21.33	-0.12	-0.56	150	18.76
ASTL ALGOMA STEEL	13.79	-0.08	-0.58	46	3.68	CSH COLLINS INT	197.12	-0.52	-1.75	57	17.61	KKS KINAXIS INC	153.25	-1.22	-0.79	52	3.05
AQN ALQUONQUIN POW	7.50	0.00	0.00	2881	-10.29	CSU CONSTELLATION	4313.86	-41.55	-0.95	26	31.31	KINROSS GOLD CO	12.77	-0.09	-0.70	2434	59.23
AQON ALQUONQUIN POW	7.50	0.00	0.00	2881	-10.29	CRU UNICORNBRE RE	15.56	-0.08	-0.51	157	12.75	LIF LABRADOR IRON	30.23	-0.13	-0.43	251	-5.24
ATD ALIMENTATION	75.32	-0.43	-0.57	2180	-3.47	DFY DEFINITY FINA	49.52	-0.27	-0.54	58	31.91	LB LAURENTIAN BAN	27.06	0.31	1.16	457	-2.91
AP-UN ALLIED PROP	19.14	0.15	0.79	534	-5.15	DML DENISON MINES	2.11	-0.01	-0.47	957	-9.05	LSPD LIGHTSPEED C	17.88	0.42	2.41	659	-35.73
ALA ALGATA LTD	35.31	0.00	0.00	561	26.92	DSG DESCARTES SYS	134.73	-0.71	-0.52	125	21.02	LNR LINAMAR CORP	61.31	0.97	1.61	104	-4.23
ALF ALTUS GROUP L	53.42	-0.05	-0.09	35	26.77	DOL DOLLARAMA INC	134.70	-1.78	-1.30	640	41.06	L LOBLAW CO	175.03	-5.77	-3.19	524	36.44
ARC ARC RESOURCES	23.39	0.18	0.78	3022	18.91	DPM DUNDEE PRECIO	13.42	-0.06	-0.45	314	58.25	LUG LUNDIN GOLD I	29.28	-0			



SPORTS

Canadian shot putter Mitton reflects on an Olympic year full of 'ups and downs' ■ B12

Led by Korda, top U.S. women's golfers came through in the clutch at Solheim Cup ■ B15

[CHAMPIONS LEAGUE]



Continental kickoff

AC Milan goalkeeper Lorenzo Torriani rises up in a race for the ball with Liverpool forward Darwin Núñez during Tuesday's Champions League match in Milan, Italy. Liverpool was among the winners, 3-1, as Europe's top club competition debuted under its new format with a slate of six games. Read the story on ■ B13

LUCA BRUNO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British media's so-called 'sports trial of the century' threatens to turn Man City into underdogs

CATHAL KELLY

OPINION



On Tuesday, after years of wrangling, Manchester City went on trial.

At issue are 115 instances in which the Emirati-owned club is accused of fiddling the books so it fell on the right side of the Premier League's spending rules. There are so many charges that some of the charges have to do with avoiding earlier charges.

The British media is calling this the 'sports trial of the century,' because that's the only way they're going to get anyone interested in it. It will be held in private and go on for months.

Whatever happens, someone will appeal. If the appeal doesn't work, they'll appeal again. Eventually, everyone will get tired of looking silly.

At best, City gets a tongue-lashing and pays a fine. At worst, it will lose some of the eight EPL titles it has won over the past 13 seasons.

That would be like sentencing a bank robber who's 35 today to jail back in his 20s. Only a business as upside-down as sport could come up with a punishment so out of time.

A punishment with dissuasive power would be suspending City for a year or two, and making the club start again in the third division. But better a compromised Premier League than a boring one, so that won't happen.

The point of all this isn't getting people to play by the rules. It's to pretend there are rules.

For instance, what rule was the British government playing by when it decided it didn't like a buddy of Vladimir Putin owning Chelsea Football Club and told him to sell it? That's the old sort of sports rule - I'm bigger than you, so I make the rules. Currently, it's getting a revamp.

Sports hasn't had many rules since it burst its natural boundaries around the turn of the century. Until that point, it

was a largely domestic resource dotted by local franchises that were easy to control.

If you didn't do what the league told you to, it would kick you in the shins. If you kept ignoring the league, it would threaten to pull your licence. Back then, the local owner needed the franchise - it was probably his or her biggest business. In many instances, it was their only business.

City is owned by the royal family of the United Arab Emirates, and therefore by the UAE itself.

What sort of stick is the Premier League - a business dwarfed in size and geopolitical importance by its franchisee - waving around here?

One of the involved parties can try padlocking the gate to a practice facility. The other can turn off a measurable percentage of the world's fossil-fuel exports.

If it came down to it, City's owners will go all the way on this. They didn't buy a soccer team so they could go to games. They bought such a thing for the same reason they buy Western art - it adorns their grandeur.

Nothing boosts their international status more than hiring a thousand screaming Fleet Street lawyers to take on the Premier League and, by extension, Britain. International diplomacy is a tired pastime next to the headline-grabbing fight to determine how many points Manchester City will need to make up to win another title next year.

The Premier League has pulled quite a trick - it has managed to turn the most valuable sports team in human history into the underdog.

Why else do you think this trial is happening in secret? It isn't out of concern for privacy. It's to protect the blushes of the league.

Whatever happens, it won't matter. City's owners have already lost hundreds of millions of dollars on their English toy. What's a fine to them? Who cares about a championship already won and celebrated?

■ KELLY, B13

NHL training camps set to open with familiar faces and new places

STEPHEN WHYNO

Sidney Crosby and Leon Draisaitl have their contract extensions, Paul Maurice and the Florida Panthers have the Stanley Cup and a brief but busy summer of moving and shaking is over.

Now, back to hockey. Less than 90 days since the Panthers beat the Edmonton Oilers in Game 7 of a thrilling final, training camps open around the league this week with plenty of questions before the puck drops next month on another season.

Boston goaltender Jeremy Swayman is the most prominent player left unsigned, camp in Columbus goes on in sorrow after the tragic death of Johnny Gaudreau and players and staff in Utah get a fresh start after the Coyotes relocated from Arizona to Salt Lake City. Colorado captain Gabriel Landeskog may be back, Washington winger T.J. Oshie may be gone and it's anyone's guess who will lift the Cup in June.

SWAY DAY?

The Bruins traded 2023 Vézina Trophy-winning goalie Linus Ullmark to Ottawa, content to give the starting job to Swayman. One problem? He's a restricted free agent without a contract for the season.

"Those things just kind of sort themselves out as they do," said teammate Brandon Carlo, who pointed to his own late arrival and that of fellow defenceman Charlie McAvoy in recent years as reasons not to be worried. "We have a lot of faith within our organization, in our management, to get the right deal done."

Swayman, who turns 26 in late November, ranked fifth in the NHL with a .916 save percentage and eighth with a 2.53 goals-against average last season. He was being paid a team-friendly US\$3.475-million on a one-year contract and will get a raise - but how much and for how long?

"It's obviously a balance of going back and forth," Carlo said. "But I've had some conversations with Sway. He seems pretty encouraged and in a good mindset with it all, so as long as he's feeling okay mentally, that's all we really care about."

Among the other unsigned players are Detroit's Moritz Seider two years removed from being rookie of the year, Dallas defenceman Thomas Harley and

New Jersey forward Dawson Mercer.

MOURNING GAUDREAU

The Blue Jackets are getting back on the ice mere weeks after Johnny Gaudreau and younger brother Matthew died when they were struck by a driver of an SUV while riding bicycles on the eve of their sister's wedding. A candlelight vigil was held outside the arena in Columbus, players and team employees attended the tearful funeral and playing hockey was the furthest thing from anyone's mind.

Captain Boone Jenner and general manager Don Waddell hope the rink will serve as a refuge of sorts.

"We both agreed the quicker we can get guys back in the room together, the better it would be for everybody," Waddell said. "We all mourn and heal differently, but I think as a team, being together like that is going to be critical for them to get moving forward."

This is the team's second camp in recent years that follows the off-season death of a player. Goaltender Matiss Kivlenieks died in July of 2021 of chest trauma from an errant fireworks mortar blast at the wedding of an assistant coach's daughter.

NEW IN UTAH

This will be the 45th training camp for the organization that was once the original Winnipeg Jets, then the Phoenix Coyotes and until earlier this year the Arizona Coyotes. It's the first and only season as the Utah Hockey Club after a move from the desert to Salt Lake City.

Ryan and Ashley Smith's Smith Entertainment Group now owns the team, keeping the same hockey operations staff, coaches, players and prospects but starting over with a clean slate in the record books like an expansion franchise.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play with a new organization," said Josh Doan, who's now with Utah after making his NHL debut with the team dad Shane captained for much of his career. "But to do it with all the guys you've been with and the people that you're close with already is something that's fun to do."

Utah, which is expected to get a permanent name and logo after the season, plays its first game Oct. 8 against Chicago at the downtown Delta Center, the home of the NBA's Jazz.

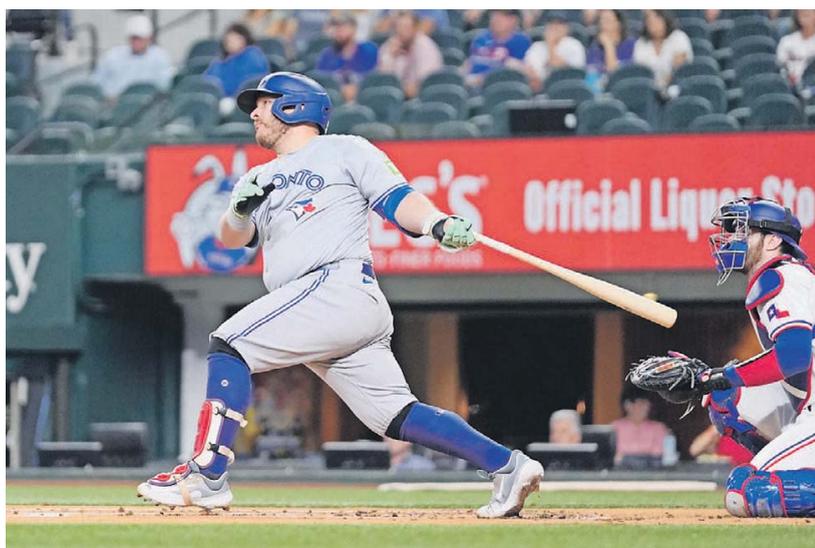
■ CAMP, B14

[BLUE JAYS VS. RANGERS]

On the board in the Lone Star State

Toronto Blue Jays catcher Alejandro Kirk follows through on a run-scoring double during the first inning of Tuesday night's game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Tex. Read the game story at [GLOBESPORTS.COM](https://www.globesports.com)

TONY GUTIERREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mitton won't forget Paris, despite disappointment

Canadian shot putter fell short of her Olympic goals but still realized a number of career milestones in 2024

ABDULHAMID IBRAHIM

It was a lengthy season for Sarah Mitton, but one that she considers both a success and a learning experience. The 28-year-old shot putter checked some boxes with a list that includes her first world indoor title, a new personal best throw and first Diamond League

title this past weekend. And while the Paris Olympics didn't go as planned, she picked up some lessons along the way. "I started my season in November this year competing at Pan Am. And so competing at Pan Am Games in November and finishing at the Diamond League in September, it was just a long, long season," the 28-year-old from Brooklyn, N.S., said. "When you do stuff like that, you're going to have ups and downs. "The season as a whole ... I consider it a success." In what had been a shortened Olympic quadrennial, Mitton had developed into one of the world's best shot putters. She won silver at the 2023

worlds after missing the podium on a tiebreak in 2022. Mitton then went on to win Pan Am gold last November before winning the world indoor title in March. Her personal best of 20.68 metres on May 11 crushed her previous best of 20.33 from 2022. In Paris, she made her first Olympic final on her first qualifying throw. The following night came with some rain and Mitton went from gold-medal favourite - after back-to-back world champion Chase Jackson of the United States missed the final - to finishing 12th. She was eliminated when she failed to crack the top eight over her first three attempts with a top throw of just 17.48 metres. Mitton was adamant about not

shutting down her season after the "disappointing" showing in Paris, however. She competed in three meets between Aug. 16 to Aug. 22 before throwing 20.25 metres to defeat Jackson for the Diamond League title last Friday. "The learning, it just happened so quickly," Mitton said. "And I think after [the] Tokyo [Olympics], I kind of just let myself dwell in the stink a little too long and it affected my performances afterwards. While Mitton feels she does a good job of shaking off whatever happens and moving on, the passing of her father in May made that all the more difficult. Although shot put served as an aid to her mental health, Mitton is

currently enjoying time off back at home and getting herself together mentally. "I remember after the Olympics just feeling this big relief," she said. "And I thought the relief was going to be winning the Olympics and being an Olympic gold medalist and feeling like it all kind of worked out. "Even when it didn't pan out that way, I was like despite it all, at least now I have some time to get my mental health back together, see some family, you know, take a break. ... So mentally, I think I'm doing a lot better than now that the Games are over. ... I feel a lot more relaxed."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	63	.580	—
Baltimore	84	66	.560	3
Boston	75	75	.500	12
Tampa Bay	73	77	.487	14
Toronto	72	78	.480	15
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	87	65	.572	—
Kansas City	82	69	.543	4 1/2
Minnesota	80	71	.530	6 1/2
Detroit	78	73	.517	8 1/2
Chicago	36	115	.238	50 1/2
WEST DIVISION				
Houston	81	69	.540	—
Seattle	77	73	.513	4
Texas	71	79	.473	10
Oakland	65	86	.430	16 1/2
Los Angeles	60	90	.400	21

Tuesday
 Minnesota 4, Cleveland 1
 San Francisco at Baltimore
 Boston at Tampa Bay
 Detroit at Kansas City
 Oakland at Chicago Cubs
 Toronto at Texas
 Chicago White Sox at L.A. Angels
 Houston at San Diego
 N.Y. Yankees at Seattle

Monday
 Cleveland 4, Minnesota 3
 Chicago Cubs 9, Oakland 2
 Detroit 7, Kansas City 6
 Chicago White Sox 8, L.A. Angels 4
 San Diego 3, Houston 1

Wednesday
All Times Eastern
 Oakland (Basso 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Assad 7-5), 2:20 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox (Crocket 6-12) at L.A. Angels (Kochanowicz 2-5), 4:07 p.m.
 San Francisco (Birdsong 3-5) at Baltimore (Kremer 7-9), 6:35 p.m.
 Houston (Valdez 14-6) at San Diego (Cease 13-11), 6:40 p.m.
 Minnesota (Ober 12-7) at Cleveland (Bibee 11-8), 6:40 p.m.
 Boston (Criswell 6-4) at Tampa Bay (Pepiot 8-6), 6:50 p.m.
 Detroit (Skubal 16-4) at Kansas City (Marsh 8-8), 7:40 p.m.
 Toronto (Francis 8-4) at Texas (Bradford 5-3), 8:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 9-10) at Seattle (Miller 11-8), 9:40 p.m.

Thursday
 San Francisco at Baltimore, 1:05 p.m.
 Minnesota at Cleveland, 1:10 p.m.
 Toronto at Texas, 2:35 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees at Seattle, 4:10 p.m.
 Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.
 L.A. Angels at Houston, 8:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	90	60	.600	—
New York	82	68	.547	8
Atlanta	81	69	.540	9
Washington	68	82	.453	22
Miami	55	95	.367	35
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Milwaukee	87	63	.580	—
Chicago	77	73	.513	10
St. Louis	75	75	.500	12
Cincinnati	73	78	.483	14 1/2
Pittsburgh	71	79	.473	16
WEST DIVISION				
Los Angeles	89	61	.593	—
San Diego	86	65	.570	3 1/2
Arizona	83	67	.553	6
San Francisco	72	78	.480	17
Colorado	58	93	.384	31 1/2

Tuesday
 San Francisco at Baltimore
 Atlanta at Cincinnati
 L.A. Dodgers at Miami
 Washington at N.Y. Mets
 Oakland at Chicago Cubs
 Philadelphia at Milwaukee
 Pittsburgh at St. Louis
 Arizona at Colorado
 Houston at San Diego

Monday
 N.Y. Mets 2, Washington 1, 10 innings
 L.A. Dodgers 9, Atlanta 0
 Chicago Cubs 9, Oakland 2
 St. Louis 4, Pittsburgh 0
 Milwaukee 6, Philadelphia 2
 Colorado 3, Arizona 2
 San Diego 3, Houston 1

Wednesday
All Times Eastern
 Oakland (Basso 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Assad 7-5), 2:20 p.m.
 Arizona (Rodriguez 2-3) at Colorado (Gomber 5-10), 3:10 p.m.
 San Francisco (Birdsong 3-5) at Baltimore (Kremer 7-9), 6:35 p.m.
 Atlanta (Schwellenbach 6-7) at Cincinnati (Junis 4-0), 6:40 p.m.
 Houston (Valdez 14-6) at San Diego (Cease 13-11), 6:40 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers (Knack 2-4) at Miami (TBD), 6:40 p.m.
 Washington (Herz 4-7) at N.Y. Mets (Quintana 9-9), 7:10 p.m.
 Philadelphia (Nola 12-8) at Milwaukee (Peralta 11-8), 7:40 p.m.
 Pittsburgh (Ortiz 6-6) at St. Louis (Gray 13-9), 7:45 p.m.

Thursday
 San Francisco at Baltimore, 1:05 p.m.
 Atlanta at Cincinnati, 1:10 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers at Miami, 4:40 p.m.
 Arizona at Milwaukee, 7:15 p.m.
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 7:15 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 7:15 p.m.
 Washington at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS		
x-Miami	28	19	4	5	65	41	62		
Cincinnati	28	16	8	4	48	36	52		
Columbus	27	14	5	8	52	28	50		
N.Y. Red Bulls	29	10	6	13	45	37	43		
Orlando	28	11	10	7	45	41	40		
N.Y. City F.C.	28	11	10	7	41	37	40		
Charlotte	28	10	10	8	32	31	38		
Toronto	29	11	15	3	38	51	36		
D.C.	28	8	12	9	44	57	33		
Atlanta	28	8	13	7	36	40	31		
Philadelphia	28	7	12	9	48	46	30		
Montreal	28	7	12	9	37	59	30		
Nashville	28	7	13	8	28	44	29		
Chicago	29	7	14	8	36	51	29		
New England	27	8	16	3	30	54	27		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS		
L.A. Galaxy	29	16	6	7	57	40	55		
Los Angeles F.C.	27	14	7	6	50	36	48		
Colorado	28	14	9	5	55	46	47		
Salt Lake City	28	13	7	8	54	40	47		
Seattle	29	13	9	7	43	32	46		
Vancouver	27	13	8	6	46	35	45		
Houston	28	12	8	8	41	32	44		
Portland	28	11	10	7	56	48	40		
Minnesota	28	11	11	6	47	46	39		
Dallas	28	9	12	7	44	45	34		
Austin	28	9	12	7	31	40	34		
Kansas City	29	7	15	7	45	55	28		
St. Louis	29	5	11	13	41	56	28		
San Jose	28	5	21	2	34	65	17		
x — clinched playoff berth.									

Wednesday
All Times Eastern
 Columbus at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
 Miami at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Montreal at New England, 7:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at N.Y.C.F.C., 7:30 p.m.
 Charlotte at Orlando, 8:15 p.m.
 Cincinnati at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
 Chicago at Nashville, 8:30 p.m.
 Colorado at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.
 Vancouver at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
 Dallas at Salt Lake City, 9:30 p.m.
 Austin at Los Angeles F.C., 10:30 p.m.
 L.A. Galaxy at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
 San Jose at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

CPL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Hamilton	23	12	6	5	39	27	41
Ottawa	23	10	5	8	38	28	38
York	23	10	7	6	32	28	36
Calgary	23	8	4	11	29	24	35
Victoria	22	7	10	5	20	23	26
Vancouver	23	7	11	5	26	38	26
Halifax	22	5	11	5	29	35	23
Winnipeg	23	6	12	5	27	37	23

Wednesday
All Times Eastern
 Victoria at Halifax, 6 p.m.

Friday
 Calgary at York, 8 p.m.

Saturday
 Halifax at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
 Hamilton at Vancouver, 6 p.m.

Sunday
 Victoria at Ottawa, 2 p.m.

CFL

WEEK 16									
EAST DIVISION					WEST DIVISION				
	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	PTS		
x-Montreal	13	10	2	1	351	288	21		
Ottawa	13	8	4	1	335	347	17		
Toronto	13	7	6	0	364	342	14		
Hamilton	13	4	9	0	347	409	8		
WEST DIVISION					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Winnipeg	13	7	6	0	295	274	14		
British Columbia	14	7	7	0	352	350	14		
Saskatchewan	13	5	7	1	333	330	11		
Edmonton	13	5	8	0	385	342	10		
Calgary	13	4	8	1	301	381	9		
x — clinched playoff berth.									

Bye: British Columbia
Friday
All Times Eastern
 Hamilton at Toronto, 7 p.m.
 Saskatchewan at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday
 Montreal at Ottawa, 3 p.m.
 Winnipeg at Edmonton, 7 p.m.

NFL

WEEK TWO	
Monday	Atlanta 22, Philadelphia 21

U SPORTS FOOTBALL

WEEK FIVE	
Friday	St. Francis Xavier at Saint Mary's, 6 p.m. Regina at Alberta, 9 p.m. Saskatchewan at British Columbia, 9 p.m.
Saturday	McGill at Concordia, 1 p.m. Wilfrid Laurier at Waterloo, 1 p.m. York at Toronto, 1 p.m. Bishop's at Mount Allison, 2 p.m. Guelph at Queen's, 3 p.m. McMaster at Carleton, 4 p.m. Ottawa at Windsor, 4 p.m. Manitoba at Calgary, 4 p.m.
Sunday	Sherbrooke at Laval, 1 p.m.

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	32	7	.821	—	x-Minnesota	30	9	.769	—
x-Connecticut	27	12	.692	5	x-Las Vegas	25	13	.658	4 1/2
x-Indiana	20	19	.513	12	x-Seattle	24	14	.632	5 1/2
Atlanta	13	25	.342	18 1/2	x-Phoenix	18	20	.474	21 1/2
Chicago	13	25	.342	18 1/2	Dallas	9	30	.231	21
Washington	13	26	.333	19	Los Angeles	7	31	.184	22 1/2
x — clinched playoff spot					x — clinched playoff spot				

Tuesday
 Minnesota 78 Connecticut 76
 New York 87 Washington 71
 Chicago at Atlanta
 Las Vegas at Seattle
 Phoenix at Los Angeles

Thursday
All Times Eastern
 Atlanta at New York, 7 p.m.
 Chicago at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
 Indiana at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Dallas at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.
 Seattle at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

END OF REGULAR SEASON

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE							
	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Man City	4	4	0	0	11	3	12
Arsenal	4	3	1	0	6	1	10
Newcastle	4	3	0	1	6	3	10
Liverpool	4	3	1	0	7	1	9
Aston Villa	4	3	0	1	7	6	9
Brighton	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
Nottingham Frst	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Chelsea	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Brenford	4	2	2	0	6	6	6
Man United	4	2	2	0	5	6	6
Bournemouth	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Fulham	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Tottenham	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
West Ham	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Leicester	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
Crystal Palace	4						

Stalwarts shine in new European landscape

Real Madrid, Liverpool, Bayern Munich notch victories as revamped Champions League gets under way in earnest

ANDREW DAMPF ROME

New format. Same old winners.

The revamped Champions League made its debut Tuesday with some familiar clubs claiming victories on opening night.

After joining from Paris Saint-Germain, Kylian Mbappé scored for 15-time champion Real Madrid, which needed late goals from Antonio Rüdiger and Endrick to beat Stuttgart 3-1.

Six-time champion Liverpool came back from a goal down for a 3-1 win at seven-time champion AC Milan in a rematch of the 2005 and 2007 finals.

Harry Kane scored four in Bayern Munich's 9-2 rout of Dinamo Zagreb as the German club opened its bid for a seventh title — which could be achieved in its home stadium in May.

Two-time champion Juventus dispatched PSV Eindhoven 3-1.

During the new league phase, all 36 teams are ranked from top to bottom in a single standings that finishes in January.

Also, Aston Villa returned to the competition for the first time in 41 years and won 3-0 at Young Boys; and Sporting Lisbon beat 10-man Lille 2-0.

The first round of league matches continues with six more matches on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

MADRID TESTED

After a scoreless first half, Mbappé put Madrid ahead seconds after the break when he redirected



Canadian forward Jonathan David holds off Sporting Lisbon's Morten Hjulmand during Tuesday's match in Lisbon. David's Lille dropped its Champions League opener 2-0. FILIPE AMORIM/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

a cross from Rodrygo.

After Deniz Undav equalized for Stuttgart midway through the second half with a header, Rüdiger restored Madrid's advantage with a header and 18-year-old Endrick sealed it with a solo counterattack in stoppage time.

LIVERPOOL COMEBACK

Christian Pulisic scored early for Milan before Liverpool struck back with headers from both of its centre backs: Ibrahim Konaté and Virgil van Dijk. Dominik Szoboszlai added another for Liverpool.

"I'm very proud to be standing here after 50 appearances, a goal and a win at the San Siro after a difficult start. The way we played after that start was outstanding," Liverpool's big captain Van Dijk said.

KANE'S RECORD

Kane converted three penalties and broke Wayne Rooney's record for the most Champions League goals by an English player by boosting his tally to 33 — three ahead of Rooney.

Bayern's best goal might have been its second from Raphaël Guerreiro, who crushed in a powerful drive after a chest pass from Jamal Musiala.

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany was not the first choice when he was hired in May but so far his team has won all five of its matches. His team now tops the Champions League standings on goal difference.

YILDIZ THE YOUNGEST

Kenan Yildiz's goal for Juventus after 21 minutes was the first of the revamped competition. And

what a goal it was.

The Turkey winger dribbled into the left side of the box and curled in a long shot off the far, top corner of the goal frame.

At 19 years and 136 days, Yildiz broke the Juventus record for youngest scorer in the competition that Alessandro Del Piero established when he scored at 20 years and 308 days against Borussia Dortmund in September of 1995.

With a goal reminiscent of the way Del Piero used to score, it seemed fitting that Yildiz was wearing the same No. 10 that Del Piero wore for Juventus.

"He was my idol as a child," Yildiz said. "An incredible evening, goosebumps."

EMERY'S IMPACT

Under experienced coach Unai

Emery, Villa has won three of its four Premier League matches and was in control virtually throughout at Young Boys in its return to the competition after 41 years.

Youri Tielemans put Villa ahead with a bouncing shot midway through the first half and Jacob Ramsey doubled the lead 11 minutes later by taking advantage of a loose ball. Amadou Onana sealed it four minutes from time.

Emery has won the Europa League four times with two clubs — three with Sevilla and once with Villarreal. He also coached Villarreal to the Champions League semi-finals in 2022 and led Villa to the Conference League semi-finals last season.

Villa was mourning the death a day earlier of 1982 European Cup winner Gary Shaw.

GYOKERES'S GOALS

Viktor Gyokeres, who had been an Arsenal transfer target, opened the scoring for Sporting with a neat turn and shot into the bottom left corner. It was Gyokeres's ninth goal in six matches this season.

Lille midfielder Angel Gomes was sent off before the break and Zeno Debast added a long-range strike midway through the second half.

PROTEST BANNER

Bayern fans didn't appear enthusiastic about the new format, holding aloft a gigantic banner that ran the length of one end of the stands reading "Too much of a good thing — back to the roots — undo new CL-format."

The protest banner was displayed during the playing of the Champions League anthem.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kelly: Sovereign funds, the ultrarich, gangsters crowding out old-school owners

FROM B11

This isn't business. It's statesmanship. It's the commodification and repurposing of the biggest cultural assets on Earth.

Last month, the NFL announced it would allow private equity to buy minority, non-voting shares in its clubs. I'm sure that will end well for it.

Because while the NFL is well capable of getting an out-of-pocket heir who's never heard the word 'No' to bend to its will, try doing the same thing to a bunch of hired killers off Wall Street who dabble in governmental overthrow.

The last time a league really got one over on an owner was L.A. Clippers' boss Donald Sterling.

Sterling made two mistakes — he was awful on tape, and he didn't own anything important except the basketball team. He was a franchisee. That made him easy to push around. Still, the NBA could not have pushed him out on its own. It needed the players' co-operation.

Soon, those sorts of owners — guys who bought cheap and made a bundle — will be gone. They are being replaced by sovereign funds, ultrarich dilettantes and quasi-gangsters.

A housing-market analogy applies — you aren't selling your property to someone who wants to spend years there building a family. You're welcoming in prospectors, strip miners and people who want to leverage sports for its political power. Every new dollar you make, you lose a little control.

How do you imagine that will end?

There's not much point in debating it now that it's happening, but leagues would like to pretend to legislate it every once in a while.

Hence, the Manchester City trial: 'We took you on because you're so rich, and now we would like you to pretend you're slightly less rich.' Or something to that effect.

In the end, the rule doesn't change, in sports or in life — everyone's equal, though some are more equal than others.

What's changing is who gets to apply that rule. It used to be leagues pressing owners to press players. Now it's owners, followed by players, with leagues coming up the rear carrying a mop. They're there to clean up the mess.

MAN CITY'S RODRI SAYS INTENSITY OF SCHEDULE IS PUSHING TOP PLAYERS TOWARD A STRIKE

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND Manchester City midfielder Rodri says top soccer players are close to going on strike because of the number of games they are having to play.

The Spain international said players are concerned about the way the game is headed as more games are added to the calendar in competitions such as the Champions League, which started on Tuesday.

Rodri was asked on Tuesday if players might start refusing to play because of the calendar.

"I think we are close to that," he said in a news conference ahead of City's Champions League opener against Inter Milan on Wednesday. "It's easy to understand. You ask any player, he will say the same — it's not the opinion of [just] Rodri or whoever. I think it's a general opinion of the players."

"If it keeps this way, it will be a moment when we have no other option, I really think. It's something that worries us because we are the guys who suffer."

Rodri is expected to start his first game for City this season when Inter visits Etihad Stadium, having been given an extended break by the club after winning the European Championship with Spain in July.

City has two more games to play in the first stage of the Champions League and up to seven matches more in the Club World Cup, which is scheduled to take place in the United States at the end of the domestic season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surging TFC faces tough challenge at home vs. MLS champion Columbus Crew

NEIL DAVIDSON

Coach John Herdman isn't putting too much stock in the fact that Toronto FC, since losing 4-0 in Columbus on July 6, has posted a better league record than the defending MLS champion.

Toronto, which beat visiting Austin 2-1 on Saturday, has won four of six league outings (4-2-0) since that setback at Lower.com Field while the Crew are 3-2-2.

"I don't put any credence [in that]," Herdman said. "I just look at their squad and I salivate."

Its easy to see why. Columbus provided a league-high five players to the MLS all-star game on its home field in July in defenders Rudy Camacho and Steven Moreira, midfielder/captain Darlington Nagbe and forwards Cucho Hernández and Diego Rossi.

Herdman sees layers of talent behind those all-stars.

"You see the way that they're able to almost carbon-copy players. One comes in, another goes out ... and they feel like they have a very similar profile. So to be able to take [Christian] Ramírez out and then bring [Canadian forward Jacen] Russell-Rowe in as a power forward, you look and go 'Whoa, that's good to have.'"

Federico Bernardeschi was Toronto's lone all-star.

Columbus (14-5-8) comes to BMO Field on Wednesday in third place in the Eastern Conference, five places and 14 points ahead of Toronto (11-15-3). A playoff position already clinched, the Crew are hoping to leapfrog Cincinnati

into second spot.

Coach Wilfried Nancy is looking forward to matching wits against Herdman.

"John is going to cook [up] something," the Frenchman said with a belly laugh. "I know John. When we played a game in [the] preseason, it wasn't a preseason game. It was a real game. But this is John. That's why I like him, because he's intense all the time."

The Columbus game is the first of four in an 11-day stretch that will see TFC club visit Colorado on Saturday, Vancouver on Sept. 25 in the Canadian Championship final and Chicago on Sept. 28.

"They're going to try to go all in. They're going to try to press us, they're going to try to match us," he added. "They know exactly the way we want to play so we'll have to be clever and creative also."

Herdman, meanwhile, says TFC will have to play error-free football.

While the Crew have failed to score in their past two outings (a 4-0 loss to visiting Seattle and 0-0 draw at rival FC Cincinnati), Toronto is hurting in its backline.

Nicksoen Gomis and Henry Wingo both left the Austin game early with hamstring injuries with Herdman estimating that Gomis will be out three to four weeks and Wingo 10-12 days. Veteran Kevin Long missed the Aus-

tin game after tweaking his hamstring in training and will undergo a fitness test ahead of the game.

Shane O'Neill, meanwhile, is suspended for yellow-card accumulation.

The Crew are a formidable opponent.

Columbus is tied with Real Salt Lake for fifth in the league in averaging 1.93 goals a game. Only Inter Miami (2.32), Portland Timbers (2.00), Los Angeles Galaxy (1.97) and Colorado Rapids (1.96) score more.

And Columbus boasts the league's stingiest defence, conceding 1.04 goals a game. In contrast, the Toronto defence is tied for 22nd at 1.76 goals a game.

Toronto has conceded 51 goals, 23 more than Columbus, which has collected more points (7-3-4, 25 points) on the road in league play this season than Toronto has at home (7-7-0, 21 points).

The Columbus game is the first of four in an 11-day stretch that will see TFC club visit Colorado on Saturday, Vancouver on Sept. 25 in the Canadian Championship final and Chicago on Sept. 28. Toronto will then close out the regular season at home to the New York Red Bulls on Oct. 2 and Inter Miami on Oct. 5.

If the playoffs were to start tomorrow, Toronto would face ninth-place D.C. United in a wild-card matchup with the winner advancing to take on the East's top seed — currently Miami — in the best-of-three first round.

Toronto has not made the postseason since 2020.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NORTHERN SUPER LEAGUE SELECTS FRONT-OFFICE STAFF AHEAD OF SPRING KICKOFF

The Northern Super League has fleshed out its front office with four appointments.

José Maria Celestino da Costa was named vice-president and head of soccer operations while Marianne Brooks was appointed vice-president of partnerships, Kelly Shouldice as vice-president of brand and content and Joyce Sou as vice-president of finance and business operations.

The new six-team women's pro league is set to kick off in April.

"Their unique expertise and leadership are crucial as we lay the foundation for not just a successful league in Canada, but one that stands among the top sports leagues in the world," NSL

president Christina Litz said in a statement. "By investing in top-tier talent and infrastructure, the Northern Super League is committed to creating a league that will elevate the game and set new standards for women's professional soccer globally."

Da Costa will oversee all on-field matters, including officiating. His résumé includes stints with Estoril Praia, a men's first-division team in Portugal, and the Portuguese Soccer Federation, where he helped develop the Portuguese women's league.

Brooks spent a decade with Canucks Sports & Entertainment, working in "partnership sales and retention efforts" for the Vancouver Canucks, Vancouver

Warriors, and Rogers Arena. Most recently, she served as senior director of account management at StellarAlgo, a software company that helps pro sports teams connect with their fans.

Shouldice has worked for Corus Entertainment, the Canadian Football League, and most recently as vice-president of Content and Communications at True North Sports & Entertainment, where she managed original content as well as business and hockey communications.

Sou, who was involved in the league's initial launch, will oversee financial planning, analysis and the league's expansion strategy in her new role.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Flames' MacKenzie Weegar skates during NHL action against the Flyers in Philadelphia in January. He says he feels like he owes it to his team to 'grind through these years and get a Stanley Cup.' DERIK HAMILTON/AP

Weegar committed to Calgary Flames despite veteran exodus

Defenceman set career highs with 20 goals and 52 points in 2023-24

JOSHUA CLIPPERTON

MacKenzie Weegar wasn't bitter or upset as he watched friends live out their dreams.

The Calgary Flames defenceman just hopes to experience the same feeling one day. He also knows the road leading to that moment, if it does arrive, will likely be long and winding — much like his own path.

A seventh-round pick by the Florida Panthers at the 2013 NHL draft, Weegar climbed the ranks to become an important piece of a roster that captured the Presidents' Trophy as the league's top regular-season club in 2021-22.

Two months later after a second-round playoff exit, he was traded to the Flames along with Jonathan Huberdeau for Matthew Tkachuk. And less than two years after that, the Panthers were hoisting the Stanley Cup.

"Happy for the city and for the team," Weegar said of Florida's June victory over the Edmonton Oilers.

His sole focus, he insists, is

squarely on eventually getting the Flames to the same spot. The landscape, however, has changed drastically since Weegar committed to Calgary on an eight-year, US\$50-million contract extension in October, 2022.

Weegar has watched a list that includes goaltender Jacob Markstrom, defencemen Chris Tanev, Noah Hanifin and Nikita Zadorov and forwards Elias Lindholm and Andrew Mangiapane shipped out of town since the start of last season — largely for picks, prospects and young players as part of a rebuild.

Despite that exodus, he remains committed to the Calgary project steered by general manager Craig Conroy.

"It's easy to get all out of whack when you see guys trying to leave or wanting new contracts," the 30-year-old from Ottawa said at last week's NHL/NHLPA player media tour in Las Vegas. "I just focus on where I am and where I want to be, and that's Calgary."

"I believe in this team. The city has taken me in right away. I feel like I owe it to them to stick around and grind through these years and get a Stanley Cup."

The hard-nosed blueliner certainly knows what it is to grind.

After winning the Memorial Cup alongside Nathan MacKinnon with the Halifax Mooseheads

in 2013, Weegar toiled in the ECHL and American Hockey League for three seasons before making his NHL debut late in the 2016-17 campaign with the Panthers.

He would spend the next five years in South Florida as one of the players tasked with shifting an organizational culture that had experienced little success over the previous two decades.

"There's always going to be a piece of my heart and loyalty to that team," Weegar said. "But now I'm in a different situation ... I compete against all 32 teams, not just Florida."

Weegar set career highs with 20 goals — eight was the most he had ever previously registered — and 52 points in 2023-24 as part of a breakout offensive performance.

"I think my buddies cared a lot more than I did," he said with a smile. "All I hear is, 'fantasy, fantasy, fantasy.'"

Weegar, however, isn't punting on 2024-25. He pointed to the NHL's parity and the fact a couple of teams surprise every season.

It's the same approach that took him from the ECHL a decade ago to hockey's premier preseason event inside a swanky hotel on Sin City's famed strip, where he stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the game's best.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHL boosts cross-border rivalry by launching series with American prospects

JOHN WAWROW

The Canadian Hockey League is looking to capitalize on the sport's cross-border rivalry by having its top draft-eligible prospects face USA Hockey's National Development team in an annual two-game series starting in November.

Unveiled on Tuesday by the CHL, the series is being billed as the CHL-USA Prospects Challenge with this year's games played at two Ontario cities — London, Ont., and Oshawa — on Nov. 26-27. The CHL reached a three-year deal to host the series, with sites rotating between the group's three members — the Ontario, Quebec Maritime, and Western hockey leagues.

Aside from the world junior championships, the series will feature many of both country's top players the ages of 17 and 18 in head-to-head competition, something CHL president Dan MacKenzie said has been previously lacking for two countries who produce a majority of NHL talent.

"We think we've got the recipe for something really special here," MacKenzie said.

A majority of the CHL's roster will be selected by the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau.

The Michigan-based NTDP, established by USA Hockey in 1996, is a development program for the United States' top juniors, with the team spending its season competing in the USHL, while rounding out its schedule playing in international tournaments and against U.S. colleges. NTDP alumni include NHL No. 1 draft picks such as Patrick Kane, Auston Matthews and Jack Hughes.

For the CHL, the series replaces its annual top-prospects game which was established in 1992 and ran through last season. The CHL also hosted a Canada-Russia Challenge, which began in 2003 and was last held in 2019, before being postponed as a result of the COVID pandemic and then cancelled after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The challenge series is being launched at a time when North America's junior hockey landscape could be shifting with the potential of NCAA Division I programs lifting their long-standing ban against CHL players.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Camp

■ FROM B11

TRYOUT TIME

Six-time 30-goal scorer Max Pacioretty is the biggest-name player attending camp on a professional tryout agreement. Pacioretty is in Toronto, and agent Allan Walsh has said he expects the 35-year-old winger to sign a contract prior to the start of the season.

Others with the opportunity to earn a deal include Travis Dermott with defending Western Conference champion Edmonton; fellow defenceman Tyson Barrie with Calgary; 2020 and 2021 Cup winner Tyler Johnson with Boston; and respected veteran forward Pierre-Édouard Bellemare with Colorado. Long-time New York Islanders enforcer Matt Martin is also back, hoping to stick around and get another contract.

COMING AND GOING

Landeskog's next game will be his first in the NHL since lifting the Stanley Cup over his head when the Avalanche defeated the Lightning in Game 6 of the final in 2022. A nagging right-knee injury and subsequent cartilage-replacement surgery to attempt to fix the problem have cost the Swedish forward the past two seasons.

"Seeing him around the rink, obviously being more active on the ice, seeing the progressions he's made from when we were here for playoffs previously, it's awesome to see," forward Logan O'Connor said.

Oshie has played through chronic back problems for years and said after Washington lost in the first round of the playoffs he would only return if he and doctors could come up with a solution that keeps him in the lineup. The Capitals seem to have prepared for life without Oshie, but it is not clear if the 37-year-old who was part of their 2018 Cup run intends to try to keep playing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAPLE LEAFS ANNOUNCE OREO AS NEW HELMET SPONSOR FOR APPROACHING SEASON

The Toronto Maple Leafs have announced cookie brand Oreo as the team's helmet sponsor for the approaching NHL season.

The new helmet will debut Sunday when Toronto opens its 2024-25 preseason against the Ottawa Senators at Scotiabank Arena.

The Oreo logo replaces Canadian restaurant chain Pizza Pizza, which was the Leafs' helmet sponsor last season.

Previously, social-media platform TikTok sponsored Toronto starting in the 2021-22 regular season when the league began allowing teams to sell advertising space on helmets.

The Oreo cookie consists of two chocolate biscuits around a white-icing filling and is often dipped in milk.

Fittingly, the Leafs wear the Dairy Farmers of Ontario's "Milk" logo on their jerseys. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANUCKS WINGER JOSHUA TO MISS TRAINING CAMP AFTER CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Vancouver Canucks winger Dakota Joshua has announced he'll miss the start of training camp after surgery for testicular cancer.

Joshua said in a statement posted to social media by the team Tuesday that he felt a lump on one of his testicles this summer and later had surgery to successfully remove the tumour.

The 28-year-old from Dearborn, Mich., said he plans on returning to play "as soon as possible" and is "working hard every day" to rejoin his teammates.

Joshua said the past several weeks have been "extremely challenging" and encouraged men to get checked regularly for testicular cancer.

The 6-foot-3, 206-pound forward had a career-high 18 goals and 14 assists in 63 games for the Canucks last season and signed a new four-year, US\$13-million deal with Vancouver at the end of June.

The Canucks are set to open their training camp in Penticton, B.C., on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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www.righttoplay.ca/heroes-gala

Solheim Cup victory illustrates future for Americans on LPGA

Korda has lived up to her ranking as the No. 1 player in golf

DOUG FERGUSON

ANALYSIS

Nelly Korda managed what Tiger Woods rarely could. She lived up to her billing as the No. 1 player in golf at a high-stakes team competition against Europe.

And she had plenty of help as the Americans finally got possession of the Solheim Cup after seven long years. Their best players delivered some of the biggest moments.

Rose Zhang showed why she is looked upon as a rising star on the LPGA Tour. She not only became the third American to go 4-0 in the Solheim Cup, she needed just 58 holes to do it. Zhang played the 17th hole at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club only in practice rounds.

Not to be overlooked in this show of American star power is Lilia Vu.

A double major winner last season who started the year at No. 1, Vu missed more than two months – and two major championships – with a back injury and still wasn't feeling her best at the Solheim Cup. Her game didn't feel that great, either.

"I almost felt guilty taking that spot from someone else," she said.

But when Europe was on the verge of a feisty rally on Sunday, it was Vu who delivered relief to U.S. captain Stacy Lewis and the winning moment for the Americans.

Albane Valenzuela was two up on Vu, and the American was in a bunker behind the 16th green. The Americans were one point away from winning, but they weren't ahead in any of the six matches on the back nine. No wonder Lewis called it "the longest hour-and-a-half of my life."

But then Vu saved par to extend the match. Down to her last putt again, she holed an 18-foot putt to win the 17th. And then on the closing hole, Vu showed the

mettle that has made her one of America's best.

"I felt like I didn't do my part this week and I wanted to get something done," Vu said.

She never lost sight of the message from Lewis at the start of the week, to play like the Solheim Cup could be decided by every match and that every half-point mattered. Vu realized the Americans were at 14 points. A halve would win it.

From 103 yards, she hit wedge that hopped hard and spun to a stop two feet away. Valenzuela's long birdie putt stopped a few inches short, Vu rapped in her birdie and the celebration was on.

And now it's time to move on. There's no need to wait two years for the next Solheim Cup in the Netherlands. The Americans not only have the cup, they have the stars. That hasn't always been the case.

Lexi Thompson was the only American in the top 10 the last time they won the Solheim Cup in 2017. The previous U.S. victory in 2015, Thompson and Lewis were the only ones in the top 10. Neither was considered a dominant player worldwide.

Now they have Korda and Vu and Nos. 1 and 2 – just like last year – and they delivered in a big way on the biggest stage on the LPGA schedule.

Korda has always played great in these matches, and her 3-1 performance in Virginia extended her career record in the Solheim Cup to 10-5-1. That's to be expected.

Then again, the same was expected of the No. 1 player in men's golf. Woods didn't have a winning record in the Ryder Cup until his fifth appearance, going 3-2 in 2006 in Ireland when Europe won by a record margin.

More critical to the U.S. winning back the Solheim Cup were big contributions from Vu – who went 1-3-0 in Spain last year – and Zhang (0-2-1 in Spain).

Korda and Vu are each 26. Zhang is 21. One victory at home doesn't signal the start of having the upper hand in these matches. But it can only help raise the profile of American golf.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOTLAND TO HOLD 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

LONDON Scotland has rescued the Commonwealth Games that were in jeopardy after Australia's Victoria state backed out of plans to hold the 2026 event.

Glasgow, which hosted the event 10 years ago, will do so again, though some sports will need to be dropped as the Commonwealth Games Federation aims to reduce costs to make the competition more sustainable in the future.

"It will be scaled back compared to 2014 but will be a celebration of sporting achievement," Scotland's First Minister John Swinney posted on X on

Tuesday. "Excited about Glasgow 2026."

The event held every four years was established in 1930 as the British Empire Games and is open to 74 countries and territories. It has been staged in Australia, Canada, England, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales. Birmingham hosted the 2022 games.

Victoria state lawmakers cited escalating costs when they withdrew their commitment last year to host the games, though an inquiry later found the estimates they relied on were overstated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

FORMER CANADIENS, SENATORS DEFENCEMAN WIDEMAN RETIRES AFTER SIX NHL SEASONS

MONTREAL Former Montreal Canadiens and Ottawa Senators defenceman Chris Wideman announced he's retiring after six NHL seasons on Tuesday. Wideman spent his last three seasons under contract with the Canadiens, but did not play during the 2023-24 campaign owing to a back injury. The 34-year-old said in a letter released by the Canadiens that he made several attempts at rehabilitation and sought a variety of treatments before deciding to hang up his skates. He finishes his career with 20 goals and 58 assists in 291 games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDLER TO SIGN ONE-DAY CONTRACT TO RETIRE AS A VANCOUVER CANUCK

VANCOUVER The Vancouver Canucks announced Tuesday that defenceman Alex Edler will sign a one-day contract in order to officially retire as a member of the NHL team. The signing will be part of a celebration of Edler's career held Oct. 11 when the Canucks host the Philadelphia Flyers. The Canucks selected Edler, from Ostersund, Swe-

den, in the third round (91st overall) of the 2004 NHL draft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JAYS REINSTATE BICHETTE BUT LOSE WAGNER FOR SEASON, PUT VARSHO ON IL

ARLINGTON, TEXAS The Toronto Blue Jays have reinstated short-stop Bo Bichette from the 10-day injured list, but infielder Will Wagner will miss the remainder of the season and outfielder Daulton Varsho has been placed on the IL. Bichette, 26, has missed two months with a right calf strain. The two-time all-star hit .286 (4-for-16) with two runs batted in over a four-game rehab assignment with the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons. Bichette is batting .222 with four home runs and 30 RBIs with Toronto this season. The Jays activated him ahead of their game at Texas on Tuesday. Wagner was placed on the 60-day injured list with left-knee inflammation. He missed the last two games of Toronto's three-game sweep of St. Louis last weekend. Varsho was placed on the 10-day IL retroactive to Saturday with a right shoulder strain. He is batting .214 with 18 home runs and 58 RBIs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

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DEATHS



ANDREW LEWIS JONES

Andrew "Andy" Lewis Jones died peacefully, at home, on September 13, 2024, after a long battle with cancer. Born to Helen (Brown) and Henry Mason (Mase) Jones in Montreal in 1944, he was the youngest of three boys. He spent his formative years in Grimsby, Ontario, before following his elder brother, Denis, to Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York. Returning to Canada after graduation, he took a job at Price Waterhouse in Toronto.

Andy would go on to have a successful career, at PW, Olympia and York, and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, but work was never the focus of his life. He'd rather tell you about visiting his eldest brother, Steve, and his family when they lived up in Hudson Bay. Or the lifelong friends he made navigating Paris with his terrible French during the three years he spent abroad. When he retired in 2004, an invitation to sail from Annapolis to Antigua heralded his transition from lake to ocean sailor. For the next 15 years, he fulfilled a boyhood dream, joining friends to sail the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. His last crossing, from Tasmania to New Zealand, was in 2019.

More than anything, Andy loved people, his family most of all. His wife, Jo, whom he met upon his return from France in 1978, and married in 1980; his children, Ruth and David; their partners, Jon and Ines; his brothers and in-laws, nieces and nephews, and an ever-growing younger generation. In his last two years, he was overjoyed to get to be Pops to his two grandsons, Patrick and West. Never the most effusive with his emotions, he was still the one everyone knew they could call when they were sad, or lonely, or having a tough time.

Behind this love was a deep curiosity. Friends, colleagues, neighbours, cab drivers – he wanted to know about their kids, their jobs, their plans for the future. He read voraciously and could be counted on to wander off on family excursions, distracted by an interesting shop, a historical plaque, a room in a museum everyone else had somehow missed.

Everything he discovered, he wanted to share. With Jo he hosted countless dinners, offering a table laid with good food and wine to visiting family; to friends from work, sailing, and the neighbourhood; to his children's friends and his friends' children. This was, perhaps, where he was happiest – trying to coax a guest into sampling ever stinkier cheeses, winking conspiratorially as he slipped a little to the dog waiting patiently beside him.

Andy's final weeks were spent at home, surrounded by family and friends and lovingly cared for by Jo, the team at the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care at Mount Sinai hospital, and wonderful PSWs. In addition to his wife, children, and grandchildren, Andy leaves his brothers, Steve and Denis, his nieces and nephews, and a wide network of extended family and friends, many of whom he considered family. A celebration of life is being planned for the fall.



OLGA ROMAN, R.N., B.N., M.Sc., Ph.D.
1928 – 2024

Olga died peacefully, with grace and dignity on September 4th. She was born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, the daughter of Nicholas and Jenny Roman. She was one of three siblings alongside her brothers, William and Ted Roman, all predeceased.

She was a proud aunt to four nieces, two nephews (one predeceased), and is survived by their respective families. She was the most outstanding aunt to three generations, and they were her pride and joy. She relished each occasion, celebration, and achievement of every member of the family, and they enriched her life.

Above all, Olga was a dedicated nurse, and nursing became her life's work. She was a pioneer in the development of public health and community care policy, and an activist for social justice in community health. Her dedication, caring, compassion, and sharp focus on issues in health care led her to work in England, Canada, Pakistan, Australia, Uganda, Ukraine and the United States of America. Across continents she developed nursing education and community health services.

Having taught at Queens University & The University of Calgary, Olga accepted an invitation from Dean Dr. Dorothy Kergin in 1974 to come to McMaster University, School of Nursing. She became the project director of the McMaster-Aga Khan-CIDA Project, and led a team of colleagues who implemented their plan for nursing education and community care.

Dundas was home, where Olga enjoyed the theatre, arts, festivals and dining. She is to be remembered as a kind and generous neighbour, a sharp and clear communicator, and a most supportive colleague. Her friends became her family and they truly cared for her. Nothing gave her more joy than the Niagara fruit season, which prompted Olga's strawberry jam, made with love and given as gifts to all.

With thanks to Dr. M Levy and Dr. A Emili for continuity of her care. Thanks to St. Joseph's Hospital Hamilton and Bayshore Healthcare for excellent service and exceptional nursing care. She will be remembered in prayers at St. Paul's Westdale Anglican Church.

Olga will be laid to rest in the Roman family plot in Kirkland Lake, Ontario.



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MICHAELA DEPRINCE

DANCER, 29

WAR ORPHAN TURNED LEADING BALLERINA HAD AN ATHLETIC STYLE



Michaela DePrince dances in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2012. She had lead roles in such major ballets as *The Nutcracker* and *Coppelia*, and was credited with a 'spiffire quickness.' GALLO IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

Her back story, as detailed in her widely praised memoir, chronicled as complete a transformation of circumstances as could be imagined

ALEX TRAUB NEW YORK

Michaela DePrince, an acclaimed ballerina born during the civil war in Sierra Leone whose life story was no less fantastical than the fairy tales that inspire ballet, died on Sept. 10 in New York. She was 29.

Her death was confirmed by her siblings Mia and Erik. They said the cause was not "immediately clear" and declined to provide further details.

Ms. DePrince crammed a career's worth of achievements into the 2010s.

At the beginning of the decade, she gained notice for her role in *First Position*, a popular documentary by Bess Kargman about a competition that propels teenage dancers into the upper reaches of the profession.

She then became a principal dancer with the Dance Theater of Harlem before being recruited by the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam. She had lead roles in such major ballets as *The Nutcracker* and *Coppelia*, and she was a soloist in *Cinderella* and George Balanchine's *Tarantella*.

Ms. DePrince gained a reputation for an athletic style. Writing in *The New York Times*, critic Roslyn Sulcas credited her with "spiffire quickness." *Dance Spirit* magazine wrote in 2012, "Powerful is the first word that comes to mind."

Ms. DePrince flew back to the United States from the Netherlands for a cameo in Beyoncé's music video for the song *Freedom*, from her 2016 album *Lemonade*. She was sponsored by Nike. In discussions of prominent Black ballerinas, she was often mentioned alongside Misty Copeland, and Ms. Copeland described Ms. DePrince, in a 2018 article in the *Times*, as "one of today's most visible and brilliantly talented young artists."

Ms. DePrince's back story as an orphan from Sierra Leone, included in miniature in *First Position*, was told in full in her widely praised memoir, *Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina*, which she wrote with her adoptive mother, Elaine DePrince. It chronicled as complete a transformation of circumstances as could be imagined.

She was born Mabinty Bangura on Jan. 6, 1995, in a rural area of the Kenema district in southeastern Sierra Leone, in coastal West Africa. Her father harvested rice and made shea butter on land he owned with his brother. He also worked in diamond mines.

Mabinty was born with vitiligo, a skin condition that made her skin spotted. Some people, including her uncle, thought this made her a carrier of bad luck. Told that she would be unmarriageable, her father replied by saying that it was all the more important, then, for her to get an education. She learned to read and write in Arabic and gained fluency in several African languages.

Everything changed when her father was murdered at the mines. She and her mother were taken in by her uncle. In her book, she describes being beaten by him and denied food. Her mother tried to protect her but eventually died of malnutrition and fever. Her uncle took her to an orphanage.

There, she was given a new name that was also a ranking: No. 27 – the least favoured among all of the children in her new home. She was served food last, and as a result received the least, and she was given to understand that she deserved her lowly position because of her speckled skin. There was another girl at the orphanage whose birth name was Mabinty. She was designated No. 26 because of her left-handedness. The girls became best friends.

Life at the orphanage involved beatings, malnourishment and horrific sights, including the murder of a teacher.

One day, a gust of wind blew an issue of *Dance Magazine* into the orphanage. Its cover bore an image of a ballerina en pointe. She was smiling; she looked happy. Mabinty, too, wanted to be happy. She took to twirling around and standing on the tips of her toes. She kept the magazine cover as a talisman.

Eventually, a militia group occupied the orphanage. The residents fled to the neighbouring state of Guinea. Walking to the border, Mabinty saw hundreds of dead and decaying bodies.

Around the same time, thousands of miles away in

Cherry Hill, N.J., a retired special education teacher named Elaine DePrince and her husband, Charles DePrince, an executive at a nutritional supplement company, were planning to adopt.

Elaine had looked forward to adopting children since she first learned of the concept of adoption as a little girl. In the 1980s, she adopted three boys with hemophilia, feeling it was her duty because other adoptive parents did not want to deal with their medical issues. In the early 1990s, all of them contracted HIV, as did many other people with hemophilia who relied on blood-clotting products. It led to their deaths.

One of their adopted sons, Michael, had been inspired by the idea of adopting a baby from a war-torn country in Africa. After his death, the DePrinces resolved to do just that. Elaine flew to Africa planning to adopt a girl named Mabinty whom she had seen smiling in a photograph.

When Elaine arrived, she was told there were two Mabintys. She decided to adopt both of them. No. 26 became Mia Mabinty DePrince; No. 27 became Michaela Mabinty DePrince, named after Michael.

Elaine brought her daughters to her hotel room, where she had a suitcase full of toys. Mia delightedly began to play. Michaela searched through Elaine's luggage. Elaine was confused. Then Michaela showed her the beloved magazine cover and began to pirouette. She had been looking for dancing shoes.

In New Jersey, Elaine promised Michaela that she could attend ballet classes once she was able to speak English. She was quickly discovered to be talented, and she threw herself into dance.

When the family moved to Vermont, Michaela began to board at her ballet school and enrolled in an online high school. The separation from her family was painful – she would call Mia in tears because she missed her so much – but she would later explain her decision to leave home by saying that her goal was to pursue ballet.

First Position documents Michaela as she earns a scholarship to the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at the American Ballet Theater in New York. A year after the movie came out, she was being reviewed as a dancer in the *Times*. By 2014, she was performing in Amsterdam as a soloist in *Swan Lake*. The Dutch National Ballet had to place a moratorium on requests to interview Ms. DePrince so she could focus on dancing.

It was clear she put enormous pressure on herself. "I would like to change the way people see Black dancers," she told *The Guardian* in 2012. "I would hate to disappoint anybody."

In 2017, she ruptured her Achilles tendon. No longer able to lose herself in ballet, she found herself dwelling on the recurring nightmares she was having about her childhood. It struck her that all the endorsements, engagements, interviews, writing assignments and music videos that involved her retelling her life story were causing her to relive her darkest memories.

"If I hadn't ruptured my Achilles, I don't think I would have had the time and space to be able to know how important my mental health was," she told *Pointe* magazine in 2021. That year, she left her position as a soloist with the Dutch National Ballet to return to the United States as a second soloist with the Boston Ballet. *Pointe* described the decision as a surprise for the dance world.

Ms. DePrince left the Boston Ballet this year, Mia and Erik said. She had been living in both New York and Boston.

In addition to them, Ms. DePrince leaves another brother, Adam DePrince, and four more sisters, all of them adopted from Africa by her family – Amie DePrince, Jaye DePrince, Mariel DePrince and Bee Green.

Her adoptive father's death in 2020, which followed a struggle with Parkinson's disease, helped motivate Michaela to leave the Netherlands. Her adoptive mother died on Sept. 11, a day after Michaela did. Her health had been declining in recent months after her congenital heart failure worsened. She died before she could learn of Michaela's death. After the deaths of three of her sons, her family said, her being spared that knowledge was an act of divine grace.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

COLIN JOSE

JOURNALIST, 88

Respected writer was considered a top historian of soccer in North America

Canada Soccer Hall of Famer Colin Jose, a soccer historian who spent decades documenting the beautiful game, has died at the age of 88.

He died Saturday in London, Ont., 39 years to the day after Canada first qualified for the men's FIFA World Cup in 1985, according to Canada Soccer.

Mr. Jose was a founding member of the Soccer Hall of Fame and Museum, now known as the Canada Soccer Hall of Fame, and served on the executive committee of the International Federation of Football History and Statistics.

Mr. Jose was Canada Soccer's press officer from 1972 to 1982 and the country's unofficial soccer historian for another 30-plus years thereafter.

He served as the official statistician for Canada Soccer's national teams, the official statistician and historian of the old Canadian Soccer League and as a liaison officer on the FIFA press and publications committee.

Mr. Jose wrote or co-authored several books covering Canadian soccer, the North American Soccer League, and the American Soccer League. His research and statistics

served as the foundation for Canada Soccer's national database and records management program.

Simply put, Mr. Jose was a soccer encyclopedia who did it for the love of the game.

"It's my hobby and I get a great deal out of it," Mr. Jose once said. "I get to see a lot of games; there are some financial rewards, but most years it's a trade-off; I spend as much as I make."

Mr. Jose's influence was not restricted to Canada.

The Colin Jose Media Award, presented by the National Soccer Hall of Fame in the United States, honours journalists and communications professionals whose careers have made "significant long-term contributions to soccer in the United States." Mr. Jose was historian emeritus of the Hall of Fame, which called him the "pre-eminent soccer historian of North America."

Past winners include Amy Rosenfeld, Grant Wahl, JP Dellacamera, Paul Kennedy and George Vecsey.

Born July 11, 1936, in Falmouth, England, Mr. Jose emigrated to Canada in 1957, living first in Hamilton and then Moose Jaw.

After returning to England, he moved back to Canada for good in 1964. He and his wife Karen, whom he married in 1966, raised their daughter Carla in Hamilton.

The late George Gross, the long-time sports editor of the *Toronto Sun* and former *Toronto Telegram* sports writer, wrote in 1995 that Mr. Jose "spent decades on the research of Canadian and American soccer history as well as facts about origins of leagues in the two countries. He [was] respected the world over."

The late Don Lovegrove, who spent more than 30 years in the Hamilton Spectator's sports department called Mr. Jose "unquestionably the most knowledgeable soccer journalist in the country."

Mr. Jose was honoured by both the Canada Soccer Hall of Fame (as a builder in 2009) and Hamilton Soccer Hall of Fame (in 2016) and recognized as a Canada Soccer Life Member (in 2014).

He received the Canada Soccer President's Award (2007), the Ontario Soccer President's Award (1986 and 2015), and the Soccer Quebec Centennial Medal (2011).

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Colin Jose, left, receives the Canada Soccer Award of Merit in 1992 by then Canada Soccer president Terry Quinn at the Westin in Toronto. CANADA SOCCER/CP*