THE GLOBE AND MAIL

OTTAWA/QUEBEC EDITION ▪ TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 ▪ GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

Alberta group's leader accused of stonewalling probe into use of elector list

CARRIE TAIT
MATTHEW SCACE

The leader of the separatist organization accused of misusing Alberta's list of electors by providing hundreds of supporters with access to private information belonging to 2.9 million residents is refusing to co-operate with investigators.

David Parker, the political organizer behind the Centurion Project, is stonewalling Elections Alberta, according to a statement from the head of the agency.

"I can confirm David Parker is not cooperating with the investigation and he has refused to sign a statutory declaration confirming that he will comply with my direction to cease and desist with respect to the list of electors," Gordon McClure, Alberta's chief electoral officer, said in a statement to The Globe and Mail.

Mr. Parker did not respond to messages late Monday afternoon. He previously stated he would co-operate with investigators, including those at Elections Alberta.

He has a combative history with the provincial agency, which he argues oversteps its authority to the detriment of citizens.

"Elections Alberta is an evil institution that is used to suppress democracy," he wrote on X on April 18, before the agency alleged the Centurion Project violated election laws. "I will not rest until everyone responsible for the lawfare being waged out of that den of evil are brought to justice."

ALBERTA, A8

Canada is first outside Europe to back Ukraine compensation commission

STEVEN CHASE
SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER

Canada on Monday became the first country outside Europe to sign a convention aimed at setting up a commission that will adjudicate compensation claims against Russia for its war on Ukraine, a step Ottawa said reflects its commitment to holding Moscow accountable for the military assault.

Prime Minister Mark Carney's government said in a statement that Canadians, Ukrainians living in Canada, and Canadian companies that suffered losses in Ukraine would all be eligible to file claims.

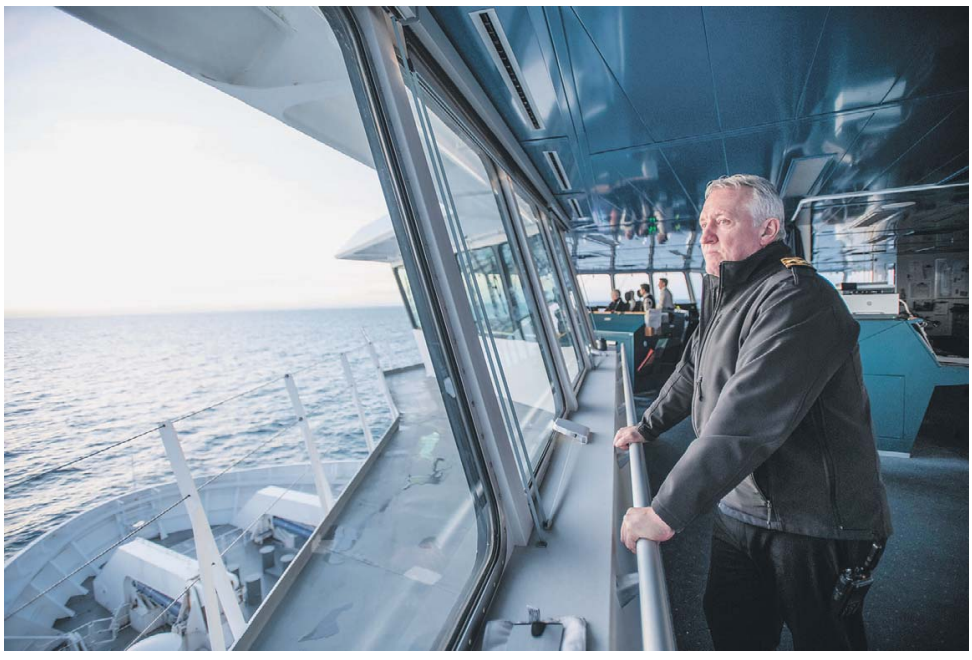
Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand signed the convention, which is intended to establish a body called the International Claims Commission for Ukraine, in Brussels.

The commission, once operational, will assess claims and determine compensation owed by Russia for damage, loss or injury caused by the Kremlin's full-scale attack on Ukraine, which began in February 2022.

The convention was signed by 35 European countries and the European Union at a conference in The Hague last December. It is the second of a three-part compensation plan developed under the Council of Europe, a 46-nation human-rights body. The first part, a Register of Damage for Ukraine, has reportedly received more than 150,000 claims.

UKRAINE, A8

FOLIO



BC Ferries Captain Len Hanson stands on the bridge of the Northern Expedition as it crosses the Hecate Strait on its way from Prince Rupert, B.C., to Haida Gwaii earlier this year. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Canada's energy ambitions crash into a B.C. strait's perilous waters

Push for increased tanker traffic raises fears of catastrophic oil spills

JUSTINE HUNTER SKIDEGATE, B.C.

In May of 2012, the crew of a small commercial fishing boat was caught in the unpredictable wind and waves of Hecate Strait off B.C.'s North Coast. The Pacific Siren capsized so quickly, the three men didn't have time to grab their life jackets or immersion suits.

The lifeboat was lost in the chaos, and the fishermen ended up in water cold enough to kill them. But they scrambled aboard a small inflatable dinghy that had been on deck and floated for 20 harrowing hours before washing up on Terror Point, a remote and rocky section of uninhabited Banks Island.

For eight days, Haida fisherman Jesse Brillon and his crewmates survived on seaweed and raw shellfish until they were spotted by a beachcombing sailor.

Today, Mr. Brillon puts that incident down to bad luck – he's endured far worse weather on Hecate Strait.

The notoriety of the strait and its neighbours – Queen Charlotte Sound to the south and Dixon Entrance to the north – means local mariners treat the waters with well-deserved caution. It also means the presence of oil tankers on the route is a contentious issue. Measures intended to protect the area from catastrophic spills date back to the 1970s.

But Alberta's current oil pipeline ambitions would mean dramatically more oil tanker traffic in these waters.

At present, large oil tankers pass through infrequently, their passage mostly curtailed under Canada's Oil Tanker Moratorium Act since 2019.

HECATE, A10

As conflict in Ukraine transforms drone warfare, NATO plays catch-up with Latvian exercises

MARK MacKINNON
SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT
SELIJA, LATVIA

Sergeant Cody Baltzer watched on a computer screen as a remote-controlled vehicle hurtled along a dirt road, cutting through a forest of pine trees.

The wheeled drone and Sgt. Baltzer were both part of red team in a NATO war game carried out Monday in central Latvia, a short drive from where the eastern edge of the Western military alliance meets Russia. The robot – a small, four-wheeled vehicle mounted with a high-definition camera – was the Canadian soldier's eyes and ears for the mock battle about to unfold.

Even a few years ago, those playing the red team – assigned the role of the attacking force in the annual war game – would have sent reconnaissance troops down the forest road, risking human casualties to discover the location of the blue team's defensive lines.



A drone operator works with an FPV drone during NATO's Crystal Arrow war games in Latvia. The exercises are modelled on the war in Ukraine, a conflict that has come to be dominated by such devices. GINTS IVUSKANS/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

No more.

In 2026, North Atlantic Treaty Organization war games are modelled on the war in Ukraine, a conflict that is increasingly dominated by air, ground and sea drones – to the extent that Ukraine claimed last month to have liberated a Russian-held position using only unmanned systems, which, if confirmed, would be a world first.

At the conclusion of the battle, Russian troops reportedly surrendered directly to Ukrainian drones, speaking to their controllers over video feeds not unlike the one Sgt. Baltzer was staring at on Monday.

It's a brand-new type of conflict, and one that the previously unrivalled NATO alliance is scrambling to catch up on.

It's also a form of warfare that recently crashed over Latvia's borders. Monday's exercise – part of a 10-day NATO drill called Crystal Arrow – came days after a pair of aerial drones struck an oil storage facility in eastern Latvia, causing minor damage. The explosive drones were initially launched from Ukraine, but entered Latvia from Russian airspace on May 7.

DRONE, A7

CULTURE
Ottawa permanently renews initiative to support Canada's creative pursuits abroad ▪ A2

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Trump promises to raise Jimmy Lai's plight with Beijing on coming trip ▪ A4

REPORT ON BUSINESS
Real estate developer Jesta to buy $500-million worth of Toronto condos ▪ B1

SECRET CANADA Explore our national database of freedom of information requests SecretCanada.com

INSIDE

SAMUEL McILHAGGA A13
MARSHA LEDERMAN A13
ANDRÉ PICARD A13
ANDREW WILLIS B4
JOHN TURLEY-EWART B4
MIKE MOFFATT B10

A SECTION

FOLIO A10-11
EDITORIAL & LETTERS A12
OPINION A13
LIFE & ARTS A14
WEATHER & FIRST PERSON A16
PUZZLES A17

B SECTION

REPORT ON BUSINESS B1
OPINION & ANALYSIS B4
GLOBE INVESTOR B10
SPORTS B13
COMICS B14
OBITUARIES B18

PODCAST
Tim Shufelt examines why stock markets appear to be ignoring real-world turmoil
tgam.ca/TheDecibel

THE GLOBE'S SECUREDROP SERVICE PROVIDES A WAY TO SECURELY SHARE INFORMATION WITH OUR JOURNALISTS TGAM.CA/SECUREDROP

MON-FRI: $5.00
SATURDAY: $9.00
PRICES MAY BE HIGHER IN SOME AREAS

7 73552 00002 5 19

Lace up your shoes for Community Care
Your steps count ~ June 7
KensingtonHealth.org/walk
Kensington Health
Register & make a difference
COMPASSIONATE CARE & ESSENTIAL SUPPORT

TOM'S PLACE
SPRING & SUMMER SUITS
NEWLY ARRIVED
SPRING SUIT SALE
Pick fresh styles for every occasion! Unbeatable selection of suits, premium tuxedos, wedding or grad attire. Expertly tailored for the perfect fit. Always below retail.
Come in today.
SPECIALS
FIRST FLOOR
Select Dress Shirts° from $60
Select Suits+ Reg. from $599 & up NOW FROM $249
Select Designer Suits+ Reg. up to $650 1 FOR $399 OR 3 FOR $1000
Sports Jackets+ Reg. up to $650 50% OFF
Designer Casual & Dress Pants 50% OFF
SECOND FLOOR
Designer Men's Suits+
1st Suit $150 OFF | 2nd Suit $175 OFF | 3rd Suit $200 OFF
Sports Jackets+ $100 OFF
Dress Pants & Shirts° $35 OFF EA.
+ Oversized suits & sports jackets, size 48 & over, are extra.
° White shirts not included.
Established 1958
Tom's Place
We'll suit you.
KENSINGTON MARKET
Mon-Fri 11-6
Saturday 10-5
Sunday 12-5
190 Baldwin St. (just W of Spadina)
416-596-0297 toms-place.com
TomsPlaceTO
PROUD TO SPONSOR THE KENSINGTON HEALTH WALK

MADE IN CANADA

BARBARA PRATT'S RUSSIAN TIPS



BARBARA PRATT, RUSSIAN TIPS, 2021. OIL ON CANVAS. 61.0 X 76.2 CM. AGNS PERMANENT COLLECTION. PURCHASED WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE CHARLES ANTHONY LAW AND JANE SHAW LAW CHARITABLE TRUST, 2021. PHOTO: STEVE FARMER

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is the largest art museum in Atlantic Canada. Since 1908, the Gallery has been a gateway for the visual arts in Atlantic Canada by engaging people with art. The Gallery's permanent collection currently holds more than 19,000 works.

For Barbara Pratt, baking is a profound act of love inherited from her mother, Mary Pratt, who would bake her a cake every year on her birthday. In *Russian Tips*, she honours this matrilineal bond through a hyper-realistic oil painting of a beautifully decorated cupcake. This work, created after her mother's death, elevates a domestic ritual into a meaningful monument to memory and milestone. The intricate frosting, rendered with careful detail, serves as a tribute to the small gestures that define a life and connect generations of women.

COLUMNISTS

MARSHA LEDERMAN
OPINION



Existing rules around water vessels and whales need to be enforced A13

FIRST PERSON

A box of old greeting cards makes Wendy Reichental love the tradition anew A16

JOHN TURLEY-EWART
OPINION



Canadians under 35 are enduring their own version of the Great Depression today B4

CORRECTION

A Monday Globe Investor article about the virtual health care provider Maple incorrectly stated the service is available to all CAA members. It is available only to CAA members in Southern Ontario, Central Ontario and Manitoba.

CLARIFICATIONS

A Monday news article about ecotherapy described PaRx Connectors as a national prescription program. PaRx Connectors is part of PaRx, a national prescription program. PaRx Connectors links people with forest therapy guides, horticultural therapists and other resources, while PaRx helps health care professionals prescribe patients time in nature.

A Friday business commentary article about how real estate ownership affects grocery retail competition said a Metro in Waterloo, Ont., restricted what food products a neighbouring Shoppers Drug Mart could sell and prohibited larger restaurants from opening nearby. The store was a Food Basics outlet owned by Metro.

The Globe and Mail is committed to maintaining the highest ethical, legal and editorial standards.
SANDRA E. MARTIN, STANDARDS EDITOR, standardseditor@globeandmail.com

Ottawa permanently renews creative export initiative, pledges $95-million over five years

BARRY HERTZ

On the eve of the Cannes Film Festival, where the industry chatter on the ground suggests that the era in which global culture revolved around the United States is now over, Culture Minister Marc Miller announced the permanent renewal of a large-scale initiative supporting Canada's creative pursuits abroad.

The Creative Export Strategy, or CES, was launched in 2018 under the Trudeau government, initially designed as a five-year $125-million initiative to enhance the export potential of Canadian culture. Early recipients included the Canada Book Fund, the Canada Music Fund, the Canada Arts Presentation Fund and Telefilm Canada.

According to Canadian Heritage, over the past eight years, the CES has helped more than 3,200 Canadian businesses and organizations reach 120 international markets, generating $167.7-million in commercial deals.

"There was some talk about not renewing this, and frankly we were quite nervous that it wouldn't. But the Prime Minister was quite clear in saying that this not only needs to be renewed, but it needs to be made permanent," Mr. Miller said in an interview about the program, after the announcement was made in Montreal. Ottawa will dedicate $95-million to the initiative over the next five years, and $19-million annually after that.

"It's amazing to have a Prime Minister who is putting culture at the centre of his export strategy," the minister added. "We know there are examples where these things are giving us five to one, six to one bang for your buck on return, so that's important from an economic perspective, but also as a part of radiating Canadian culture inside Canada, and outside."

The news arrives at a time when political leaders in Canada and the European Union are increasingly turning toward each other to deepen bonds, as the United States faces political and cultural isolation under President Donald Trump.

"I think it's a really important coincidence that we can leverage. I'd be lying if I told you that I could have predicted where this was going," Mr. Miller said.

He highlighted the example of Crave's hit show *Heated Rivalry,* a Canadian production. "The reason it's doing so well is that it was supported from us. They were passed over by a lot of American studios. And we embrace the risk and trust their instinct."

It's not yet clear which agencies and institutions will be prioritized under the renewal of the CES, which is led by Canadian Heritage as opposed to Export Development Canada.

"This isn't about piggybacking on trade missions with other departments, but it's looking at the industry and seeing what it needs, and maybe doing our own missions focused on specifically creative industries," Mr. Miller said. "There is an opportunity for us to make sure that we share more and more of our film and TV and any creative industry with Europe, where there is some cultural affinity."

The minister announced the CES funding at Montreal's Phi Foundation for Contemporary Art – an ocean away from the Cannes Film Festival, the world's most prestigious and glitzy cultural gathering, but still a symbolic creative hub close to the state of global arts.

While relatively few Canadian filmmakers are on the official Cannes program compared with recent years, the homegrown industry is running high on a series of domestic productions that have broken key box-office and critical thresholds.

Running in parallel with the Cannes festival's black-tie screenings is the industry-facing Marché du Film, where the world comes to buy and sell movies. There, representatives from more than 200 Canadian companies will be on the ground to help build their businesses while they help expand the country's bustling cinematic scene.

"At the end of the day, the big business is at the market, and we have quite a strong delegation going this year to make sure that we're part of the conversation worldwide," Julie Roy, executive director and chief executive of Telefilm, told The Globe and Mail ahead of the festival's launch. She added that Canada now has more co-production treaties than any other country.

"Diversification of markets is one of the government's top priorities, and it's the same in our sector," she said.

Ottawa is set to see the fruits of another key film-industry investment this fall, when the Toronto International Film Festival launches its inaugural content market. It will be similar to the Marché du Film, but will include television, digital and immersive media.

In 2024, the Trudeau government pledged $23-million to TIFF over the course of three years to stage the market, whose organizers will be busy on the ground at Cannes this week to drum up attendance from media buyers and sellers around the world. However, Mr. Miller cannot yet say whether Ottawa will renew its investment in the festival's content market.

"We'll have to look at it. I know that [TIFF CEO] Cameron Bailey is working his butt off in a lot of ways, including on this new trade committee, but we'll have to look at it and assess its success," Mr. Miller said. "I'm really psyched about it, but I want to see it myself. If that helps and we see the returns, I would push for it. But I can't give you that guarantee right now."

Environment Canada cuts research team

Critics warn reductions to weather-related services could hamper Canada's ability to forecast severe weather

SARAH J. HARB OTTAWA



Dr. David Sills, pictured at the Amit Chakma Engineering Building at Western University in London, Ont., on Thursday, says the research team's work helped severe weather forecasters get better data.
NICOLE OSBORNE/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Environment and Climate Change Canada has quietly disbanded the team behind the country's upgraded weather radar network and disconnected some radio programming, changes that critics say could affect storm forecasting and emergency communications.

Experts and advocates are warning that the ECCC's reductions to weather-related services could hamper Canada's ability to track, forecast and warn the public about severe weather events.

In 2016, the federal government invested $180-million to install 33 weather radars across the country; installation concluded in 2024.

ECCC's radar research team was "reorganized out of existence," earlier this year said David Sills, deputy director of the Canadian Severe Storms Lab and director of Western University's Northern Tornadoes Project. He also worked with ECCC for two decades as a severe weather scientist before moving to Western.

When asked about the disbandment, ECCC spokesperson Brandon Clim said in an e-mailed statement that while changes have been made to areas of applied research for the radar technology, the department will keep working to maintain the existing radar network.

"The Department will continue to deliver the scientific and technical expertise required to maintain the current radar network and preserve its essential functionalities and leverage radar observations to improve weather forecasts," Mr. Clim wrote.

In explaining the changes, Mr. Clim referenced ECCC's contribution to the Comprehensive Expenditure Review, which is a government-wide effort to find $60-billion in internal savings over five years, announced in the fall budget.

Dr. Sills said that while the department will continue to have staff dedicated to radar maintenance, there will no longer be a team focused on advancing the technology.

"As far as improving what's there and making sure that the network is reaching its full potential and stays on the leading edge of radar science … that part is gone," he said.

These radars are used to track severe weather events such as tornadoes and hurricanes, and provide meteorologists with more precise and timely weather warnings.

The research team's work helped severe weather forecasters get better data, Dr. Sills said.

There is evidence that certain types of severe storms are getting worse, he said, adding that "climate change is a big concern."

As these issues progress with time, "you don't want to be reducing the science," he said.

> Advocates and radio operators are also raising public safety concerns after ECCC permanently disconnected two weather radio programs on March 16.

According to a Northern Tornadoes Project performance assessment report, ECCC established a target lead time of 10 minutes for 60 per cent of tornadoes to ensure citizens have enough time to take protective action.

Ten minutes is not a lot of time for a forecaster to make a determination, get a warning distributed to the public, and for the public to subsequently take action, Dr. Sills said. Even so, using data from 2023 to 2024, the project found that target was met only 20.7 per cent of the time.

Adam Skinner, the founder and director of Instant Weather – which provides rapid alerts about incoming storms and severe weather – said that without a team to iterate, test and deploy updates, he worries improvements to the radars cannot be made.

Mr. Skinner said "it's very frustrating" to have some of the "world-leading experts in radar research" shuffled into different positions within ECCC.

"It's like buying a Ferrari and then just firing your mechanic," he said.

Advocates and radio operators are also raising public safety concerns after ECCC permanently disconnected two weather radio programs on March 16.

ECCC shuttered its Weatheradio network after a five-decade run, as well as Hello Weather, which provided toll-free phone weather forecasts since 2021.

Mr. Clim wrote that the aging technology that Weatheradio relied on was increasingly difficult to maintain and was no longer cost-effective. Its operational costs were approximately $4-million a year. Canadians can access reliable weather updates from many channels, including the WeatherCAN app, he added.

Weatheradio delivered severe storm warnings and worked independently of cell towers. It was especially reliable in remote and rural areas with little service and was used by boaters, campers and farmers for critical weather updates.

"Canada is made up of a lot of rural areas … and what the weather radio system provided was radio communications in a lot of areas where there was no cell coverage at all," said Allan Boyd, president of Radio Amateurs of Canada.

Mr. Boyd served as an Ontario Provincial Police officer for 35 years and spent lots of time deployed in very remote areas where his cell phone was not useful. "But I always carried a portable Weatheradio with me," he said.

These radios are critical when internet and cellular networks fail, Mr. Boyd said, pointing to the Rogers outage in 2022 and recent Bell disruptions.

The radios remained operational during internet disruptions and weather emergencies, he said.

Dr. Sills said ECCC has made good investments in modelling technologies, but that he finds it hard to see the logic in making investments to improve parts of a system while making cuts in other places.

"They're cutting things that affect public safety like Weatheradio and also radar science … there should be a lot of investment in anything that's related to public safety."



Canadian cruise ship evacuees had no known direct contact with sick passengers

Four passengers from hantavirus-stricken voyage will remain in isolation in B.C. for a minimum of 21 days

ALANNA SMITH HEALTH REPORTER



Passengers of the cruise ship MV Hondius, which was affected by a hantavirus outbreak, board a EuroAtlantic Airways aircraft bound for Canada at Tenerife Sud airport, Canary Islands, Spain on Sunday.
BORJA SUAREZ/REUTERS

None of the Canadians who were evacuated from a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship this weekend had known direct contact with sick people on board, according to British Columbia's top doctor.

During a Monday news conference, Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry said the four individuals who were repatriated over the weekend have not shown symptoms of the deadly virus.

While this is reassuring, she said, they are still in a "very critical phase of the incubation period."

Dr. Henry said the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control assessed all passengers on board the MV Hondius. The four Canadians were considered in the "lower risk spectrum" for exposure based on the location of their cabins and their activities on the ship.

"That is, again, something that is reassuring but doesn't rule out entirely that somebody may have been exposed and may be incubating," she said. "This is exactly why we are taking the precautions and why plans are in place should the conditions change."

The individuals were transferred from Victoria International Airport to secure, prearranged lodging on Sunday to begin a minimum 21 days of isolation. All four will be monitored daily by public health.

A person in their 70s who lives in the area is self-isolating at home. The other three – a couple in their 70s from the Yukon, and a B.C. resident in their 50s who was living abroad – have been put up separately in a facility procured by the local health authority.

The Yukon does not have the capacity to test or the facilities to care for someone should they develop severe symptoms, Dr. Henry noted, which is why the couple is in B.C.

Six other Canadians who had potential exposures to hantavirus are isolating across the country: three in Ontario, two in Alberta and one in Quebec. None have shown symptoms of the Andes strain detected in the cruise-ship outbreak.

Three passengers who were on the Oceanwide Expeditions cruise ship, a Dutch couple and a German national, have died. Another six people with confirmed or suspected cases, none of whom are Canadian, are under quarantine, according to the World Health Organization.

Hantavirus is a rare but severe disease that is primarily acquired by humans through the inhalation of contaminated residue from rodent urine, feces or saliva. It's suspected the initial infection was contracted by a passenger during a birdwatching trip in southern Argentina before boarding the cruise ship in April.

The Hondius left the Argentine port of Ushuaia on April 1. A Dutch passenger died on board 10 days later. But it was not until early in May that the WHO was made aware of a potential outbreak.

One of the American passengers repatriated from the cruise ship has tested positive for hantavirus despite not showing any symptoms, which has caused widespread concern.

Dr. Henry said testing can be made available if any of the four isolated individuals develop symptoms, even so much as a headache. But testing is not being done proactively.

In Ontario, Health Minister Sylvia Jones told media on Monday that testing on asymptomatic individuals "may not have the appropriate results, it may not be the best way to monitor."

She said public health is continuing to observe the three individuals isolating in the province – a couple in the Grey Bruce region and one person in the Peel Region. All three remain asymptomatic.

Tom McMillan, a spokesperson for the Alberta Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services, in a statement on Monday said public-health officials are in daily contact with the two individuals isolating in the province.

"They remain well, asymptomatic, and are self-isolating at home. They have shown no symptoms but will continue to be closely monitored," he said.

Hantavirus has occasionally been reported in Canada and globally.

The first recognized case in this country occurred in British Columbia in 1994, but retrospective studies have identified earlier Canadian cases dating as far back as 1989.

Dr. Henry said the hantavirus outbreak can be unsettling, but stressed that it is a very different disease and situation than COVID-19. She said hantavirus is not considered a disease of pandemic potential.

"When I look at it from my perspective, knowing how these outbreaks evolve over time, we don't see the same pattern of spread that we would see if it was transmissible in the same way as coronavirus or measles or influenza," she said.

With reports from Laura Stone in Toronto and the Associated Press

Trump says he will raise Jimmy Lai's plight with Chinese leadership

MARIE WOOLF OTTAWA

U.S. President Donald Trump says he plans to bring up the case of jailed Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai with the Chinese authorities when he travels to this week to meet President Xi Jinping.

Mr. Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday that he would like to see the 78-year-old businessman, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison in Hong Kong earlier this year, released, along with a Christian pastor who has also been incarcerated.

Mr. Lai, who founded the now-shuttered pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper in Hong Kong, was a prominent critic of the Chinese Communist Party before his arrest in 2020 under a Beijing-imposed national security law.

His arrest was part of a wider crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong, a former British colony that was known for press freedom.

He pleaded not guilty to all charges, but was found guilty of sedition and colluding with foreign forces.

Mr. Trump will travel to China from May 13 to 15. He has already raised Mr. Lai's case with the Chinese authorities and said he would do so again when he is in the country.

He said the U.S. has been "getting hundreds of people out of confinement and prisons that shouldn't be there … and many of them aren't even citizens of the United States."

Mr. Trump said Mr. Lai had "caused lots of turmoil" in China and went to jail, but that he'd "like to see him get out … so I'll bring him up again."

He said he would also like to see a pastor who has family in the U.S. released, and would "bring his name up" to authorities. Mr. Trump didn't specify the identity of the pastor to reporters, but he is believed to be Ezra Jin.

Ezra Jin is a Christian pastor with children who are U.S. citizens, and was arrested last year as part of a Chinese crackdown on religious institutions.

The imprisonment of Mr. Lai, a long-time pro-democracy activist and critic of Beijing, has been widely criticized by Western governments, including Britain, as well as press freedom organizations and human-rights groups.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has said publicly, when asked by reporters, that he would also like to see Mr. Lai, a British national, released on humanitarian grounds. He has not said if he raised his case personally during his visit to Beijing in January.

In February, Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand said on social media that Canada is disappointed by the sentencing of Mr. Lai to 20 years in prison, also urging his immediate release on humanitarian grounds.

Rob Oliphant, parliamentary secretary to Ms. Anand, said last week at the Commons foreign affairs committee that the government had raised Mr. Lai's case "at the highest levels."

"We have raised it many times and we have raised it at the highest levels internationally, bilaterally," Mr. Oliphant said.

Mr. Lai has diabetes and had been in solitary confinement for more than five years when he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. His international legal team said it was tantamount to a life sentence for the 78-year-old.

Political parties of all stripes in "every G7 country" want Mr. Lai's freedom "because the quality of our own freedoms depend on it," said Brandon Silver, a member of Mr. Lai's international legal team and director of policy and projects at the Montreal-based Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.

"I hope we will see him returned to his family before it is too late," he said in a text message on Monday.

The businessman used to visit Canada regularly and has close family in Ontario, and extensive business investments in the Niagara region, including a string of hotels.

Mr. Lai's twin sister lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

Caoilfhionn Gallagher, who leads Mr. Lai's international legal team, said Jimmy Lai "has spent five-and-a-half hellish years in solitary confinement as a prisoner of conscience and has been sentenced to 20 more."

"It's long past time we bring this heroic man home to his family, where he can live out his days in peace. We are encouraged by President Trump's commitment to freeing Mr. Lai," she said in a statement. "His family is confident that the President can bring him home."

Iran ceasefire on 'life support,' Trump says, after rejecting Tehran's proposal

JON GAMBRELL
SAMY MAGDY
SEUNG MIN KIM
DUBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said the Iran ceasefire is on "life support" after rejecting Tehran's latest proposal, which officials said included some nuclear concessions. Mr. Trump also proposed suspending the federal gas tax to help with higher fuel prices caused by the war.

The stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip the Middle East back into open warfare and prolong the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict. Iran still has a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global oil and gas shipments, and America is blockading Iranian ports.

Asked at the White House if the ceasefire was still in effect, Mr. Trump said it's on "life support."

"I would call it the weakest right now after reading that piece of garbage they sent us," Mr. Trump added. "I didn't even finish reading it."

Mr. Trump also said he supported a suspension of the federal tax on gasoline – just over 18 cents per gallon and 24 cents for diesel. Congress, which is controlled by Republicans, would have to approve. The tax brings in more than US$23-billion each year.

His pledge came after fuel prices surged past US$4.50 a gallon last week. Mr. Trump predicted that the price of oil and gas would drop "like a rock" as soon as hostilities are over.

Mr. Trump has demanded a major rollback of Iran's nuclear activities, while Iran is pushing for a more limited agreement that would reopen the strait and lift the blockade ahead of further negotiations.

On Monday, Mr. Trump claimed that Iran had said it would allow the U.S. to come in and help extract its highly enriched uranium but went back on that in its latest ceasefire proposal. "They changed their mind because they didn't put it in the paper," he said.

Iran has not publicly agreed to give up its uranium, saying it has a right to enrich and that its nuclear program is entirely peaceful.

Two regional officials told the Associated Press that Iran has offered to dilute part of its highly enriched uranium and transport the rest to a third country. Russia has previously offered to take it. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive diplomacy.

Mr. Trump is expected to use a trip this week to China to urge President Xi Jinping to pressure Iran. Beijing is the biggest buyer of Iran's sanctioned crude oil, giving it leverage.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who launched the war with Mr. Trump on Feb. 28, has also demanded that all of Iran's highly enriched uranium be removed from the country.

He told CBS's *60 Minutes* in an interview that aired Sunday that if that can't be accomplished with negotiations, Israel and the U.S. agree "we can re-engage them militarily."

Iran's proposal asked that the U.S. recognize its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, formalizing its control over the international waterway. Iran has effectively closed the strait since the start of the war, allowing only a small number of ships to pass and charging tolls.

But experts say such an arrangement would likely violate international law that provides for freedom of navigation. That proposal is also likely to be widely rejected by the international community. The strait was open to international traffic before the war.

Iran is also demanding war reparations from the U.S., the lifting of international sanctions, the unfreezing of Iranian assets held abroad and an end to the war between Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah, according to Iranian state TV.

Israel and Hezbollah have continued to exchange blows, mainly in southern Lebanon, since a nominal ceasefire took hold last month.

"We did not demand any concessions – the only thing we demanded was Iran's legitimate rights," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Monday. "The American side still insists on its one-sided views and unreasonable demands."

Two regional diplomats familiar with the continuing talks said that Pakistan was continuing its efforts to broker a compromise.

One of the diplomats said Pakistan was trying to arrange a memorandum of understanding aimed at ending the war and paving the way for a broader dialogue on issues where the two sides remain divided.

Pakistan had hoped to help finalize the memorandum last week, but the effort did not materialize, and mediators are still working on various proposals, the diplomat said.

The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the behind-the-scenes diplomacy, added that Islamabad is receiving support from other regional countries in its peace efforts.

Meanwhile, Iran executed another man it accused of spying for both the CIA and Israel's Mossad intelligence service. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said Erfan Shakourzadeh had worked on satellite communications and relayed classified information to those intelligence services.

Iran has carried out a string of executions since nationwide protests swept the country in January. Activist groups have long accused Iran of carrying out closed-door trials during which defendants are unable to fully defend themselves. Iran's judiciary chief has repeatedly said that Tehran would increase the speed with which it carried out hangings to fight back against its enemies at home and abroad.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Starmer pledges to move U.K. closer to EU

Labour Party Leader promises interventionist policies as he faces discontent from MPs

PAUL WALDIE
EUROPE CORRESPONDENT
LONDON



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivers a speech in London on Monday. Mr. Starmer says he plans to put Britain 'in the heart of Europe.' CARL COURT/GETTY IMAGES

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has vowed to move the U.K. closer to the European Union as part of a wider effort to resuscitate his flagging leadership, but calls for him to resign have only grown louder among his own Labour MPs.

In a speech Monday that was widely seen as a last-ditch effort to save his job, Mr. Starmer acknowledged the dissension among backbenchers but refused to step down.

"I know that people are frustrated by the state of Britain. Frustrated by politics, and some people frustrated with me," he told a group of supporters and journalists in London. "I know I have my doubters, and I know I need to prove them wrong. And I will."

Dressed casually in shirtsleeves, Mr. Starmer gave an impassioned defence of his government's record and promised more interventionist policies, such as nationalizing British Steel and a "jobs guarantee" for young people who are out of work.

He also took aim at the proponents of Brexit, notably Reform UK Leader Nigel Farage. The Prime Minister said leaving the EU had not delivered the benefits Brexit backers promised during the 2016 referendum, such as improved economic growth, tighter security or immigration reform. Mr. Farage "took Britain for a ride," he said.

Mr. Starmer said he plans to "put Britain in the heart of Europe" and move the country closer to the EU on trade, defence and security. "And that will then be a platform on which we can build as we go forward." He also did not rule out Britain rejoining the EU's single market and customs union.

It's not clear if Mr. Starmer's speech will be enough to quell the brewing caucus revolt.

Despite leading the party to a massive majority less than two years ago in a national parliamentary election, Mr. Starmer has been under increasing pressure to resign because of the sluggish economy and a controversy over the appointment of Peter Mandelson as ambassador to the United States despite his ties to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

That only intensified after Labour suffered a historic defeat in a series of local elections across England, Scotland and Wales last week.

In England, Labour lost nearly 1,500 local council seats of the 2,500 it held, mostly to Reform and the Green Party. It also finished a distant second in the Scottish parliamentary election and lost power in Wales for the first time in more than a century, falling to third place.

> In a speech Monday that was widely seen as a last-ditch effort to save his job, Mr. Starmer acknowledged the dissension among backbenchers but refused to step down.

More than 60 MPs have called on Mr. Starmer to resign immediately or set out a plan for his departure as leader, according to Sky News. Many said Mr. Starmer's speech had not changed their minds.

"It is clear the PM does not have a credible plan. He must now set out a timetable for departure," Labour MP Bell Ribeiro-Addy wrote on X.

Several other MPs offered similar sentiments.

"If we are to make good on the promises we made to the country in 2024 … then we cannot carry on with the approach we have taken in the first two years of this Labour Government," Labour MP David Smith wrote on X. "I therefore believe that now is the time for the Prime Minister to set a clear timetable for his departure."

No sitting Labour prime minister has ever been successfully ousted, mainly because it's not easy.

A leadership contest can be triggered if 20 per cent of the Labour caucus, which would currently be 81 MPs, nominates a challenger. Mr. Starmer would automatically be allowed to run in a subsequent leadership race, which would also include balloting from affiliated trade unions and party members.

Potential challengers include Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, former deputy party leader Angela Rayner and Health Secretary Wes Streeting. But they all have drawbacks.

Mr. Burnham is considered the front-runner, but he would have to find a seat in Parliament because the party leader must be an MP. Given last week's election results, there are fewer safe Labour constituencies for a by-election.

Ms. Rayner, who is an MP, has been struggling to distance herself from a scandal involving her failure to pay the appropriate tax on a house she bought, and Mr. Streeting has been questioned about his ties to Mr. Epstein.

In a speech to a labour union conference Monday, Ms. Rayner said Mr. Starmer "acknowledged the frustration that was expressed last week. But we will be judged on actions and not just our words."

Despite the difficulties of mounting a challenge, a leadership bid could be coming.

Over the weekend, Labour MP Catherine West said she would try to gather 81 nominations in the hope of firing the starting gun on a race to succeed Mr. Starmer and forcing the frontrunners to emerge. On Monday, she backed off the threat but said she would start collecting names of MPs who want a new leader.

Ms. West said Mr. Starmer's speech "was too little, too late." She called for a leadership election to be held before September.

The political uncertainty is worrying financial markets and driving up the cost of government borrowing. The yield on 10-year gilts, or bonds, hit 5 per cent Monday as investors ditched them.

"Bond investors have already been worried by the prospect of higher inflation linked to the Middle East conflict, and now they're starting to squirm in their seat at the idea we might get a different prime minister," wrote Russ Mould, investment director at London-based AJ Bell.

UHN Canada's #1 Hospital

May 30, 2026

Today's walk. Tomorrow's discovery.

We're back and better than ever, walking in support of UHN, Canada's #1 hospital. Every step fuels breakthroughs in health care. This is more than a walk – it's a chance to save lives.

Walk with us on **May 30.**

WE WALK UHNITED
Presented by ROGERS



Register now at WeWalkUHNITED.ca

Hamas deliberately used sexual violence, report says

Non-profit group found that it was both widespread and systemic during Oct. 7 attack on Israel

JANICE DICKSON
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS REPORTER

Hamas militants used sexual violence as a "deliberate tactic" in their Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, a new analysis has found.

The report, published Tuesday by the Israeli non-profit Civil Commission on October 7 Crimes by Hamas Against Women and Children, documents the attack and found that sexual violence was both widespread and systemic, though it does not provide the number of victims.

The commission said investigators uncovered 13 patterns of sexual and gender-based violence in multiple locations and that the perpetrators then "weaponized" digital content from the attack. "Armed groups recorded acts of abuse, humiliation, and killing, and circulated the footage through social media platforms and victims' own digital accounts," the report says.

The patterns included rape, gang rape, other forms of sexual assault, sexual torture – including burning and mutilation – deliberate shooting in the head, face and genital area, killing after or during sexual and gender-based violence, postmortem sexual abuse, humiliation and desecration of bodies, the report reads.

It adds that, in several incidents, victims were sexually assaulted or humiliated in front of relatives; in one case, family members "were coerced into performing sexual acts on one another."

Irwin Cotler, a former Canadian justice minister and the international chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, which contributed to the report, wrote in the foreword that it is a "testament to those who endured the unendurable and to those who did not survive to tell their stories. It names the crime that the world tried to deny, minimizes no survivor, and centres justice for the victims."



People mark Israel's annual Memorial Day at the site of the Nova music festival, where hundreds of revelers were killed and abducted in the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack.
OHAD ZWIGENBERG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The war in Gaza began when Hamas launched the attack on Israel, killing more than 1,200 people and taking 251 hostage. Israel's response continues to this day, with The Lancet medical journal estimating that between Oct. 7, 2023, and Jan. 5, 2025, some 75,200 people were killed in Gaza.

Investigators conducted more than 430 interviews, meeting with survivors, witnesses, returned hostages, experts and family members over the course of more than two years. Researchers also undertook an open-source investigation, reviewing extensive documentation, including thousands of photos, as well as videos of the attack.

Hamas militants attacked the Nova music festival, and testimonies from the open-air concert include witness accounts of people screaming as they were being raped. A survivor testified that he was violently gang raped and tortured and heard others being sexually assaulted. People on rescue missions reported seeing naked and dismembered bodies.

Militants also attacked kibbutzim and small villages. The report said bodies recovered from attacks showed signs of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual torture. There are no known survivors of such violence from the attacks on the kibbutzim, apart from people who were taken hostage, and the report documents sexual violence inflicted on men and women who were held hostage in Gaza.

"Acts of sexual torture, humiliation, and coercion were used to dominate, punish, and dehumanize the hostages, often in the presence of others, amplifying their suffering and fear," the report says.

Cochav Elkayam-Levy, the founder and chair of the Civil Commission and the lead author of the report, said the attacks were calculated and conducted with exceptional cruelty. She said that documenting what happened is a big part of accountability.

"Recognition is part of justice. Believing the victim is part of justice. We meet survivors and families of victims and returned hostages on a daily basis, and they keep going around the world trying to prove what happened to them and being questioned, and I think for them the first thing is believing."

The Commission said its findings show that war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocidal acts under international law were committed. It made a number of recommendations, including that Israel and the international community investigate and prosecute these crimes. The report says it "establishes a clear roadmap for the prosecution of the crimes committed on October 7th and during captivity."

Dr. Elkayam-Levy said she hopes the report is recognized in parliaments around the world and that the findings are adopted in a way that ensures victims won't be questioned about what happened to them. A significant portion of the report is dedicated to justice and precedents around the world and how such crimes have been prosecuted. However, Dr. Elkayam-Levy says law is not enough.

"It is not strong enough to fight these dynamics and these crimes, and we have to find ways to do much more. I don't have all the answers, I just hope that this is a small step towards trying to do better for our children."

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION
www.flmb.uscourts.gov

In re:
THE STEPHAN CO.,
Debtor.[1]

Chapter 11
Case No. 8:25-bk-08937-CPM

NOTICE OF DEBTOR'S MOTION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 105(a) AND 363 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND BANKRUPTCY RULES 2002, 6004 AND 9019(a) FOR AN ORDER (I) APPROVING THE FFIC SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, RELEASE AND POLICY BUYBACK, (II) APPROVING THE SALE OF THE FFIC POLICIES FREE AND CLEAR, (III) ENJOINING CLAIMS, AND (IV) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

IF YOU HAVE (1) A CLAIM AGAINST THE STEPHAN CO. AS TO WHICH INSURANCE COVERAGE IS OR MAY BE AVAILABLE, (2) AN INTEREST IN ANY OF THE STEPHAN CO.'S INSURANCE POLICIES OR CERTIFICATES, OR (3) ANY CLAIMS AGAINST THE SETTLING INSURER (AS DEFINED BELOW) RELATING TO THE FOREGOING, **PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE — YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on April 22, 2026, The Stephan Co. (the "**Debtor**"), by and through its undersigned counsel, filed the *Debtor's Motion Pursuant to Sections 105(a) and 363 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 2002, 6004, and 9019(a) for an Order (I) Approving the FFIC Settlement Agreement, Release and Policy Buyback, (II) Approving the Sale of the FFIC Policies Free and Clear, (III) Enjoining Claims, and (IV) Granting Related Relief* [Docket No. 223] (the "**Motion**")[2] with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida (the "**Court**").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that, pursuant to the Motion, the Debtor (on its own behalf and on behalf of certain non-debtor related entities defined as the Additional Insureds) is seeking entry of an order approving a proposed "**Agreement**" with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company of Wisconsin (collectively, "**FFIC**" or the "**Settling Insurer**"), pursuant to which the Settling Insurer will buy back from the Debtor and the Additional Insureds (a) any and all insurance policies issued or allegedly issued by FFIC to the Debtor and/or the Additional Insureds, whether known or unknown at the time of the Agreement, including but not limited to those policies identified on Schedule 1 to the Agreement (the "**Policies**") along with (b) certain related Claims of the Debtor and the Additional Insureds (together with the Policies, the "**Purchased Property**"), in exchange for a settlement payment in the aggregate amount of $7,145,150. The transaction contemplated in the proposed Agreement is subject to the occurrence of certain conditions precedent, including, without limitation, the confirmation of a chapter 11 plan and the issuance of one or more injunctions enjoining the prosecution of certain claims against the Settling Insurer (as set forth in greater detail immediately below).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that in connection with the Motion, the Debtor (on its own behalf and on behalf of the Additional Insureds) is seeking to settle and sell, free and clear of all liens, claims, encumbrances, and other interests, the Purchased Property. **This "free and clear" sale of the Purchased Property entails certain releases, injunctions, and other protective provisions in favor of the Settling Insurer. The sale proposes a Settling Insurer Injunction that permanently enjoins all Persons who have held or asserted, or may in the future hold or assert, any Claims from taking any action, directly or indirectly, for purposes of asserting, enforcing, or attempting to assert or enforce any Barred Claim against FFIC, its Related Persons or the FFIC Released Parties, or the property or assets of each** (all as defined in the Agreement). The Debtor (on its own behalf and on behalf of the Additional Insureds) is seeking to fully release any Claims against FFIC, its Related Persons or the FFIC Released Parties arising from or related in any way to the Policies, including all extra-contractual claims. There are additional provisions in the Agreement — beyond those set forth in the preceding sentences — which should be reviewed to understand completely the Agreement and its effect on your rights.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that a hearing on the Motion will be held before the Honorable Catherine Peek McEwen, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, Courtroom 8B, 801 N. Florida Avenue, Suite 555, Tampa, Florida 33602 on **June 4, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)**, which may be continued, as necessary, without further notice except as may be filed on the Court's docket or as otherwise announced by the Court on the record at such hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that responses in opposition to the relief requested in the Motion, if any, must be filed and served upon all of the following **on or before May 13, 2026**: (a) counsel for the Debtor, Verrill Dana LLP, One Portland Sq., 10th Floor, Portland, Maine, 04101, (Attention: Robert J. Keach, Esq.), and Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A., Museum Tower, Suite 2200, 150 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130 (Attention: Patricia A. Redmond); (b) counsel to the Talc Claimants' Committee, Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered, 1200 New Hampshire Avenue NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20036 (Attention: Allegra N. Kauffman, Esq., Todd E. Phillips, Esq., and James P. Wehner, Esq.); (c) the Future Claimants' Representative; (d) the Office of the United States Trustee, 501 E. Polk Street, Suite 1200, Tampa, Florida 33602 (Attention: Guy Van Baalen, Esq. and Nathan A. Wheatley, Esq.); (e) counsel to FFIC, Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP, 303 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 3600, Atlanta, Georgia 30308 (Attention: Harris B. Winsberg, Esq. and Matthew G. Roberts, Esq.); and (f) all other Persons who have formally appeared in the case and requested service pursuant to FED. R. BANKR. P. 2002.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the Debtor may file one or more Motion Supplements attaching any revisions or additions to the previously filed Agreement. Notice of any Motion Supplements will be served only upon those parties who have formally appeared in this Chapter 11 Case and requested notice in accordance with Rule 2002 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that a copy of the Motion and any Motion Supplements (once filed) may be (i) obtained, for a fee, on the Court's website at https://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/ (the required PACER password can be obtained at https://www.pacer.gov); or (ii) viewed and downloaded, free of charge, at the Debtor's restructuring website — https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/Stephan.

Dated: April 29, 2026, Respectfully submitted, STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTERSON, P.A., /s/ Patricia A. Redmond, Patricia A. Redmond, Esq., 150 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130, Telephone: (305) 789-3553, Facsimile: (305) 789-3395, E-mail: predmond@stearnsweaver.com; VERRILL DANA LLP, Robert J. Keach, Esq., Letson D. Boots, Esq., Jennifer S. Novo, Esq., One Portland Square, 10th Floor, Portland, Maine 04101-4054, Telephone: (207) 774-4000, Facsimile: (207) 774-7499, E-mail: rkeach@verrill-law.com, lboots@verrill-law.com, jnovo@verrill-law.com.

[1] The last four digits of the Debtor's federal tax identification number are 6812. The Debtor's mailing address is 2211 Reach Road, Suite B4, Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701.

[2] Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion or Agreement, as applicable.

Rights groups call for probe into Rwandan dissident's death on day of release from prison

GEOFFREY YORK
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF
JOHANNESBURG

A Rwandan dissident who alleged that he was tortured in prison has died on the day of his release, prompting calls for an independent investigation into the unclear circumstances of his death.

Aimable Karasira, a 48-year-old singer and YouTube commentator, had been sentenced to five years in prison on a charge of "inciting division" after he questioned the government's official version of the 1994 genocide.

Authorities say he died of a suspected overdose of his prescription medicine as he was being escorted from prison at the end of his sentence last week. Human-rights activists are casting doubt on the official statements.

An estimated 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis, were killed during the Rwandan genocide. But Mr. Karasira has repeatedly blamed the army of Paul Kagame, who is now Rwanda's President, for the deaths of some of his family members during and after the three-month killing spree.

Many researchers have concluded that Mr. Kagame's forces killed tens of thousands of civilians in Rwanda and the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1994. The Rwandan government has banned any mention of this research, deeming it to be "genocide denial" or "divisionism," which are criminal offences in the country.

Critics of Mr. Kagame have often died mysteriously, both in Rwanda and abroad. The Globe and Mail has reported on death squads that have hunted and killed Rwandan dissidents in exile.

Two rights groups, Human Rights Watch and the Committee to Protect Journalists, both based in the United States, are calling for an independent investigation into Mr. Karasira's death and the circumstances surrounding it.

His death in state custody, on the day when he was expected to walk free, is "devastating," according to Muthoki Mumo, the Africa program co-ordinator for CPJ.

"Given past reports that Karasira was tortured behind bars and his unjust, five-year detention, Rwandan authorities clearly have questions to answer," Ms. Mumo said in a statement.

In a court hearing in 2022, Mr. Karasira accused prison authorities of beating him and using sleep-deprivation tactics against him. "I've gone for days without sleeping," he said, according to a Human Rights Watch report. "I don't know how to explain the torture I have been subjected to. ... It's terrible torture, like in the movies."

In 2020, after he first began posting YouTube videos in which he discussed the deaths of his family members during the genocide, he received a series of threatening letters and phone calls, and the government pressured him to use his YouTube platform to denounce other government critics, Human Rights Watch said.

He was arrested the following year. Even after he received the five-year prison sentence, prosecutors sought an additional 30-year sentence on other charges.

"Karasira is just the latest government critic to suffer a suspicious death," said Clémentine de Montjoye, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, in a statement.

Critics of Mr. Kagame have often died mysteriously, both in Rwanda and abroad. The Globe and Mail has reported on death squads that have hunted and killed Rwandan dissidents in exile.

"There are many reasons to question the circumstances surrounding Aimable Karasira's death in custody, not least the years of harassment and persecution he experienced at the hands of the authorities," she said.

The rights groups noted that another prominent dissident, gospel singer Kizito Mihigo, died in a Rwandan police cell in 2020 in an equally mysterious case. Authorities said he hanged himself with bedsheets, but activists questioned this account. He had complained of threatening messages shortly before his death.

Mr. Mihigo, like Mr. Karasira, had come under official scrutiny after he publicly questioned the government's version of the genocide. He was arrested just weeks after releasing a song about the Rwandan victims of Mr. Kagame's forces. The government immediately banned the song.

Mr. Kagame, who has dominated Rwandan politics since his army took over the country in 1994, routinely wins elections with 98 or 99 per cent of the vote. He has crushed all opposition, with rival candidates usually banned from challenging him.

One of his most prominent opponents, Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza, has twice been imprisoned and is again facing trial for allegedly inciting unrest in the country.

Ramaphosa says he'll remain in office despite probe

Impeachment committee will reinvestigate allegations South African President hid theft of more than half a million dollars

GERALD IMRAY
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced Monday that he will not resign from his position despite the establishment of an impeachment committee to reinvestigate allegations that he committed serious misconduct by hiding the theft of more than half a million dollars in cash, which had been stashed in a sofa at his game ranch.

In a televised address to the nation, Mr. Ramaphosa said he would legally challenge a parliamentary report which found credible evidence of wrongdoing on his part, a process that is likely to significantly delay possible impeachment proceedings against him.

He has faced calls from various quarters, especially opposition parties, to step down from his position while these processes unfold.

His announcement came a few hours after the South African Parliament said it would establish the impeachment committee in compliance with a decision of the country's highest court last week that the report should referred to an impeachment committee.

"I therefore respectfully want to make it clear that I will not resign. To do so would be to preempt a process defined by the Constitution. To do so would be to give credence to a panel report that unfortunately has grave flaws," Mr. Ramaphosa said on Monday.

His decision follows a ruling by the top Constitutional Court on Friday saying a 2022 Parliament vote that blocked impeachment proceedings against Mr. Ramaphosa over the scandal was unconstitutional.

> Impeaching the leader of Africa's top economy would require the support of at least two-thirds of lawmakers in the 400-member Parliament, according to the Constitution.

At the time of the vote, Mr. Ramaphosa's African National Congress party had a majority in Parliament. The vote was held despite an independent report finding evidence of wrongdoing by the President in allegedly not properly reporting the theft to police and trying to keep an investigation to recover the money secret.

The Constitutional Court last week said that, according to procedure, the 2022 independent report should have been referred to an impeachment committee for further investigation.

Impeaching the leader of Africa's top economy would require the support of at least two-thirds of lawmakers in the 400-member Parliament, according to the Constitution.

The multi-party impeachment committee still needs to conduct an investigation before any move to hold an impeachment vote. No time frame was given for that in Monday's Parliament statement.

Mr. Ramaphosa's ANC party lost its parliamentary majority in a landmark 2024 election and is now the largest in a coalition government of 10 parties. He still could survive an impeachment vote if his party's lawmakers back him.

The scandal badly damaged the reputation of a President, who took office in 2018 on an anti-corruption ticket after a decade of government graft scandals under former leader Jacob Zuma.

The allegations against Mr. Ramaphosa were first made by a former head of South Africa's state security agency, who walked into a police station in 2022 and accused the President of money laundering and other offences over the money. It emerged the theft happened in 2020 and had been kept secret.

Mr. Ramaphosa denied wrongdoing and said the money – in U.S. dollars – came from the legitimate sale of buffaloes on his ranch. However, questions arose over the source of the money and why it was hidden in a sofa.

The 2022 independent report said there was "legitimate doubt" over the source of the money, and some evidence that the amount was more than the US$580,000 Mr. Ramaphosa claimed. It also said Mr. Ramaphosa had used the head of his presidential protection unit and others to "surreptitiously" try and track down the suspects.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drone: Many of the 2,200 Canadians stationed in Latvia are taking part in drills

FROM A1

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the drones had been redirected into Latvia as a result of "Russian electronic warfare deliberately diverting Ukrainian drones from their targets in Russia." Latvia's air defences failed to detect the incursion, and local residents received alerts on their mobile phones an hour after the drones had already crashed.

On Sunday, Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silina fired Defence Minister Andris Spruds over the incident, saying the country "must be able to respond quickly, clearly and without hesitation" to such incursions in the future.

Claudio Palestini, head of the innovation and technology adoption section at NATO headquarters in Brussels, said the incursion showcased how rapidly drone warfare was evolving.

The latest area of technological competition is something Mr. Palestini calls "navigation warfare" – a reference to what appears to be Russia's new ability to redirect Ukrainian attack drones into the airspace of neighbouring countries.

"There is a lot ongoing in the field of electronic warfare … including navigation warfare – jamming, spoofing of GPS, and command and control," Mr. Palestini told reporters in Latvia via a video call.

NATO's 3,700-strong multinational brigade was initially deployed to Latvia in the wake of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea. Back then, NATO was training the Ukrainian army, which was desperate to learn all it could from the Western alliance about modern military tactics.



A drone operator takes part in a 10-day NATO drill called Crystal Arrow in Daudzese, Latvia, on Monday. GINTS IVUSKANS/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Those roles have now reversed to the extent that several former Ukrainian military officers – wearing balaclavas pulled up to their noses to hide their identities – took part in the Crystal Arrow exercise as trainers.

"They are the experts, and they are right here in front of us," Major Andris Bruveris, commander of the Latvian army's Second Mechanized Infantry Battalion, said as another reconnaissance drone lifted off into the sky behind him. "We need to learn from them, because … there is a jump in the tactics every three to four months. We cannot adapt in peacetime at such a pace."

The 10-day war games, which wrap up on Friday, involve some 2,500 soldiers, as well as 500 pieces of equipment. Many of the 2,200 Canadians currently stationed in Latvia are taking part in the exercise.

Sgt. Baltzer said the drone-heavy focus of the war game was unlike anything he had previously trained for as part of the Gagetown, N.B.-based 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment. The 13-year veteran is on his third tour of duty in Latvia.

"When I first got into the military, we were using a map and a compass to navigate," he said. Standing in a green tent filled with more than a dozen computer screens broadcasting back live footage from the red team's array of air and ground drones, Sgt. Baltzer said it was "crazy" how fast the nature of conflict had changed over the four years since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

While previous Crystal Arrow drills involved loud clashes between armies firing blanks at each other from close range, Monday's mock battle was largely a silent one, other than the sound of buzzing drones overhead. The red drones passed over blue artillery pieces and armoured personnel carriers hiding in forests and under camouflage nets. If the drones failed to detect the equipment below, that was a success for the blue side.

But despite the talk of modernizing, the exercise felt little like the fighting in eastern Ukraine, where drones dominate the skies in such numbers that tanks and artillery can hardly move. The Crystal Arrow drill, at least on Monday, saw drones used one at a time, and primarily as reconnaissance tools, rather than attacking positions in swarms as is now commonplace on the battlefields of Ukraine. "We're behind the times," Sgt. Baltzer acknowledged. "Behind where we should be."

MUST SOCIÉTÉ

Up to 25% off bedroom and dining room.*

Where your best ideas live



Visit mustsociete.com for more details. Some conditions apply.

TORONTO / OTTAWA / MONTREAL / QUEBEC CITY / MUSTSOCIETE.COM

Ukraine: Canada must ratify the convention before it becomes a full member

FROM A1

A third component – a compensation fund to actually pay any awards the commission issues – has yet to be established, with frozen Russian assets the most likely eventual source.

Canada must still ratify the convention before it becomes a full member. The commission itself cannot begin work until at least 25 countries ratify the convention and sufficient funding is secured. So far, a handful have done so.

The Netherlands will be the home of the commission, the country's foreign minister said in December.

Russia's war on Ukraine has killed more than 15,000 civilians and injured more than 41,000, displaced millions, and damaged and destroyed civilian property and infrastructure, according to a February report from the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

As of December, the World Bank and several other organizations estimated the cost of rebuilding Ukraine over the next decade would be US$588-billion.

Four years ago, the government of then-prime-minister Justin Trudeau passed legislation to give Canada the power to confiscate assets of foreigners and foreign entities frozen under sanctions law. Ottawa has used this to go after several targets, including the holdings of a company it says is owned by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, with the intent of passing the funds to Ukraine.

The RCMP says more than $185-million of assets in Canada since 2022 have been frozen through sanctions targeting Russia. The force has not said what portion of these are Russian state assets.



Foreign Minister Anita Anand speaks during a press conference on Monday. The RCMP says more than $185-million of assets in Canada since 2022 have been frozen through sanctions targeting Russia.
NICOLAS TUCAT/ AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The bulk of frozen Russian state assets outside of Russia are believed to reside in Europe with Belgian securities depository Euroclear. Recent estimates say it holds more than €200-billion of Russian assets under sanction, most of which are Central Bank of Russia reserves. Euroclear reported earlier this year that about 7 per cent of the holdings under sanction are Canadian-denominated assets: more than $20-billion.

If those Canadian-denominated holdings are held with Canadian financial institutions, they are subject to Canadian law, according to Fen Hampson, a professor of international affairs at Carleton University.

A Senate bill making its way through Parliament proposes to strengthen Canada's hand by giving Ottawa the explicit power to confiscate foreign state assets. Bill S-214, which cleared the Senate foreign affairs committee last week, would allow Ottawa to override the immunity normally granted to foreign states under Canadian law, enabling the government, for example, to target Kremlin assets in the name of righting international wrongs.

Prof. Hampson said any money Ottawa confiscates from frozen Russian assets in Canada would likely be funnelled to the International Claims Commission for Ukraine. "All the pieces of the jigsaw are falling into place."

Canada's decision to sign the convention comes as the Carney government seeks to distinguish Ottawa's foreign policy from that of the United States, which has so far not backed the claims commission for Ukraine. The Trump administration has instead pursued direct diplomacy aimed at ending the war on terms that Ukrainian and European officials fear could reward Russian aggression.

Alberta: Documents reveal second tipster reached out with concerns about data use

FROM A1

Elections Alberta at the end of April alleged the Centurion Project had unauthorized access to the province's list of electors. The agency alleged Centurion improperly accessed a list issued to the Republican Party of Alberta, a separatist political party that had lawful access to the data.

The RCMP in April announced a separate investigation. The affair heightened tensions within separatist ranks, sparked fear the data could be misused by domestic and foreign players, and prompted concerns about the integrity of a potential referendum on Alberta separation in October.

Cam Davies, the leader of the Republican Party of Alberta, is taking a different approach than Mr. Parker, his friend and political ally.

"We are assisting [Elections Alberta] with the investigation," he said in a statement Monday.

Premier Danielle Smith's government earlier this year scheduled a referendum, largely centred on questions around immigration, for Oct. 19. Alberta's separatists last week handed in a petition with roughly 301,000 names in support of adding a secession question to the ballot.

The Centurion Project used a tool that allowed volunteers to look up electors by partial name or address and then record how those residents felt about Alberta separating from the rest of Canada. While registered political parties are permitted access to electoral lists, which they use to identify supporters, third parties such as the Centurion Project are not.

Elections Alberta obtained an injunction on April 30 requiring the Centurion Project to stop distributing information derived from the list. But court documents reveal the agency received a previously undisclosed tip that a separatist group may have had access to the province's highly guarded list and determined it did not have grounds to launch an investigation.

The documents, obtained by The Globe and Mail, reveal that someone who wished to remain anonymous left Elections Alberta a voicemail on April 21, "regarding concerns" the Centurion Project had the list of electors and was using the data to support its push for secession. This newly disclosed tip is in addition to one provided by journalist Jen Gerson on March 31, which came to light at the end of last month.

In both cases, Election Commissioner Paula Hale determined the tips did not provide enough evidence to trigger an investigation. This allowed the Centurion Project to leave its database online, available to approved users, until Elections Alberta obtained its injunction.

Ms. Smith's government in 2025 pushed through changes that Elections Alberta argues limited the agency's ability to investigate potential wrongdoing and issue sanctions. The government, for example, amended legislation so the agency must now have "reasonable grounds" to launch investigations, compared with the lower hurdle of "grounds to warrant."

Elections Alberta claims the new standard prohibited it from investigating the Centurion Project prior to April 29; the government disputes this argument.

Ryan Tebb, an investigator with Elections Alberta, in an affidavit said an administrative support employee in the agency's compliance and enforcement division sent him an e-mail on April 24 containing a video demonstrating how to use the Centurion Project's app.

He compared information displayed in the video, including electoral divisions and polling subdivisions, against the agency's database of electors, which led him to believe the Centurion Project "was likely in possession of at least a partial provincial list of electors or potentially a combination of lists of electors," his affidavit says.

Ms. Hale wrote that the inclusion of electoral divisions and polling subdivisions was "compelling evidence that this data base was created using one or more lists of electors," according to court documents.

On April 29, Abdullah Bin Naeem, Elections Alberta's director of technology platforms and innovation, compiled a list of 2,587 fake names that the agency sprinkles throughout the list of electors provided to eligible recipients, in order to trace leaks. He created a digital tool that found 87 fake entries, which corresponded to the list of electors Elections Alberta provided to the Republican Party of Alberta, according to his affidavit.

Mr. Bin Naeem's affidavit does not indicate whether Elections Alberta accessed the app's root database. The agency declined to answer, stating that information is related to the investigation.

The Globe's own analysis determined the root database contained unique elector identification numbers, middle names and 2,083,175 phone numbers – much more information than what was accessible with a simple search on the app.

Philippine presidential hopeful Sara Duterte impeached for second time

JIM GOMEZ MANILA

An overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives of the Philippines voted to impeach Vice-President Sara Duterte on Monday over alleged unexplained wealth and threats to have the President assassinated, as the rift between the two top officials escalated.

The House, which is dominated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s allies, voted 255-26 with nine abstentions. The two impeachment complaints against Ms. Duterte, which will now be elevated to the Senate for a trial, mark an initial setback to her plan to seek the presidency in 2028.

The Vice-President, who is the daughter of former president Rodrigo Duterte, has generally denied any wrongdoing without answering the criminal allegations against her in detail.

She has repeatedly accused Mr. Marcos, his wife and his cousin, former House Speaker Martin Romualdez, of corruption, weak leadership and attempting to muzzle her because of speculation she may seek the presidency in 2028 when Mr. Marcos's six-year term ends.

Last year, she was also impeached by the House but survived by successfully petitioning the Supreme Court to declare the impeachment bid unconstitutional on a technicality.

Representative Gerville Luistro, who heads the House justice committee, said the impeachment complaints included several criminal allegations, such as huge bank transactions over the years that Ms. Duterte has not declared as required by law and misuse of confidential funds of her office as Vice-President and as education secretary, a post she once held under Mr. Marcos.

Ms. Luistro also cited threats made by the vice-president during an online news conference in 2024 to have Mr. Marcos, his wife and Mr. Romualdez killed by an assassin if she herself was assassinated, as their political disputes escalated. The vice-president then warned that her threat wasn't a joke.

She later said she wasn't threatening him but was expressing concern for her own safety.

Her threatening remarks set off a criminal investigation and national-security concerns.

Ms. Duterte's lawyers questioned an initial finding by the House justice committee that there was grounds to impeach the vice-president, saying last month that the committee proceedings "departed from the constitutional design."

Ms. Duterte's husband, Manases Carpio, has filed criminal complaints against Ms. Luistro and other legislators and officials after government records of the couple's bank transactions were made public in a recent House hearing. They said that violated the country's bank secrecy law.

Mr. Duterte, the former president, is detained by and facing trial before the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands for alleged crimes against humanity. The charges stem from the deadly anti-drug crackdowns he oversaw while in office.

The vice-president remains popular, based on independent surveys.

Ms. Duterte and Mr. Marcos were running mates in a whirlwind alliance in the 2022 election but have since had a bitter falling out.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUSPECT IN FOILED TRUMP ATTACK AT WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER PLEADS NOT GUILTY

WASHINGTON The man accused of attempting to assassinate U.S. President Donald Trump at a White House reporters' gala last month pleaded not guilty to all charges on Monday.

Suspect in foiled Trump attack at White House correspondents' dinner pleads not guilty, 31, of California, did not speak in court as his attorney Tezira Abe entered the plea on his behalf. The charges include attempted assassination of the President, assault on a federal officer and firearms offences.

Prosecutors allege Mr. Allen fired a shotgun at a U.S. Secret Service agent and stormed a security checkpoint in a foiled attack on Mr. Trump and other members of his administration at the White House Correspondents' Dinner.

Mr. Allen allegedly travelled to Washington by train, carrying a shotgun, pistol and knives, and booked a room in the Washington Hilton where the April 25 dinner took place.

Mr. Allen wore an orange jumpsuit and was shackled at the waist during the brief court proceeding. It was his first appearance in Washington federal court before the judge who will preside over the remainder of the case, U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden.

A different judge last week apologized to Mr. Allen for his treatment in a local Washington, jail, which included being placed on suicide precautions and isolated from other inmates.

The proceeding previewed the next major legal battle in the case, Mr. Allen's attempt to have acting Attorney-General Todd Blanche and U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro disqualified from the case because they were present at the dinner and may have been among Mr. Allen's alleged targets.

Mr. Allen's lawyer, Eugene Ohm, said the defence is likely to seek recusal of the entire U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, which Ms. Pirro leads, because of her friendship with Mr. Trump and status as a potential victim.

"It is wholly inappropriate for victims of an alleged event like this to be individually prosecuting the case," Mr. Ohm said.

Prosecutors are set to respond to the defense's legal filing by May 22. Ms. Pirro previously told CNN in an interview that "my ability to prosecute this case has nothing to do with my being there."

REUTERS

Spy watchdog asks for changes to lawful access regime

MARIE WOOLF OTTAWA

The federal watchdog charged with keeping Canada's spy agencies in check is calling for changes to Ottawa's lawful access bill to ensure it has a greater oversight role and is pro-actively granted access to classified information.

The National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA) has drafted proposed amendments to Bill C-22, which "will enhance accountability and reinforce public trust in Canada's national security framework" it told a committee of MPs scrutinizing the bill.

It is the first time the watchdog, since it was established in 2019, has proposed amendments to a government bill, NSIRA vice-chair Craig Forcese said in an interview.

"Under our current mandate and our current powers, we have an entitlement, a legal right to all information in the control and possession of those government bodies engaged in national security or intelligence," he said.

Bill C-22 would require telecoms, internet companies and other digital service providers operating in Canada to adjust their systems to give surveillance and monitoring capabilities to police services and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

It would allow the Minister for Public Safety to issue secret orders requiring compliance by electronic service providers. They are expected to include tech companies, social-media platforms, cloud backup providers and messaging apps, which could enable tracking and surveillance capabilities. The Intelligence Commissioner would be provided with all the background relating to such an order and would have to approve it first.

NSIRA, which reviews national security and intelligence activities for compliance with the law, would not automatically be given such information.

Appearing before the committee last week, NSIRA chair Marie Deschamps said "given the scope of new powers in this bill, timely and effective, independent review is essential."

She said NSIRA provides independent assurance to Canadians that intelligence activities are complying with the law, and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. With Bill C-22, "given the breadth of these new powers, NSIRA anticipated a review role that would provide timely and direct visibility into how these authorities are used."

As drafted, the bill wouldn't give NSIRA the same information as the Intelligence Commissioner.

In a submission to the Commons public safety committee, which is scrutinizing the bill and likely to try to amend it, NSIRA said it had "anticipated a commensurate role within the act to ensure ongoing visibility over such activities, as required to fulfill its mandate."

It said the absence of provisions requiring the watchdog to automatically be given such documentation is inconsistent with its role under other Canadian intelligence laws. Other laws require information relating to several types of activities – including those conducted following ministerial authorizations – to be passed to NSIRA for scrutiny.

"The absence of a defined role for NSIRA ... is also inconsistent with comparable legislation among Canada's Five Eyes partners," it added in its submission to the committee, citing Australia as an example.

The watchdog would get an unredacted copy of the Ministerial Annual Report, which would include activities carried out under any new lawful access regime. However, by the time the report is handed over, the activities could be up to 19 months old, Mr. Forcese said.

"We want a more contemporaneous understanding of what the minister's activities are under the bill."

NSIRA is proposing that MPs consider two amendments including new powers pro-actively giving it access to information used to inform classified ministerial orders, as well as the orders themselves.

It is also recommending a change to the bill requiring the Public Safety Minister notify NSIRA about any additional orders if the minister thinks a specific company is not complying with the lawful access law.

Mr. Forcese said NSIRA's budget had been cut by the government, putting a strain on resources, and an efficient review system is in everyone's interest.

"It will be much more consumptive of everyone's resources if we're obliged to periodically tap the departments and say, 'Please, now we need this information,' as opposed to it being automatically pushed to us."

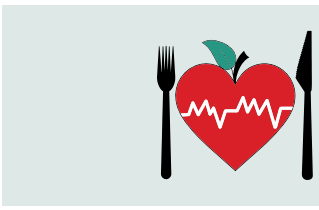
Simon Lafortune, a spokesperson for Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree, said in a statement that the committee's Bill C-22 study is "an important part of the parliamentary process, and we welcome the thoughtful contributions made by NSIRA, which plays a vital role in Canada's national security framework."

"As with all legislation, the study of this bill in committee gives us the opportunity to consider potential improvements, including amendments that may enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency," he added.

Tamir Israel, director of the privacy, surveillance and technology program at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, a nonprofit human-rights organization, said the courts should have primary responsibility for authorizing the powers in the bill.

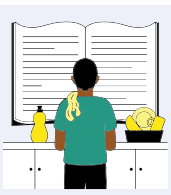
"The government has chosen to use a regime highly insulated from judicial scrutiny," he said. "So at the very least NSIRA should have an expansive role in actively reviewing implementation of this regime."

Elevate your everyday.



Food for Thought

Get the latest food, nutrition and dietary advice from registered dietitian Leslie Beck.



Books

Expand your mind and build your reading list with reviews, picks, author interviews and more.



Health & Wellness

Keep up to date on the latest nutrition news and dietary advice, fitness tips and wellness trends.



What to Watch

Plan your next binge watch or night out with reviews and columns from The Globe's critics.

Globe Newsletters

Scan the code or sign up at tgam.ca/newsletters



Hecate Strait is a shallow basin where waves steepen abruptly on the shelves, creating swells stacked close together. Layered atop that are frequent storms fed by two pressure systems, the Aleutian Low and the North Pacific High, creating some of the highest, most complex sea states on Canada's coasts. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Hecate: 'It's a treacherous body of water,' fisherman says

FROM A1

Other ships can, and do, run into trouble in the capricious storms that rage through these waters, but oil tankers have been singled out because the potential consequences of an accident are bigger. Large amounts of heavy oils spilled into the marine environment tend to break up and dissipate slowly, risking ecological devastation.

But the seven-year-old moratorium is now on the table as Ottawa advances a proposal with the Alberta government to build a new oil pipeline across B.C. to reach Asian markets. Alberta's preferred path is across the north, likely to Prince Rupert, a deep-sea port that boasts a shorter transit to Asian markets than the current route through Vancouver.

The moratorium, designed to protect the waters and shores of Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound, is meant to complement a voluntary Tanker Exclusion Zone that has been in place since 1985. The oil tanker moratorium is not, as the name implies, a tanker ban. It prevents large oil tankers from loading or unloading at the two deep-water ports on B.C.'s North Coast – Kitimat and Prince Rupert. Some oil tankers quietly sail through the moratorium zone, exploiting loopholes in the law.

Proponents argue that oil tankers are not a safety concern. Transport Canada says marine safety improvements have dramatically reduced the risk of spills. Local mariners beg to differ.

When the federal government rejected the Northern Gateway pipeline to Kitimat in 2016, it cited evidence heard during the project's environmental review about "the unique and irreplaceable nature of the ecosystem of the Great Bear Rainforest" through which the pipeline would pass. The estimated 220 oil tankers to be filled each year at the terminal would run through a sensitive marine ecosystem that should be protected from potential spills, cabinet concluded.

The pipeline Alberta wants to build today would move almost double the oil volume of Northern Gateway, increasing the oil tanker traffic well beyond 220 tankers annually.

But the waters protected by the moratorium are no less dangerous today, and the ecosystem, which spans more than 1,000 kilometres of rugged coastline, is no less sensitive.

What has changed is that Canada is urgently seeking new trading partners, given the trade war with the United States, and efforts that might have been politically unthinkable for the federal Liberal government in 2016 are no longer off limits.

The Haida and other coastal First Nations say they will fight any effort to repeal the law because they say the risk of a catastrophic spill in these waters is high, and the result would be devastating for the marine environment and for the communities that rely upon it.

The Globe and Mail travelled to fishing communities where mariners with generations of experience in these waters are found to understand why the waters of B.C.'s North Coast are challenging to navigate, and what's at stake in the event of a large oil spill.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans' guide to sailing around the islands collectively known as Haida Gwaii recounts a litany of hazards in Dixon Entrance. It is riddled with shallow shoals and reefs that extend for miles offshore, often rising out of the deep so sharply that depth soundings may not indicate the danger in sufficient time to take evasive action.

Fog haunts these waters July through September, and strong, sometimes unpredictable, tidal streams make navigation in Dixon Entrance treacherous when visibility is poor. These waters also chart some of the shallowest depths, while shifting sand waves on the sea floor change the grounding risks.

The nearby Hecate Strait has its own special reputation. Mariners describe destructive monster waves that "stand up" out of nowhere, punishingly close together, where the howling winds can change direction without warning, where the troughs between waves can expose the seabed – a hazard for even the largest ships.

The strait has been described as malevolent, but there is science to explain why this is regarded as one of the most dangerous bodies of water in the world.

The Haida have an oral history of walking across from the mainland when the sea level was lower, stories that have been corroborated by archeologists. Today, Hecate is a shallow basin where waves steepen abruptly on the shelves, creating swells stacked close together. Layered atop that are frequent storms fed by two pressure systems, the Aleutian Low and the North Pacific High, creating some of the highest, most complex sea states on Canada's coasts.

"It's a treacherous body of water," Mr. Brillon said in an interview. "I've been in 35-foot seas – I've had a lot of near-death experiences all around Hecate Strait."

The weather that sank the Pacific Siren caught experienced Haida fishermen off guard. The little ship was top-heavy with prawning gear and was hit by a large swell from the port side and a simultaneous gust of wind.

Changes can happen quickly out here, Mr. Brillon noted. Environment Canada's West Coast Marine Weather Hazards Manual corroborates his experience. It notes that seas of eight to 10 metres are not uncommon during the winter on Hecate Strait. Fog and snow are frequent from September to February.

"Because of the speed that the winds and seas can change, it has been said that Hecate Strait is the fourth most dangerous body of water in the world."

A technical study of the wave climate of Queen Charlotte Sound, Hecate Strait and Dixon Entrance was conducted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and published in 2012. "This area has one of the most severe offshore wave climates in the world," the authors concluded.

The study notes that during the exploratory oil drilling carried out by Shell Canada Ltd. in the late 1960s in Hecate Strait, monster waves of 27 to 30 metres were observed. During its own monitoring over a period of three years, DFO recorded 20-metre waves – the height of a seven-storey building – in December, 1982.

The Transportation Safety Board (TSB) doesn't track marine incidents by region, but their investigations and accident reports show that even large ocean-going vessels regularly get into trouble in Hecate Strait.

In the past 10 years, passenger ferries, tugs and container ships have had engine failures and collisions with other vessels. Ships at anchor have been dragged out of position in storms; people and freight have been tossed overboard as ships heaved on heavy seas.

In 2009, BC Ferries' Northern Adventure experienced what the TSB described as "unexpected very heavy weather" during a regular sailing from Prince Rupert to Skidegate on Haida Gwaii. The vessel was forced to hold station for several hours before it could turn around and return to shore.

The TSB reported only minor injuries and damage, but Lisa Pineault, the mayor of Daajing Giids, a village on Haida Gwaii, was on that sailing, and she describes it as a traumatic experience.

"I'm talking 30-foot-plus seas, for six hours," she recounted, sitting on a seaside park bench in her community on an unusually mild day in January.

Waves were coming right over the vessel, and the power was knocked out. At one point, she started encouraging her mother to leave their cabin and sit on deck with other terrified passengers who had started on their own initiative to get ready to evacuate. "And then I realized, where are we going? What are our choices? Hypothermia or drowning." She and her mom stayed inside.

BC Ferries serves as a marine highway for Haida Gwaii, with a regular service between Prince Rupert and Skidegate.

During a sailing this January, on the BC Ferries vessel Northern Expedition, Captain Len Hanson took a seat on the bridge to describe the events of his four years on these waters. He has frequently made the call to cancel or delay a sailing when the weather is too rough. The winter storm season here lasts more than half a year.

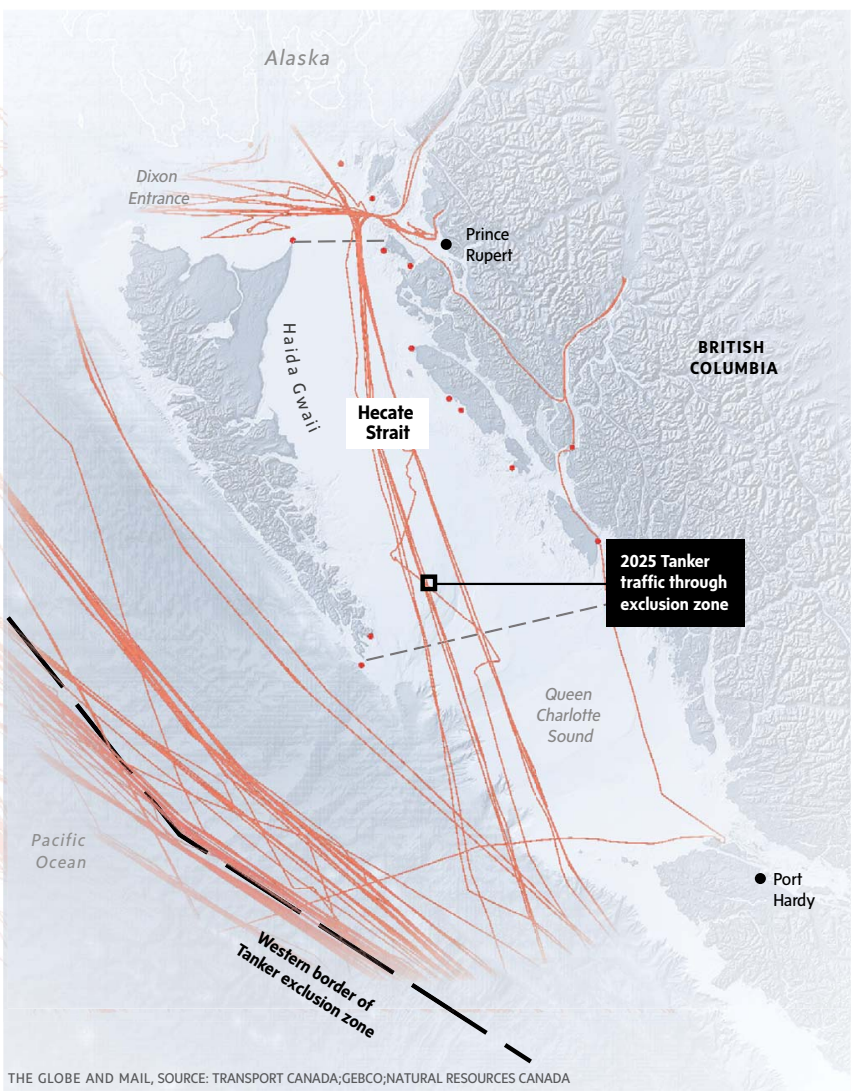
His stories underscore that even a veteran bridge crew in a large vessel designed for these waters can be surprised by the changing weather.

Capt. Hanson said his worst journey on Hecate Strait was the time when he set out expecting seas that would be approaching the ship's maximum allowable sailing parameters, based on the weather information from Environment Canada buoys deployed at the north and south of Hecate Strait.

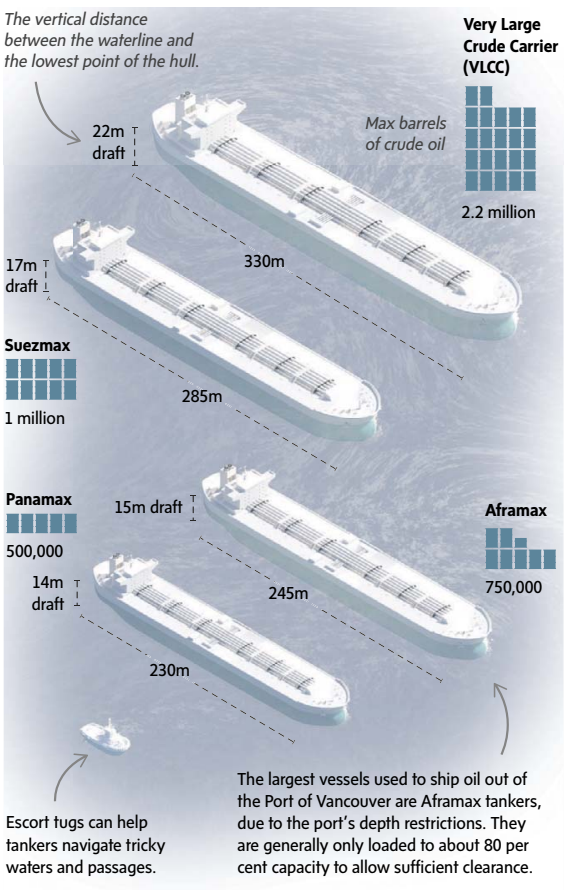
But neither buoy had been functioning properly at the time of the reading, which meant the forecast wasn't accurate. "We came across in five-metre seas, and yeah, it was" – he paused as he searched for words – "very uncomfortable."

On the day that he talked to a Globe reporter, the northern buoy was out of service again.

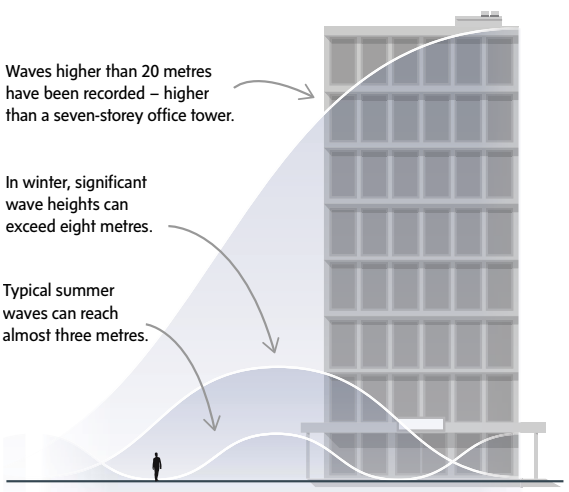
Haida boatbuilder and fisher-



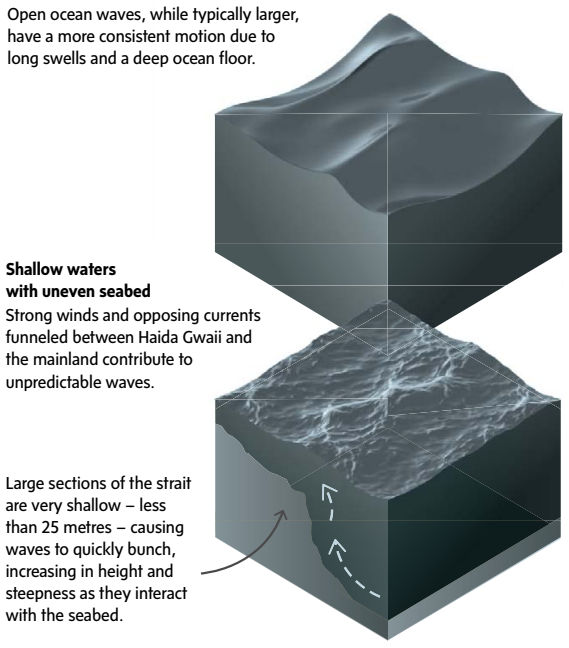
THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: TRANSPORT CANADA;GEBCO;NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: CLEAR SEAS



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS



THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Ship Fund balance and payments
Millions of dollars

● Balance ● Interest gained ● Paid to Canadian claimants

	Balance	Interest gained	Paid to Canadian claimants
2024-25	427	12.9	1.5
2023-24	421	14.5	1.2
2022-23	414	12	0
2021-22	409	4.3	1
2020-21	409	1.7	0.5

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: SHIP AND RAIL COMPENSATION CANADA – SHIP FUND ANNUAL REPORTS

man John Bennett is 77 and has a lifetime of experience reading these waters. He also learned from his father, his uncles and his grandfather.

"They would keep an eye on the mainland shores. If they saw the clouds moving fast along there, they got the hell out," he recounted as he sat in his workshop in Old Masset, which faces Dixon Entrance.

Mr. Bennett, whose Haida name is Daxhiigang, has a long list of family members who narrowly escaped death when the sea turned without warning. A Hecate storm took the lives of five of his relatives together when their vessel capsized.

An uncle defied the odds, leaping into a rowboat from his sinking seine vessel, rowing miles with the other survivors at night in a horrific storm to reach a sheltered spot behind Egg Island.

The idea of oil tankers navigating these waters makes him shudder. Like most residents of Haida Gwaii, he was unaware that some oil tankers currently do pass through.

Conservationist John Broadhead moved in the 1970s to Haida Gwaii, where he set out to map the biologically rich archipelago of 350 islands that is currently protected by the tanker moratorium. "My personal mission has been to protect Haida Gwaii," he said in an interview.

Just one of the projects, conducted with the Haida council, took three years to produce: the riparian fish forest map. "The thing that was most important to me, and a cornerstone of the Haida Gwaii environment, is salmon."

His 2009 technical report and map underscore the interconnectivity of this rare type of extremely wet temperate rain forest, with salmon-bearing waterways running throughout the archipelago like bloodveins. "The influence of the ocean is pervasive," he wrote. There isn't a place on Haida Gwaii that is more than 20 kilometres from the ocean.

The sockeye, coho, chum, pink and chinook salmon that move through these waters are just one tiny slice of the region's biodiversity.

Hecate's seabed features prehistoric glass sponge reefs that were thought to have gone extinct 40 million years ago. Discovered in the 1980s, these reefs are believed to be 9,000 years old.

They are protected by federal law because they are deemed to be globally significant, and a 2018 study by DFO found that, while they are sensitive to all kinds of commercial marine activity, by far the greatest risk they face would be an oil spill, which would smother the sponge's skeleton.

Another study by DFO, in 2015, looked at the potential trajectory for an oil spill in these waters.

"Many sections of the northern B.C. coast, such as Moresby National Park and Naikoon Provincial Park, have been identified as ecologically and biologically significant, and their integrity would be potentially threatened by proposed projects involving transportation of oil [in] coastal B.C. waters," the study said.

In 15 days, the models showed, oil could spread from the mainland side of Hecate to Haida Gwaii's waters, contaminating a wide section of the strait.

Moresby is now called Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, and it is home to many species found nowhere else on Earth. The archipelago of Haida Gwaii is referred to as the Canadian Galapagos, internationally recognized for its seabird populations ranging from rhinoceros auklets and tufted puffins to the endangered ancient murrelet, whose only nesting location in Canada is on Haida Gwaii.

Twenty-three species of marine mammals inhabit the surrounding waters, including whales, dolphins and the largest colony of Steller sea lions on Canada's West Coast. Even land mammals depend on a healthy marine environment, such as the unique Haida Gwaii black bear with its massive jaws adapted to crunch through hard-shelled creatures from the intertidal zone.

In mid-January, Mark Carney touched down in Prince Rupert for a meeting with the region's Indigenous leadership.

The fishboats in Prince Rupert were tied up while the Prime Minister was in town, as a violent winter storm swept over Hecate Strait, with strong winds and waves more than six metres high. It was nothing exceptional, but a reminder that this port town is governed by factors beyond anyone's control.

Mr. Carney promised funding for a marine-traffic risk assessment study for the region, as well as a commitment to keep two emergency towing vessels on the North Coast until 2028 that could be deployed to assist ships in distress.

"As a maritime nation, safeguarding our oceans and coastlines is not just a moral obligation – it is an economic necessity," he said in a statement after the two-hour meeting.

The marine safety question has already been studied extensively on B.C.'s West Coast, and always comes back to the same point: The risk of an oil spill cannot be eliminated, and cleanup cannot be assured.

Limits on oil tankers off B.C.'s North Coast have been in place in various forms since the 1970s.

In 1977, the federal government conducted an inquiry into the potential for an oil port in Kitimat that would see tankers in B.C.'s North Coast waters. Commissioner Andrew Thompson found "a pool of hostility" from British Columbians from all walks of life. Fishermen from coastal First Nations warned of the dangers of these waters, and testified about their fears that an oil spill would destroy a way of life that has sustained their communities for thousands of years.

Those same arguments were made a generation later, during the federal review process of the Northern Gateway oil pipeline project that wrapped up in 2013. In that case, the project was initially approved with commitments from the proponent to enhance safety using tethered tugs, slower speeds and double-hulled tankers to reduce spill risk on the North Coast. The panel was told the risk was small – but "no party could guarantee that a large spill would not occur."

In 2016, then-prime minister Justin Trudeau axed the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline project that would have run to the port in Kitimat, roughly 110 kilometres to the southeast of Prince Rupert, saying it would put at risk the world's largest intact coastal temperate rain forest, a protected area that sits along British Columbia's Pacific coast. "The Great Bear Rainforest is no place for a crude oil pipeline," Mr. Trudeau said at the time.

Mr. Carney has opened the door to a crude oil pipeline running through the Great Bear Rainforest. The MOU he signed with Alberta Premier Danielle Smith last November is meant to build a pipeline to boost her province's oil and natural gas sector.

Despite the opposition from North Coast communities, there are experts who say it is possible to move oil through these waters safely, allowing Canada to reach markets for its energy products outside the United States.

Bonnie Gee is president of the Chamber of Shipping of B.C., representing the marine transportation sector in British Columbia.

"Vessels can be moved safely in and out of Prince Rupert, without a doubt," she said in an interview.

When Trans Mountain increased its oil tanker traffic in and out of the terminal in Burnaby, Canada promised $150-million worth of new oil-response equipment and personnel to cut response times along the Salish Sea on the South Coast by half.

A similar approach for the North Coast would require investments in oil-spill response vessels and additional escort tugs, she said.

"There are a number of risk-mitigation measures that would have to be put into place in order for that to happen," she said.

The Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping was launched in 2015 with funding from Transport Canada, the Alberta government and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. It produced a risk assessment study of the B.C. coast in 2016 that concluded the risk of an oil spill is low but the potential consequences are elevated because of B.C.'s sensitive marine ecology, tourism and effects on Indigenous coastal communities.

"Tanker shipments of oil and petroleum products could increase with proposed pipeline projects, which would in turn increase the risk profile of the region," the report says.

Paul Blomerus, chief executive officer for Clear Seas, said modern oil tankers "are basically the safest ships out there in the open ocean." He pointed to the requirements for double hulls, electronic navigation and redundancies in ships' power systems.

"They all have the highest standards of inspections of all of their machinery, and more recently, all the crews are vetted and verified that they're getting their appropriate rest and that they understand appropriate safety measures."

He said Canada could improve things further off the North Coast by imposing a traffic separation scheme for the Port of Prince Rupert to minimize the chance of vessel collisions.

"The most common incidence is being hit by other ship types. So actually preventing collision is probably the most important risk mitigation."

One of the largest marine spills in Canada in the past 50 years was in the waters covered by the North Coast tanker moratorium. The tugboat Nathan E. Stewart was pushing an empty fuel barge when it ran aground in 2016 near the Heiltsuk community of Bella Bella, releasing more than 100,000 litres of diesel fuel and 3,700 litres of lube oil, hydraulic oil, gear oil and spent lubricants. The spill response, hampered by weather, was chaotic and, in the end, largely ineffective. Very little oil was recovered.

The federal government, for all of its studies on the potential for an oil spill, has not produced an environmental impact study of this spill, leaving it to the Heiltsuk to conduct their own. The Heiltsuk Nation was forced to shut down its key marine harvesting area in Gale Pass owing to contamination. Ten years later, the harvests are still closed.

In April, a Heiltsuk delegation travelled to London to meet the International Maritime Organization to press Canada to resolve restoration and compensation for the Nathan E. Stewart oil spill. Transport Canada touts its Ship and Rail Compensation Canada – Ship Fund as part of its "world class" oil-spill response system. The fund has amassed more than $420-million, as of the most recent annual report. It is funded by industry, and it has earned far more in interest in the past year than it has paid out to Canadian claimants.

Speaking to the IMO's legal committee, Heiltsuk Chief Kawazil (Marilyn Slett) noted that Canada won't even come to the table to discuss compensation through the fund.

"This gap is even more glaring as Canada contemplates a push for major projects, including pipelines and tankers, and increased marine traffic that could impact the coastal waters of Indigenous peoples."

The promises that Canada can respond to an oil spill, or provide compensation for environmental damage, ring hollow to the Heiltsuk. When Ms. Slett met with Mr. Carney in Prince Rupert in January, she told him the Heiltsuk will never give consent to lift the oil tanker moratorium.

"There is no technology that can clear up an oil spill at sea," she said. "We will never consent to allowing oil tankers in our coastal waters."



'I've had a lot of near-death experiences all around Hecate Strait,' Haida fisherman Jesse Brillon says. FARAH NOSH/THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Conservationist John Broadhead says his 'personal mission has been to protect Haida Gwaii.' FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

EDITORIAL

ANDREW SAUNDERS
PRESIDENT AND CEO

DAVID WALMSLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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

The restoration of 24 Sussex is worth the price

If one were looking for a symbol of the failures of Canadian public policy over the last decade, there is no better candidate to be found than the husk of 24 Sussex Drive. Once grand, the residence of nine prime ministers (but not the current one or his predecessor) is a wreck, at one point riddled with asbestos, lead, mold and, for good measure, rat corpses and feces.

It was a humiliating fate for a building entwined with Canada's history: construction on 24 Sussex began on the same year as Confederation, paid for by the profits from the lumber industry, an early foundation of this country's economy. From 1949 onward, it was the official residence of Canadian prime ministers. Until 2015, that is.

Justin Trudeau declined to move in when he was first elected prime minister in 2015, an eminently reasonable decision given the advanced state of disrepair of 24 Sussex.

Instead, he moved in to Rideau Cottage on the grounds of Rideau Hall. The two-storey building is a federal heritage building, but it is, generously, unprepossessing. It was designed to provide housing for the Secretary of the Governor General, not the leader of a G7 nation.

Mr. Trudeau's move to the cottage was necessary in the moment. But then little was done about 24 Sussex over the next decade, beyond some limited remediation work. At least the asbestos and rodent corpses are gone.

The politics of selling an expensive renovation were evidently too tough. The parallels with far bigger problems facing Canada are striking: rather than challenge Canadians to look beyond the mundane present, Mr. Trudeau chose the easy downward stroll of decline.

To be fair to Mr. Trudeau, his decade of neglect followed years of can-kicking by previous prime ministers, who also declined to spend any political capital on ensuring that the official residence was up to snuff.

And so it falls to Prime Minister Mark Carney, who said last week his government will shortly unveil a plan for 24 Sussex. "The current state of 24 Sussex couldn't be any worse. It's an embarrassment," Mr. Carney said in an interview with CBC last month. Blunt, but accurate.

In that interview, Mr. Carney said he would like to see "my successors at 24 Sussex in some way, shape or form," although he would not be taking up residence himself. (More on that in a moment.)

Mr. Carney is right to promise action; it will be even better to take action. At a guess, the political risks are overblown. So long as the government ensures that the National Capital Commission is transparent about the renovation process, it's hard to imagine Canadians being that upset over the restoration of a national symbol. It could be a chance to engage Canadians' imagination.

This space is no fan of wasteful spending, but the rehabilitation of 24 Sussex would be anything but. A country needs symbols, the stitching that holds together a national consciousness. National pride is no time for false economies.

So, what should be done? In his last week as prime minister, Mr. Trudeau directed that an advisory group be set up to provide recommendations, taking location, function, cost and security requirements into consideration. That group was to report by January, 2026, but the Carney government has never made it clear whether the effort got off the ground.

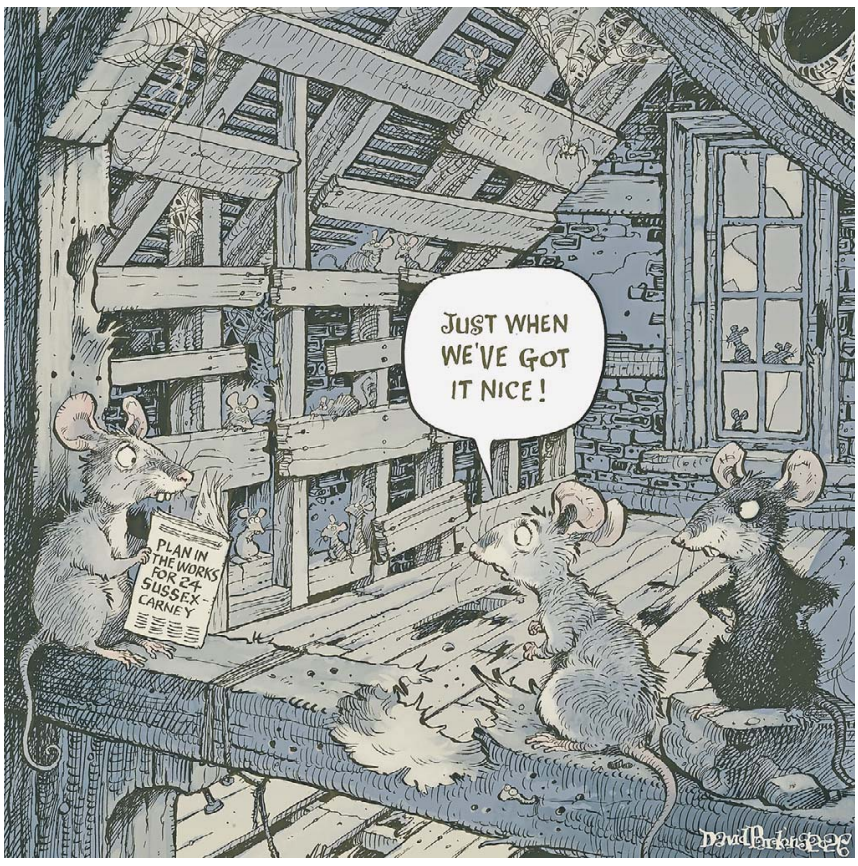
No matter; the advisory group was really just one more kick of the can down the road. Mr. Carney need not name a commission, council, conclave or any other group. A diagnosis of the problem has not been lacking. Political will has. (That pattern might seem sadly familiar.)

The options are equally clear: build a residence somewhere else, upgrade Rideau Cottage or (extensively) renovate and retrofit 24 Sussex. Mr. Carney hasn't spelled out his thinking, but his comments to the CBC heavily hint that it's the third option that is on the table.

That's as it should be. The residence at 24 Sussex is not just architecture. It's part of Canada's history.

Mr. Carney is prematurely writing himself out of that history. Unless he is planning to be a one-term-and-done prime minister, there's no reason why he should not take up residence in a restored 24 Sussex, whenever it is ready.

The 80th anniversary of 24 Sussex as a prime ministerial residence is just three years away. Mr. Carney should aim to throw a birthday party, even if a bit belated, for Canadians at his – our – new digs.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRIORITIES, PRIORITIES

Re "Deaths rising in aftermath of Western aid cuts, relief agencies say" (May 5): The 1969 Pearson Commission set the minimal bar for official development assistance at 0.7 per cent of GNP.

The United Nations voted to establish that figure in 1970 as the goal of the Second United Nations Development Decade. Again, in 2000, this became an implied part of the Millennium Development Goals.

Reiterated numerous times, if met only by a handful of countries, Canada rarely has met half that goal. Now we are scheduled to decline to 0.17 per cent in four years, with a cut of $2.7-billion.

Compare that to our $63-billion-plus expenditure on the defence file to meet the NATO goal of 2 per cent of GDP, as well as a further commitment to spend 5 per cent by 2035. What would Lester B. Pearson, Mark Carney's apparent exemplar for our international posture, have said about this radical reordering of priorities?

We should be ashamed at this hypocrisy.

Jack Arn Toronto

UNFAIR RETURN

Re "Ottawa's plan to lower CPP premiums today may be regretted tomorrow" (Report on Business, May 5): I both regret and oppose this decision for a number of reasons.

Under the guise of the "affordability crisis," a modest yearly savings of $133 for the average worker does not justify the large break being afforded large corporations. For example, Canada's Big Five banks, already making record profit, would average yearly savings of at least $50-million. How is this justified or by any measure fair?

To remove a total of $3-billion from the Canada Pension Plan, at a time when private employers continue to abandon the sponsorship of decent defined benefit pensions plans, is just plain wrong.

If CPP has more resources than needed to meet its current pension obligations, then the plan itself, modest by international standards, ought to be improved to provide better pensions to Canadians.

Paul Moist Winnipeg

MAID LIMITS?

Re "Voices on MAID" (Letters, May 11): Opponents of medical assistance in dying for mental illness appear to disregard the fact that conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder are legitimate and severe medical illnesses, not merely responses to an unsupportive environment.

Psychiatry, like all medical specialties, has limitations. Thus there will always be some individuals who do not respond to best practices and for whom suffering is immense.

These individuals are often left with no other relief than ending their lives by violent means. Canada should follow the lead of other enlightened jurisdictions by providing compassionate care and allowing access to medical assistance in dying to alleviate intolerable suffering.

Donald Wasylenki MD, FRCPC; professor emeritus, University of Toronto

Over 30 years working in the justice system, I interacted with a large number of people with mental health issues (the criminalization of these people is a subject worthy of informed debate).

My experience has made it clear to me that people with mental health issues tend to be highly suggestible. This is why they're so often targeted by drug dealers. Presenting medical assistance in dying to these people would result in many taking up the offer without a clear understanding of what they're agreeing to.

As a society, we have a responsibility for the care and treatment of these people. I believe MAID is a cynical way of dealing with mental health regardless of whether they fully comprehend the issue or not.

Steve Soloman Toronto

BUTT OUT

Re "Can we spare future generations from the horrors of smoking?" (May 5): Having watched a parent move slowly to her death, I wish I had pushed harder to get her to stop smoking. But I wouldn't have listened either; peers made sure of that early in my life.

Britain's novel approach of timing out smoking may work and provide hundreds of millions of dollars for health care over a fairly brief time. Let's do think seriously about timing out.

Kelly Butler Ottawa

In time, people will wonder how cigarettes remained a legal product for so long after their deadly effects were known.

Strong statistical documentation dates back to 1951 with the British Doctors Study. The two doctors and one epidemiologist who did the work were given knighthoods, but no laws followed; governments knew many voters were smokers.

Cigarettes were not only legally advertised, but the Royal Family also gave endorsements through royal warrants, even after Queen Elizabeth's father, King George VI, died at age 56 while suffering from lung cancer.

James Bond was a three-pack-a-day man, and likely so was his creator, Ian Fleming, who also died at age 56. But 20 Bond films show smoking as a good thing to do when figuring out how to escape death. Who knows what smoking did to Bond?

With the decline in smoking, Canada could easily take this next step toward a smoke-free generation.

Lynn McDonald CM; former MP; author, Non-smokers' Health Act, 1988; Toronto

TAKE A BREATH

Re "Advocates call on Ottawa to commit to mandatory anti-drunk-driving technology in new vehicles" (May 5): This would institute "guilty until proven innocent" law and I believe it is an unwarranted attack on civil liberties.

In a 2025 report, the Traffic Injury Research Foundation noted Canadian fatalities involving drinking drivers declined by 51.7 per cent between 1996 and 2022. Self-driving technology is progressing and promises to make driving safer, not only in relation to drinking, but for fatigue and distraction. The suggestion that Canada should mandate Orwellian state control, for a problem being solved by other means, should be seen as overreach.

To protect the rights of Canadians, the Public Safety Minister should reject this ill-considered scheme.

Terry Labach Waterloo, Ont.

Growing up, my friend lost his mother to a drunk driver as she was coming home from work in the early morning hour.

Citing the number of deaths due to drunk driving doesn't begin to tell the generational pain and agony that prevails in such tragedies. To apply technologies that will potentially stop drunk drivers is unequivocally a good solution and long-awaited good news.

With this in mind, detractors should stop raising all sorts of potential minute faults and petty possibilities. They seem to be detractors for the sake of being detractors.

There were detractors right up until mandatory seatbelt laws were enacted. Look how that turned out.

Joanne O'Hara Oakville, Ont.

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**

SINCLAIR STEWART
DEPUTY EDITOR

JAMES KELLER
NATIONAL EDITOR

DENNIS CHOQUETTE
DEPUTY EDITOR, REPORT ON BUSINESS

PATRICK BRETHOUR
EDITORIALS EDITOR

MATT FRENCH
HEAD OF VISUALS

MELISSA STASIUK
HEAD OF NEWSROOM DEVELOPMENT

ANGELA PACIENZA
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

CHRISTINE BROUSSEAU
MANAGING EDITOR, PRIORITIES

GARY SALEWICZ
EDITOR, REPORT ON BUSINESS

NATASHA HASSAN
OPINION EDITOR

MATT FREHNER
MANAGING EDITOR, PRODUCTS AND PLATFORMS

OPINION

A grudging 'aye' for the SNP again

Despite 19 years of major scandals and a weak record in power, the party continues to have effective hegemony in Scotland

SAMUEL McILHAGGA BRIGHTON

OPINION

Freelance journalist covering Britain

It seems like nothing can sink the Scottish National Party.

The governing pro-independence party has been racked with scandals over the past 10 years, each of which seemed like a real threat to its 19-year hold on power in Scotland's parliamentary election last week.

In 2018, former first minister Alex Salmond was accused of attempted rape, assault and sexual harassment, charges on which he was acquitted; later, he accused his protegé and then-first minister Nicola Sturgeon of a "conspiracy to remove him from public life."

In 2021, the Scottish police launched Operation Branchform, an investigation into SNP fraud that indirectly led to Ms. Sturgeon's resignation two years later, and to embezzlement charges for her then-husband, former SNP chief executive Peter Murrell. Her successor, Humza Yousaf, then botched the SNP's coalition with the Scottish Greens in April, 2024, leading to his ousting as leader just over 13 months into the job.

Since then, pollsters have made gloomy predictions about the SNP's chances. Even after Mr. Yousaf was replaced by the placid, boring and so-far scandal-free John Swinney, the party lost 39 of Scotland's 57 seats in Westminster as Labour swept the 2024 British general election.

Yet these events have stuck to the SNP's great ship of state like barnacles: They're not pretty, but they can, apparently, be lived with. Despite the global trend of dissatisfaction with incumbents, it has not slowed down, and when last week's election was all said and done, the SNP was able to maintain a minority in the Scottish Parliament, winning 58 of 129 seats – a dip of only six seats.

Under Mr. Salmond, the SNP won power for the first time – a minority – in 2007, doing so by dethroning the Labour Party, which had been rejected at the polls after several decades of unquestioned hegemony in Scotland. The SNP has held either a majority or plurality in the devolved parliament ever since – a platform from which it can campaign for independence and position Scotland as a progressive alternative to Westminster.

But scandals aren't the SNP's only problem. The nationalists have often been accused of focusing too much on constitutional issues like independence. After 19 years and a failed referendum in 2014, they appear no closer to achieving their goal. And while it remains a divisive issue with solid support, a Savanta poll found that only 13 per cent of Scots identified it as a Top 3 priority.

Worse, many critics say the government's focus there has come at the expense of the domestic issues that Scots generally care about instead, including education and economic growth. PISA scores, a measure that compares national educational attainment, declined noticeably after 2012, going from high to average compared to OECD benchmarks. The SNP has also been accused of losing control of a spiralling drug-death epidemic, with Scotland recording more than 1,000 drug deaths a year since 2018 – around three to four times the British per capita rate.

The SNP seems to have been saved from its own defeat last week by events both south and north of the border. The most important of these developments is the rise of Nigel Farage's Reform UK. Long thought of implicitly, if not explicitly, as an English nationalist party by many in Scotland, Reform made notable Caledonian inroads last week, part of its huge surge in the broader British local elections. The right-populist party went from one seat to 17 in Holyrood, tying them for second place with Labour.

But at the ballot box, many Scottish middle-class liberals who were disappointed with the SNP's record – particularly in ridings like Glasgow Kelvin and Edinburgh South Western – likely still placed an X next to Mr. Swinney's party, driven by fear of Mr. Farage's Reform. It's little surprise that Mr. Swinney has already leveraged this for his party's bread-and-butter cause, saying that it is "urgent" to achieve independence so as to "Farage-proof" Scotland from a potential Reform government in London.

The SNP isn't only looking to their right flank for threats, though. South of the border, Labour was increasingly supplanted by the Green Party as the main centre-left party in dozens of English cities. Until now, the SNP has largely managed to fend off challengers on the left. But at this election, the Scottish Greens won a record 15 seats, including two urban student-heavy seats (Edinburgh Central and Glasgow Southside) from the SNP.

So far, the SNP has been saved by outside forces. But its record in government remains weak despite all that time in power, and its coalition of pro-independence voters seems shaky. It might take just one more scandal to sweep Mr. Swinney out the door – and the SNP with him.

Want to save the whales? Enforce the rules

MARSHA LEDERMAN



OPINION

VANCOUVER



A grey whale is seen surfacing in waters off Vancouver's Stanley Park on May 4, after it was struck by a Sea-Doo rider. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans says after the impact, the whale was observed feeding, moving normally and appeared to be in good condition. ANDY ZOFKA AND ANNE ZOFKA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It has been an enchanting spring in the waters off southern B.C. Whales have been feeding, to British Columbians' great delight – but also horror.

Just over a week ago, as all kinds of people on shore and in boats observed a grey whale near Siwash Rock off Stanley Park, along came a Sea-Doo rider bombing through the water, colliding with the magnificent creature.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) told The Globe and Mail that while it can be difficult to properly assess the health of a live whale, after the impact, the whale was observed feeding, moving normally and appeared to be in good condition.

As for the human, he was thrown from his watercraft and taken to hospital but suffered no serious injuries, according to a report. "I feel so awful that this got witnessed and this happened," the unidentified man told CityNews in an interview.

He admits to going 94 kilometres an hour at the time. He said he had "zero clue" the whale was there – in spite of all the people and boats around watching for it – and is calling for better warning systems to let people know when whales are nearby.

On Monday, the Vancouver Police Department said it has concluded its work on the matter, and that charge and enforcement consideration is in the DFO's hands. The DFO said it cannot comment on a continuing investigation.

There are regulations around this. The law says you cannot get within 100 metres of whales – but 200 metres if they are in a resting position or with a calf, and 400 metres from all killer whales in southern B.C. coastal waters. On June 1, that will increase to 1,000 metres for southern resident killer whales, which are endangered.

There are also voluntary measures, including reducing speed to less than seven knots when within 1,000 metres of an orca.

Even a casual Instagram user can see that these rules – and requests – are being breached. Why aren't they being enforced? And why are speed measures voluntary?

Not even this upsetting collision, captured on video and widely viewed, seems to have provided the necessary wake-up call.

On Sunday, less than a week after the crash, a group of orcas was feeding off Stanley Park, with all kinds of boaters around. Most, says Deborah Katz Henriquez, who was watching from the shore, were respectfully "enjoying the show" at a distance. But the Vancouver-based children's author also saw motorboats, sailboats and others approaching the whales. "They were as close as they could get," she told me.

She saw motorboats and jetskis "zipping through" the area. "There was no way that any of these people could have not known what they were doing."

After last week's grey whale collision, Ms. Katz Henriquez launched a petition to restrict personal motorized watercraft in the waters when whales are feeding.

"Municipal governments around the world have successfully implemented bans or limitations on jet skis and high speed motorcraft in ecologically sensitive and high-risk areas to protect both wildlife and human populations," the Change.org petition states. "It's time for Vancouver to follow suit and prioritize the health of our marine ecosystem."

It calls for restrictions on the launching of personal watercraft from city-managed beaches, mandatory slow zones and increased patrols, among other things.

She says she has heard from people who have themselves been hit or scared by personal motorized watercraft, or experienced wake-related injuries.

The DFO declined a Globe and Mail interview request, but in an e-mail, recounted the regulations and urged everyone to be "Whale Wise."

There is no way that lack of awareness is the problem. Regardless, enforcement is a more effective remedy.

"The whole 'raise awareness' thing is such an utter cop-out," Mark Leiren-Young, an orca activist, writer, filmmaker and podcaster, told me. "The single easiest way to raise awareness is to charge people. If someone is hit with a $20,000 fine, believe me, that will raise awareness really fast."

Mr. Leiren-Young, whose new book is *One Ocean: 7 Ways to Save the Seas*, jokes that maybe we should again refer to orcas more commonly as killer whales. Maybe the more violent-sounding branding would keep people away.

The southern resident orca population is endangered. And this spring, an alarming number of "very skinny" dead grey whales have been discovered off the B.C. coast.

We've done enough to imperil these magnificent creatures. It's time to step up enforcement to protect them from more human-caused harm.

Ottawa needs to stop saying it's not ready for the expansion of MAID, and get ready

ANDRÉ PICARD



OPINION

Parliament's Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying has had five years to come up with regulations for the provision of MAID for people whose sole underlying condition is a mental disorder.

By all accounts, it's going to recommend prolonging the ban. Delaying a decision is not acceptable – legally, ethically or politically.

Court rulings – including the landmark Carter decision in 2015 – have clearly stated that: a) medical assistance in dying is legal; b) a death does not have to be "reasonably foreseeable" for MAID to be granted; and c) governments cannot discriminate by denying MAID to people with disabilities.

At no point have the courts said that people with psychiatric disabilities should be excluded. What the courts have said is that governments can establish parameters for eligibility.

Federal legislation and regulations on MAID contain many safeguards, including limiting it to people suffering from a "grievous and irremediable medical condition." If a death is not "reasonably foreseeable" (also called Track 1) – a condition of the initial legislation that was struck down as unconstitutional – then a patient must undergo a more rigorous procedure to determine eligibility (Track 2).

The system works remarkably well, and Canadians have embraced it. In 2024, there were 16,499 completed MAID procedures, only 732 of them Track 2.

People with a mental illness are not excluded from MAID, because many suffer from other irremediable medical conditions. But people whose sole underlying condition is a mental disorder are excluded.

Why? Because the government said back in 2021 that it wasn't ready. Clinical guidelines needed to be drafted, and so did regulations.

A parliamentary committee was appointed but its first report concluded more time was needed. It nevertheless provided a good summary of the issues. The deadline was pushed back to March 17, 2027.

The latest iteration of the committee has done little but rehash earlier debates, and in a one-sided manner.

The committee co-chairs have both said publicly that they oppose MAID MD-SUMC, and the lack of impartiality showed. Of the 38 witnesses who testified at the hearings, 28 were clearly opposed to expansion of MAID. Only one patient was allowed to testify, and she was opposed; those favouring MAID expansion were told there was not enough time to hear them. And while several psychiatrists spoke, no representative from the Canadian Psychiatric Association was invited.

The CPA, unlike the parliamentary committee, has done its homework. They produced detailed guidance on how MAID for people whose sole underlying condition is mental illness could work in practice.

Similarly, the Canadian Association of MAID Providers and Assessors have created a thoughtful curriculum.

The CPA guidelines do a great job of underscoring the issues that make MAID MD-SUMC complex.

How can you determine if a mental illness is "grievous and irremediable"? How do you determine competency? How do you assess and manage the suicide risk of a patient requesting MAID?

Opponents of MAID argue that no psychiatric illness is irremediable, that everyone can be treated and cured eventually.

But how long should a person have to suffer? How many treatments should they have to attempt? There are cases where people have lived unbearable suffering for decades. One of those patients, Claire Brosseau, has asked the court to grant her emergency access to MAID MD-SUMC.

Yes, we have to protect the vulnerable. But not patronize them or deny them the rights other Canadians have.

Surely, there are limits to how much suffering an individual should have to endure.

Every legal challenge that has resulted in MAID expansion has been brought forward by a person with a disability. Time and time again, the courts have ruled in their favour, saying bodily autonomy and freedom of choice are paramount.

MAID providers and assessors, for their part, have shown themselves to be unfailingly compassionate and ethical in facilitating dignified deaths.

Implementation of a law allowing MAID for people whose sole condition is a mental disorder was delayed owing to a lack of readiness.

Five years later, Canada is ready, clinically, legally and societally. That it is not ready politically is not a justification for denying people who suffer from mental illness dignity in death.

It's well past time for the government of Mark Carney to stop prevaricating and allow MAID to expand in 2027.

And, while they're at it, get on with allowing advance requests for people with neurological conditions like dementia.

As always, the public is way ahead of the politicians on that one.

LIFE & ARTS

Where ancient art meets Home Depot

Artist Caroline Monnet uses building-yard materials as high art at a Canadian Museum of History exhibit

KATE TAYLOR

VISUAL ARTS



You might think of plywood as a cheap and banal building material, but in the hands of Caroline Monnet it can become fine art. The Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau has mounted a large exhibition of the Montreal artist's sculptures, and the centrepiece is an arresting sculpted landscape made from multiple layers of plywood lacquered to a soft sheen.

The big, horizontal piece sitting on a low plinth reads like a topographical map, as though its brown and beige swirls and ovals denote different elevations in the landscape, but it also features its own elevations, areas where the wood rises up into little knolls that might represent hills or mountains. It is aesthetically beautiful but also plays with notions of scale and representation, not merely of the landscape but also of the body in relationship to the land: The sculpture is titled *When It's Fall, I Rest*.

It might be tempting to say the piece transcends plywood, but Monnet's building-yard media are often her point. She uses not only plywood but also strand board, concrete, copper wire, pink insulation, roof underlay, roofing felt, air barrier membrane, waterproofing membrane and vapour barrier – a list of ubiquitous yet (to the layperson) mysterious materials. Viewers may find themselves looking very closely at the labels in this show of the artist's work from the past decade, curated by Mona Filip.

Monnet's motifs, meanwhile, are often Algonquin geometries drawn from her maternal heritage – her mother comes from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation in the Outaouais region; her father is French – as she takes her inspiration from traditional practices such as embroidery and birch-bark biting. The result, in colourful embroidered panels where ancient art meets Home Depot, serves as a reflection on Indigenous relations with modernity and more specifically on the housing crisis on reserves.



Monnet's plywood sculpture When It's Fall, I Rest, reads like a topographical map. PHOTOS BY TONI HAFKENSCHEID/COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND BLOUIN-DIVISION GALLERY



Monnet embroiders traditional Anishinaabe patterns on construction materials, seen here using synthetic roofing felt.

KIWE is a piece in which those capital letters are spelled out in Plexiglas forms stuffed with pink glass-wool insulation material. The word means to return home in Anishinaabemowin, and in this context suggests both the continuance of a cycle and something yet to be completed. Monnet's parents renovated and flipped houses in Gatineau when she was growing up; she is well acquainted with half-finished projects.

The wooden sculptures are less pointed and speak to a more spiritual or universal relationship with land and home. *When It's Fall, I Rest*, which is a 2021 piece from a private collection, hints at the relationship between the land and the body; *Blending into One* and *Portage of the Woman*, 2023 pieces made in oak and maple respectively, make the connection explicit, starting from a rectangular piece of laminated wood but producing undulating forms that echo the human figure.

They are both pleasing modernist sculptures and reflections on our connection to the Earth in a period when we seem incapable of halting its destruction, works that glide successfully between formal and thematic concerns.

Monnet is not always that subtle. Surprisingly, since she began her career as a filmmaker not a sculptor, the two video works in the show are less convincing. In particular, *Spring* (2022), a dreamy three-minute video with an on-screen text in English about dancing, is a classic example of shooting fish in a barrel: It's a retort to a 1921 letter seeking to ban Indigenous dance that was written by Duncan Campbell Scott, the Canadian poet who was also deputy superintendent of Indian Affairs.

On the other hand, Monnet's more abstract work can be heartrending in its evocation of the tension between nature and culture. The show also includes the *Wound* series, three small sculptures made of twisted pieces of Kevlar fabric, the shapes again suggesting the body and the land – and evoking the vulnerability of both in contrast to the promise of invincibility offered by a space-age material.

In 2025, Monnet created *Smoke*, a wall-mounted sculpture set in rectangular frame, simply by stacking short strips of dark grey air barrier membrane in a horizontal line and sewing them to a backing. This produces a small panel of dark leaves made from some unknown but visibly fragile material that seems to evoke burnt paper or lost feathers. After all the fires this land has suffered in the past two summers, it's a viscerally evocative piece.

Pizandawatc/The One Who Listens continues at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau until Sept. 8.

How do you know when sports betting is a problem?

BEN KAPLAN

You don't have to be a fan to know that online gambling such as sports betting is big business – and a growing public health concern.

In Ontario, online gambling brought in $82.7-billion in wagers and $3.2-billion in gross revenue in 2024-25, a 32-per-cent increase over the previous year. Experts say it's also leading to more problem gambling, particularly among young men.

A recent study in the Canadian Medical Association Journal found Ontario's addictions and mental-health helpline saw a surge in people seeking help for problem gambling after online gambling was legalized in the province – especially calls from boys and men aged 15 to 24, which increased by more than 300 per cent.

Meanwhile, a 2025 report by the Canadian Centre for Substance Use and Addiction found that among young adults aged 18 to 29 who gamble online, 69.4 per cent met the criteria for problem gambling. If you have a young person in your life who gambles, here are some things to know about how to spot the signs of problem gambling, when to seek help and ways to minimize the risks.

KNOW THE SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

Andrew Kim, an associate professor of psychology at Toronto Metropolitan University who studies addictions and mental health, says it can be harder to detect problem gambling than a drug or alcohol addiction. But there are some behaviours to watch for.

"Preoccupation, irritability and researching odds, getting overly reactive while watching sports and withdrawing are all common signs," he said. "The first harm is going to be financial, which may be hidden, but also there's signs of anxiety and depression, irritability and, of course, asking for money."

Someone with a gambling problem might say they'll only place one bet, but end up making multiple wagers, oftentimes "chasing losses," making new gambles in the hopes of winning back lost money, Kim explained.

Kim says young men who are sports fans, drink alcohol, have university degrees, and have disposable income and high levels of impulsivity are more prone to gambling on sports.

According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, there are many risk factors for developing a gambling problem, including having easy access and having a history of mental-health problems.

David Hodgins, a psychology professor at the University of Calgary who studies gambling and substance-use addictions, says the reason why someone gambles also affects their risk of developing a problem. "Gambling to forget, escape or feel better has a corollary with developing issues," Hodgins said. "Why are you gambling? If it's to escape negative emotions, that's a red flag."

SEEK HELP EARLY TO MINIMIZE HARMS

The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction says harms related to gambling can include financial loss, relationship conflicts, and physical and mental-health issues.

Experts say early intervention, such as counselling or talk therapy, can help reduce long-term harm.

Intervention can also be self-directed, Hodgins said. "Motivational cognitive strategies like reminding yourself of negative consequences and putting distance between yourself and triggers are effective," he said.

Family and friends can also play a role in offering support. Because "gambling is relatively hidden, it's important to stay connected with anyone who might have a problem," Hodgins added.

Others may find that support groups or 12-step recovery programs help. That was the case for Aldo Infuso, who says he was a problem gambler for 21 years before he admitted he had an issue and joined Gamblers Anonymous.

"Imagine I'm in a pool and the water's between my lower and upper lip – that's how close I was to drowning," Infuso said. "I had a beautiful home, job, and three beautiful kids and they all got exposed to my addiction; it grips you. It's an insidious, baffling disease."

Infuso now runs a helpline and support groups for Gamblers Anonymous Toronto and says the age demographic of the men seeking help keeps getting younger. "The phone and sports are the culprits and we're seeing a surge in the number of calls from young men," he said.

The organization also runs a program for families and friends of problem gamblers. Infuso says parents must employ tough love. "I tell parents, 'Don't bail your kids out,' that's the first mistake," he said, warning against providing cash or credit transfers to problem gamblers. "Check the credit cards. Check if he spends a lot of time alone. Get them at the beginning when the damage is minimal – don't be like me and wait 21 years."

PUT SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE

For people who gamble, there are strategies that can help prevent the practice from getting out of control.

According to the Lower-Risk Gambling Guidelines from the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, people should not bet more than 1 per cent of their household income before tax a month; they should not gamble more than once a week; and they should not regularly gamble at more than two types of games (for example, sports betting and online poker).

Hodgins said that tools offered by gambling platforms and apps – such as limits on time spent playing or losses – can also help players reduce damage. "Minimization strategies are good for players and the industry, whose goal is to retain customers."

Mark Griffiths, a psychologist and director of the International Gaming Research Unit at Nottingham Trent University in England, agrees that setting affordable personal spending limits can help adults gamble responsibly. Opting into self-exclusion programs that allow people to take a break from gambling is another strategy for staying ahead of addictive tendencies, he said.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Prime Video's Off Campus joins the steamy hockey-romance canon

AMBER DOWLING

REVIEW

Google "sexy hockey show" and *Heated Rivalry* is the first hit. It's no secret the Canadian series has become one of the most lusted-after shows in the world. It has catapulted author Rachel Reid, who wrote the series on which the show is based, as well as show creator Jacob Tierney and stars Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie, to new levels of fame.

Reid isn't the only hockey-romance author out there, though, and with the debut of Prime Video's *Off Campus,* an adaptation of Elle Kennedy's series, hockey-romance TV is about to get spicier. Unlike Reid's take on the genre, *Off Campus* is a lighter, heterosexual romance centred on college kids with heightened hormones.

Off Campus debuts all eight episodes on Wednesday, and is based on Kennedy's first book in the series, *The Deal*. (Prime Video has already ordered a second season as well.) It follows a music student and a star hockey player who unexpectedly fall for each other while faking a relationship for their own benefits. Ella Bright stars as Hannah Wells, a music writer who is struggling to fund her way through school, and Belmont Cameli plays Garrett Graham, a serious hockey player trying to live up to the expectations others have set for him.

TV, A16

ADVERTISING FEATURE PRODUCED BY GLOBE CONTENT STUDIO WITH EGG FARMERS OF CANADA.
THE GLOBE'S EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT WAS NOT INVOLVED.

The future of farming is personal: Inside a seventh-generation egg farm in Ontario

On a 200-year-old farm in Perth, egg farmer Stephanie Nanne is blending family legacy with innovation and helping Canadians reconnect with where their food comes from



Since taking over her family's 200-year-old farm in Perth, Ont., egg farmer Stephanie Nanne has embraced technology and worked to educate her community about how their food is produced.

On a stretch of land in Perth, Ont., Stephanie Nanne is carrying forward an agricultural family legacy — one that began before Canada was even a country. Her ancestors emigrated from Scotland in 1816, settling on a farm where Nanne can still be found today, raising her own children — and a barn full of hens — as a seventh-generation egg farmer.

She recalls how her grandfather first began selling eggs, and then her father expanded the operation. Now, at just 35, Nanne is at the helm of a modern-day, sophisticated egg farming operation rooted in tradition. She represents a new generation of Canadian egg farmers, one that has embraced data dashboards and barn sensors alongside early mornings.

What hasn't changed in centuries: Egg farming at the Nannes' is still very much a family business. Nanne's husband oversees animal care and barn maintenance, while she and her father manage egg collection. Meanwhile, her mother handles barn cleaning. The farm's bookkeeping duties, currently managed by her father, are gradually being passed down to Nanne herself. It is a rhythm built on efficiency and lifelong trust.

"When I was growing up, it was still not a regular occurrence that it would be a woman that would take over the farm," she says. "But it runs in our family. I loved growing up on the farm and, now, having my parents work where we live."

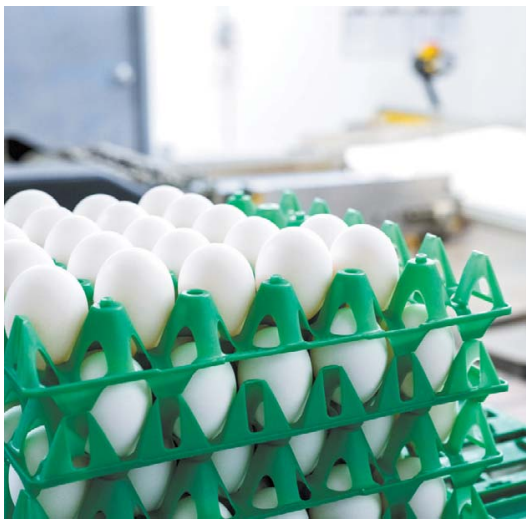
While agriculture is often discussed in terms of scale or systems, most Canadian egg farms remain family-run, with people working year-round to feed their communities. Nanne's farm alone produces roughly 2,000 cartons of eggs per day, most of which are sent to a nearby grading station where they are washed and packaged before they are distributed to local stores. As she puts it, "It really, truly is a local product."

If legacy forms the foundation of Nanne's work, innovation is what's shaping its future. In recent years, Nanne's farm has integrated technologies that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. Sensors monitor barn conditions in real time, sending immediate alerts if something goes wrong. Data collection allows for more precise decisions around feed and water efficiency. A smartphone can now offer a live window into the barn.

These tools are not simply about convenience. They allow farmers to respond quickly, addressing issues before they escalate. Broadly, they reflect a shift toward a more responsive, data-informed kind of farming that balances tradition with continuous improvement. Sustainability, too, is part of that equation. On Nanne's farm, solar panels contribute to energy use, a small but meaningful step toward reducing energy costs.

But even as the industry evolves, a major challenge remains: education. For many Canadian consumers, there is a growing distance between what they eat and how it is produced. Nanne sees that disconnect firsthand and she is intentional about addressing it. For instance, when her family built a new barn in 2023, they included a small viewing area with a window, allowing neighbours to see egg collection in action without compromising on the health and safety of the farms' hens.

"[Most] people eat eggs every day, and don't know where those eggs are coming from. People also don't realize that there still is that family aspect to their food," she says. "My family is working together 365 days of the year to make sure we can provide fresh eggs for our neighbours. To be that connection is cool."



The Nannes' family farm produces about 2,000 cartons of eggs per day.

> "It's really important to have something that we can depend on right now, and so, when we know that our food source is secure in Canada, it's one less thing to worry about.

That openness reflects a broader commitment to transparency and high standards across the industry. Supply management plays a key role here as well, providing the structure that allows egg farmers to strategically invest in their operations and uphold those standards over time.

Nanne is also an example of how egg farmers contribute to other local businesses. In the case of her family's farm, feed is sourced from Ontario suppliers. Construction work, maintenance and technical support all come from local businesses. In rural communities, that network is vital, creating a cycle of mutual support that strengthens both the local economy and the overall food system itself.

For Nanne, the importance of local food systems is both professional and deeply personal. As a mother of three young children, she thinks often about what it means to have a secure, reliable food supply close to home.

"It's really important to have something that we can depend on right now, and so, when we know that our food source is secure in Canada, it's one less thing to worry about," she says.

Nanne is optimistic about what comes next. Eggs will remain a staple, she believes, as an affordable and dependable source of high-quality protein for Canadian families. And with rapid advancements in technology, the possibilities for new efficiencies in farming continue to expand.

Back on her family's 200-year-old farm, that future is already taking shape. On weekends, her children follow her into the barn, just as she once followed her parents. In that space between past and future, Nanne is building something enduring: a way of farming that honours its history, embraces innovation and, above all, remains deeply connected to the people it feeds.

EGG FARMERS OF CANADA

IT TAKES A FARMER

Canadians can count on fresh, high-quality eggs. Farmers deliver them through a made-in-Canada system: supply management.

Learn more at **eggfarmers.ca/supplymanagement**



A card can hold astonishing weight, so why have we stopped sending them?

FIRST PERSON

Handwritten notes can show someone took an interest in acknowledging you, **Wendy Reichental** writes

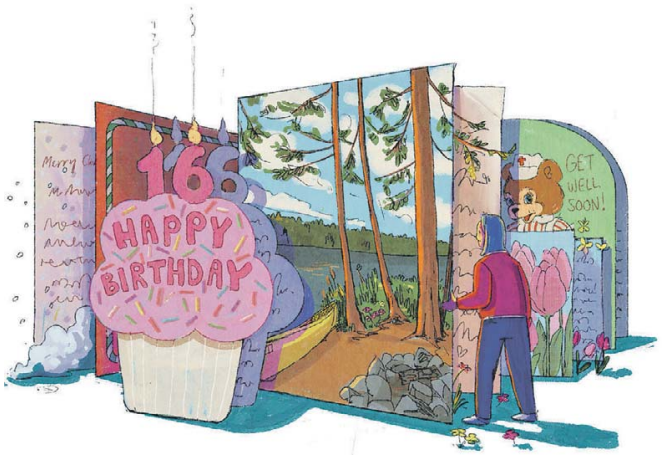


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX DEADMAN-WYLIE

My dad passed away unexpectedly, and my mom followed 10 years later. After each loss, sympathy cards arrived in waves. I kept every one of them, sliding them into a large decorative box.

Over the years, the box grew heavier as I continued to fill it with cards received, birthday, anniversary, holiday and milestone cards, both special and ordinary.

Recently, I pulled the box from the closet where it had sat undisturbed for years and wiped the dust from the lid. Sitting on the couch, I took a deep breath and emptied hundreds of cards onto the cushions beside me, a Pandora's box of memories.

My parents belonged to a generation that treated cards as miniature letters. They never simply signed their names. My father, a poetic wordsmith, filled his cards with rhyming verses offering gentle advice for his youngest daughter. In a Sweet Sixteen card, he wrote: "Have the strength and courage to face the obstacles with mighty kicks, and have the wisdom to choose the right track, free of nasty freaks!" It made me smile; such was my dad, a no-nonsense straight shooter.

My mom, on the other hand, wrote long wishes for happiness and health, reminding me to eat an apple and take good care of myself, and ending unfailingly with "Lots of Love, your Ma."

Somewhere in the pile, a long-forgotten musical birthday card from my mom grabbed my attention. Covered in bright pink tulips, it opened accordion-style into a bouquet that must have played "Happy Birthday." Now it emitted a persistent electronic chirp like a sick bird. No matter how firmly I pressed it closed, it would not stop chirping.

I was laughing and crying at the same time when my husband came into the room.

"What's that sound?" he asked.

I told him and pointed to the pile of cards I had unearthed. Then I showed him the ones he had given me over the years, most of which featured puppies and various dog breeds, because he knows my weakness.

Early in our courtship, he had written long, ardent messages proclaiming his love and adoration for me. As the years passed, the notes grew significantly shorter, and then very familiar, and almost identical from one year to the next.

To be fair, my husband is better at expressing his love through actions rather than adjectives. If this is my greatest complaint, I am fortunate indeed. Eventually, we stopped exchanging cards altogether. I don't remember the exact turning point, but I suggested that we stop buying store-bought cards and make our own on the computer.

That experiment did not last. He declared himself devoid of creative talent, and we eventually settled on a new system, only face-to-face proclamations.

In our 60s now, and married almost 34 years, we have extended that "no card" policy to the rest of the family. A phone call or text message would suffice.

Practicality played a role. Greeting cards today have become astonishingly expensive, barring those from the dollar store, which are still a good alternative.

Yet as I sorted through my box, practicality felt irrelevant. What I was so grateful for from my friends, family, acquaintances and colleagues, some I barely knew, was that they cared enough to send a card and share well-meaning wishes. Some about having strength, faith and staying positive and hopeful. These felt like life lessons and hugs to me.

A card can hold astonishing weight. It carries voices, intentions and a moment when someone took an interest in acknowledging you. It becomes, quietly, a record of being remembered, not in sweeping gestures, but in ink, in paper, in time taken.

I value and cherish every single one of those cards, but I wonder, too, what will become of them: Will they be of any sentimental use to my husband or my nieces after I go? I know my husband has saved a few of the cards I gave him; I discovered them tucked in a drawer while searching for our passports.

Again, I see my parents' beautifully looping, scripted handwriting and hold back my tears.

Suddenly, I noticed that the chirping had stopped. The living room fell quiet. I carefully placed the cards back into their box, closed the lid and returned it to the closet.

What's in a card? Tender sentiments and voices preserved in paper, marking our life's passages. I am not yet ready to let any of it go or be discarded.

Wendy Reichental lives in Montreal.

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

TV: Off Campus is perfect for comfort viewing

FROM A14

It's a classic opposites-attract story with plenty of sexy moments, from the opening shower scene, in which Hannah accidentally stumbles in on a naked Garrett, to gratuitous hookups. It's not adult content per se, but steamy enough to be targeted at older teens and adults looking for a new guilty pleasure.

That kind of empty-calorie viewing is appealing for the escapist summer months, particularly since there isn't much hockey-playing at the centre of this story. Unlike *Heated Rivalry*, which focuses on the professional world of sports and the years-long story of the two athlete leads, *Off Campus* is less about hockey and more about navigating the college years while pursuing your dreams. These characters aren't kids, but they also haven't fully entered the sphere of adulthood.

Creator Louisa Levy keeps it light and fun, with references to legendary rom-coms such as *Dirty Dancing* and plenty of music to keep things bopping.

> It's fast-paced, full of heart and isn't afraid to let its characters bare everything, and that's exactly what fans of the hockey-romance genre will expect.

By her own admission, she is more of a musical theatre kid than a sports fan, just as Hannah isn't into the world of hockey when she enters Garrett's orbit. So the show touches on the brotherhood of hockey, although there are definitely some icy scenes to get viewers riled up.

In that vein, *Off Campus* is about embracing romantic tropes for their seductiveness rather than breaking them, which is part of that comfort-viewing appeal. As Hannah and Garrett explore their mutual attraction, they each have their typical friend groups to keep things entertaining, with side stories and plots.

Mika Abdalla takes over any scene she's in as Hannah's roommate and bestie Allie, while Antonio Cipriano's take on John is the kind of level-headed best friend any dude could wish for. Considering those characters eventually become main characters in later *Off Campus* books, that casting will be essential in the future.

Then there's Garrett's former NHL-star father Phil Graham, played by *Shameless*'s Steve Howey. He's the epitome of an intense father with even more intense expectations. His backstory and relationship with Garett add levity to the series, especially through flashbacks.

Of course, the main focus in Season 1 is the relationship between Hannah and Garrett, and there's plenty of chemistry as they deny their actual feelings. They push each other in uncomfortable ways as they grow into the people they're meant to be, and at the end of the day, isn't that what most rom-coms are about?

It all adds up to a fun and soapy watch that doesn't reinvent the wheel, but spins it for entertainment. It's fast-paced, full of heart and isn't afraid to let its characters bare everything, and that's exactly what fans of the hockey-romance genre will expect.

Special to The Globe and Mail

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

2÷ 4	5+ 1	11+ 5	6	10× 2	2÷ 3
2	4	3÷ 3	1	5	6
3÷ 3	2÷ 2	4	1− 5	6	3+ 1
1	11+ 5	6	1− 3	4	2
11+ 5	2÷ 6	2÷ 1	2	3 3	20× 4
6	3	7+ 2	4	1	5

WORLD FORECAST

	TODAY		TOMORROW		THURSDAY	
AMSTERDAM	12/7	PC	13/6	SH	13/5	SH
ATHENS	28/17	S	26/17	S	24/15	SH
BANGKOK	32/27	T	32/27	T	35/28	T
BEIJING	33/22	S	36/22	S	35/22	S
BERLIN	11/5	SH	13/7	SH	13/5	SH
BRUSSELS	12/7	PC	14/6	SH	12/5	SH
COPENHAGEN	13/7	PC	11/6	SH	11/7	SH
FRANKFURT	10/3	SH	13/6	SH	12/3	SH
HONG KONG	27/25	C	28/25	T	26/24	T
JERUSALEM	31/14	S	26/16	S	29/16	S
LAS VEGAS	39/25	S	35/21	S	34/21	S
LONDON	17/9	PC	15/8	SH	14/7	SH
LOS ANGELES	25/15	S	23/14	PC	25/15	S
MADRID	17/11	SH	19/10	SH	19/9	SH
MIAMI	32/23	T	31/23	T	32/23	T
MOSCOW	18/12	SH	23/14	S	22/14	SH
NEW DELHI	38/27	T	42/29	T	43/31	S
NEW YORK	19/9	S	14/12	SH	18/11	R
NICE	23/14	S	20/13	PC	23/12	PC
ORLANDO	29/21	SH	30/21	T	31/21	S
PARIS	15/8	S	16/7	SH	13/6	SH
PHOENIX	41/27	S	38/23	PC	37/23	S
ROME	23/13	S	21/11	T	22/14	SH
SAN FRANCISCO	15/12	C	17/10	S	16/11	S
SEOUL	22/14	SH	25/15	S	28/15	S
SINGAPORE	29/26	T	30/26	T	29/27	T
SYDNEY	22/16	SH	21/16	SH	21/15	SH
TOKYO	24/16	S	25/17	PC	25/14	PC
WASHINGTON	21/13	S	23/12	SH	18/11	PC

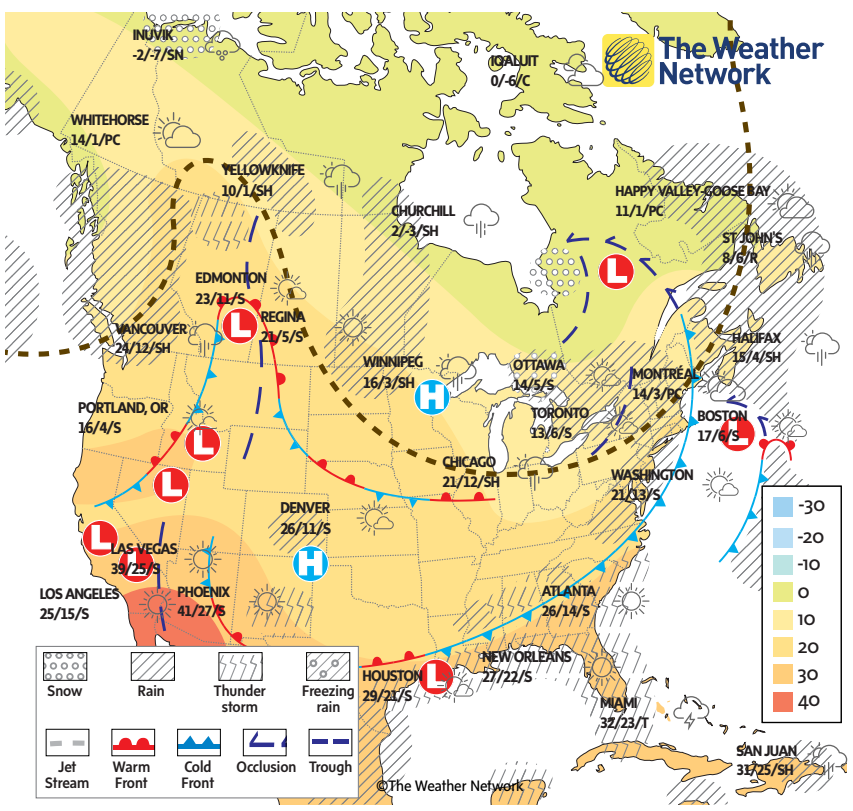
NATIONAL FORECAST

	TODAY		TOMORROW		THURSDAY	
BANFF	17/3	S	19/5	PC	18/4	SH
BARRIE	15/6	S	13/5	R	13/4	PC
BRANDON	20/3	S	23/12	S	25/10	PC
CALGARY	23/7	S	25/12	SH	22/9	PC
CHARLOTTETOWN	9/2	PC	12/6	S	15/8	PC
CHICOUTIMI	9/-1	PC	14/6	PC	14/7	R
CHURCHILL	2/3	SH	1/-2	SN	2/-5	S
CORNER BROOK	8/0	R	9/0	S	13/5	PC
CORNWALL	14/5	S	12/9	R	14/8	R
EDMONTON	23/11	S	26/11	PC	22/10	S
HALIFAX	15/4	SH	13/7	S	13/9	PC
HAMILTON	15/7	S	15/6	R	14/5	PC
HUNTSVILLE	13/5	S	10/5	R	14/3	PC
IQALUIT	0/-6	C	-1/-5	SN	0/-8	C
JASPER	20/3	PC	18/5	PC	18/5	PC
KELOWNA	27/10	PC	23/11	SH	25/8	SH
KINGSTON	10/7	S	12/8	R	13/7	R
LONDON	14/8	SH	16/6	R	13/6	PC
MONTRÉAL	13/4	S	14/9	R	14/9	R
NIAGARA FALLS	14/7	S	15/7	R	13/6	SH
NORTH BAY	11/4	S	8/3	R	14/4	PC
OTTAWA	14/5	S	11/8	R	14/7	R
PRINCE GEORGE	22/8	PC	20/6	PC	21/4	SH
PETERBOROUGH	12/5	S	12/6	R	13/5	SH
QUÉBEC	11/0	S	14/8	PC	12/8	R
REGINA	21/5	S	27/12	S	25/9	PC
SASKATOON	22/8	S	29/13	S	22/9	PC
SAULT STE MARIE	8/4	SH	10/2	SH	13/6	S
SAINT JOHN	14/5	S	13/7	S	15/9	SH
SEPT-ÎLES	8/2	PC	8/3	S	8/5	SH
ST JOHN'S	8/5	R	9/3	SH	14/4	S
SUDBURY	11/5	S	8/4	R	16/5	S
THUNDER BAY	4/2	R	14/2	PC	12/6	S
THOMPSON	10/-2	PC	17/6	PC	11/0	PC
TORONTO	13/6	S	14/7	T	13/8	PC
VAL-D'OR	10/2	PC	12/3	SH	13/2	PC
VANCOUVER	24/12	SH	17/11	SH	15/10	SH
VICTORIA	19/11	SH	16/9	PC	13/9	PC
WHISTLER	23/10	S	13/6	SH	8/2	SH
WHITEHORSE	12/0	PC	13/3	PC	10/-1	SH
WINNIPEG	16/3	SH	21/10	S	21/13	SH
YELLOWKNIFE	10/1	PC	9/-1	SH	6/-3	PC

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



THE GLOBE AND MAIL CENTRE
351 KING STREET EAST, SUITE 1600
TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5A 0N1
416.585.5000 | GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

The Globe and Mail is a Woodbridge owned property.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TECH SUPPORT
PRINT 1.800.387.5400
TORONTO 416.585.5222
GLOBE 2 GO 1.866.232.0988
CIRCULATION@GLOBEANDMAIL.COM
GLOBE2GO@GLOBEANDMAIL.COM
GLOBEUNLIMITED@GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

EDITORIAL OFFICES
TORONTO 416.585.5225
MONTREAL 514.982.3065
OTTAWA 613.566.3600
CALGARY 403.245.9100
EDMONTON 780.428.8261
VANCOUVER 604.685.0308
HALIFAX 902.471.9479

ADVERTISING
TOLL FREE 1.800.387.9012
ON + MAN (EXCL OTT) 416.585.5600
OTT, QUE, ATL 514.982.3050
1.800.363.7526
WESTERN CANADA 604.631.6608

EXECUTIVES
ERIN ADAMS V.P., HUMAN RESOURCES
KATHY CUNNINGHAM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
SUSAN KELLY V.P., INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SEAN HUMPHREY V.P., MARKETING, PRODUCT AND DIGITAL EXPERIENCE
SALLY PIRRI V.P., PRINT OPERATIONS
JESSE LANGDON V.P., GENERAL COUNSEL/CORPORATE SECRETARY
NAFID AHMED V.P., ENTERPRISE ANALYTICS, DATA SCIENCE AND CONSUMER INSIGHTS
JONATHAN DENEAU V.P., REVENUE

NOTICES ■ COPYRIGHTS AND TRADEMARKS The Globe and Mail, Canada's National Newspaper, Report on Business, Facts & Arguments, Canada's Business Newspaper and Globe Toronto are trademarks of The Globe and Mail © 2017. All rights reserved. All letters, articles, comments, and other material submitted to publication may be published, displayed, distributed, retained and archived by The Globe and Mail's assignees and its licensees in whole or in part, in print or any other media and in any product or service, now known or created in the future, worldwide, in perpetuity, without compensation to the author. Any advertising published by The Globe and Mail in its publications may be published, displayed, distributed, retained and archived by The Globe and Mail, our assignees and licensees, worldwide, in perpetuity, in print or any other media and in any product or service, now known or created in the future. ■ PRIVACY CODE The Globe and Mail's privacy policy describes how we use your personal information and is available at globeandmail.com/privacy-terms/. ■ COMPLAINTS For concerns about editorial content, contact publiceditor@globeandmail.com. If you are not satisfied with the response and wish to file a formal complaint, visit mediacouncil.ca or call toll-free at 1-844-877-1163 for more information.

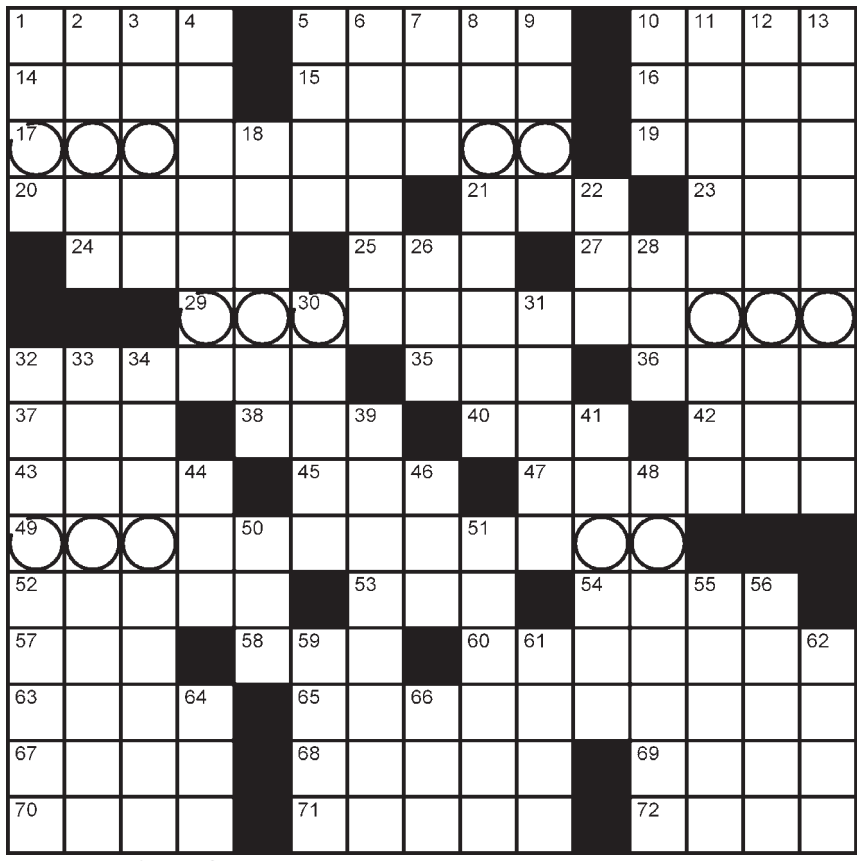
UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD SCHOOL'S OUT! BY JIM HEANE

ACROSS

1 Energy company known for toy trucks
5 Parts of the brain
10 Snow mover
14 "I'm off!"
15 Like the dish quzi or the city Basra
16 Former frosh
17 *Brought forward to exhibit (In this answer, note the first three letters + the last two)
19 Smidgen
20 Party guest's guest
21 "Eureka!"
23 Starter ____
24 Poker variant from which "ace in the hole" originated
25 Fitting
27 Rays of light
29 *Oscar winner for "Children of a Lesser God" (... the first three letters + the last three)
32 Tranquil
35 Broke a fast
36 Greenland's is often inflated on a map
37 Kitchenware brand
38 Horror movie street
40 Rower's blade
42 Irk
43 Lots
45 69-Across Touch platform
47 Least likely to receive coal from Santa
49 *Sound judgment that few have? (... the first three letters + the last two)
52 Generously
53 Muesli bit
54 Video game with an angelic name
57 Lifesaving procedure
58 Cochlea setting
60 Coffee mate competitor
63 Do backbreaking work
65 Clumsily search in a bag, or a theme hint
67 Ricelike pasta
68 Like the deity for which the axolotl is named
69 Bygone music player
70 Rod's partner
71 Reduce, ____, recycle
72 Becomes firm, as Jell-O

DOWN

1 URL letters
2 Some noblemen
3 Dark brew
4 Japanese citrus fruit
5 Bank claim
6 Really hard experience
7 Dim sum bun
8 Be comparable with
9 Jedi foe
10 Letter after chi
11 "Get moving!"
12 Streamlines, perhaps
13 Question for someone with an agenda?
18 Thus far
22 Lawyers' org.
26 Word after "snap" or "snow"
28 UFO pilots
30 It's a thing of the past
31 Intended
32 Performer versed in melodrama
33 Spur-of-the-moment
34 Present presented for being present
39 Get moving?
41 Like ganache, vis-a-vis chocolate sauce



EDITED BY DAVID STEINBERG

44 Super Bowl org.
46 Self-care spot
48 Soft leather
50 Lens setting
51 Strong urges
55 Jeweler's lens
56 Remark after being proven wrong midsentence
59 Miles away
61 ____ to the bottom
62 Finds a sum
64 "haha"
66 Name found in the alphabet

BRIDGE

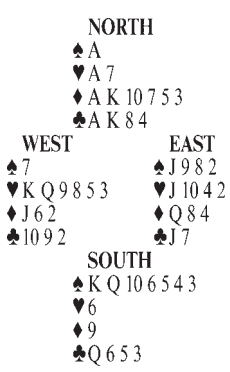
BY STEVE BECKER
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
3 [S]	Pass	5 NT	Pass
7 [S]			

Opening Lead – king of hearts.



Some of the most sophisticated plays in bridge are forced upon declarer by the set of circumstances he encounters. Here is a case where South had to resort to special measures to overcome a seemingly certain trump loser.

South opened the bidding with three spades, to which North responded five notrump. This was the Grand Slam Force, directing South to bid seven spades if he held two of the three top spade honours. South had no choice but to obey and so bid the grand slam.

Ordinarily, South would have made 13 tricks easily. But after he took the ace of hearts and ace of spades, ruffed a heart and cashed the king of spades, he learned that East had started with the J-9-8-2 of trump.

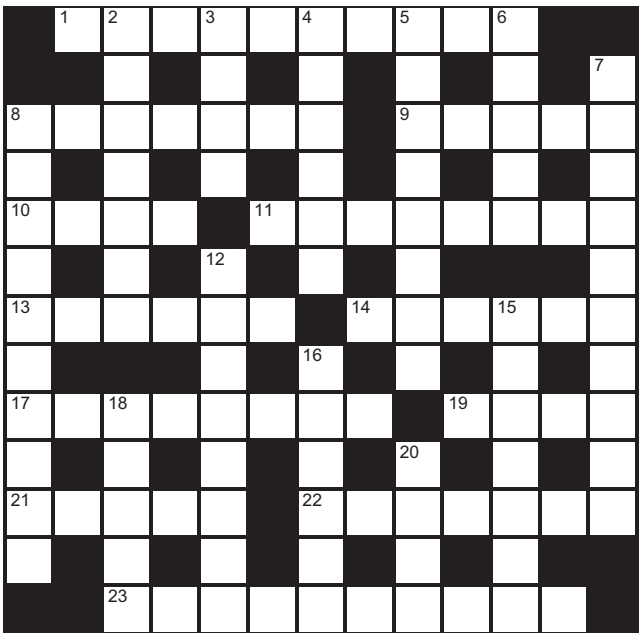
Declarer was now compelled to try for a trump coup, which offered the only chance to escape a trump loser. This meant he had to reduce his trump length to that of East by ruffing two of dummy's diamonds.

So South led a diamond to the king and ruffed a diamond, then led a club to the king and ruffed another diamond, reducing his trump holding to the Q-10, while East had the J-9.

When South next led a club to dummy's ace and started to run dummy's remaining diamonds, East found himself in a hopeless position. Declarer was certain to win the rest of the tricks regardless of how East chose to defend, and the grand slam was home.

©2026 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



© News Licensing/Times Media Limited

ACROSS

1 Argument against transit changing is limiting factor (10)
8 U.K. phase revamped in major change (5-2)
9 Extremely clear fool is grossly insensitive (5)
10 Place to hide, leafier, regularly visited (4)
11 Trust nice earl abroad (8)
13 Is able to broadcast in French film festival resort (6)
14 Again peruse repeated Religious Education promotion (6)
17 Duck nurses English child not drinking? (8)
19 Young deer to show slavish devotion (4)
21 With tips on decor, copy curtain (5)
22 Three attempt to embrace home computing (7)
23 Decisive play at Wimbledon? Secure Cup? About right (3-7)

DOWN

2 Acclaim some innovations (7)
3 Appear to notice Mike (4)
4 Sword originally received as present is excellently rated (6)
5 Willing daughter supporting popular Conservative policy (8)
6 Prepare series (5)
7 Dominance can end, say campaigners at first, animatedly (10)
8 Worry, being alone, sick at heart to be put inside (10)
12 Fuel reek, one's frantic (8)
15 Not straightforward, bringing up the visa vexatiously to some extent (7)
16 Preview kitchen item, missing nothing (6)
18 Praise former partner, a little tentatively initially (5)
20 Support first-class Verdi opera (4)

SUDOKU DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

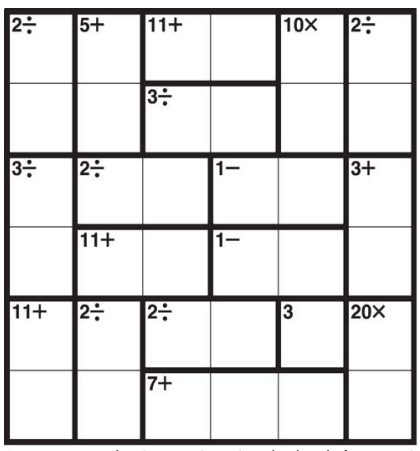
INSTRUCTIONS
Fill in the grid so that each row of nine squares, each column of nine and each section of nine (three squares by three) contains the numbers 1 through 9 in any order. There is only one solution to each puzzle.

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

5/12

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication

KENKEN



©2026 KENKEN Puzzle LLC. KENKEN is a registered trademark of Nextoy, LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel www.kenken.com

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.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.

SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

C	O	M	M	A	■	S	T	U	D	S	■	T	O	P
A	R	E	A	S	■	P	E	N	N	E	■	A	R	E
M	A	T	C	H	B	O	X	C	A	R	■	X	E	R
U	T	A	H	■	E	T	T	U	■	E	P	C	O	T
S	E	L	E	N	A	■	■	T	E	N	O	R	■	■
■	■	■	T	O	T	E	M	■	T	E	R	E	S	A
W	I	S	E	R	■	D	I	E	T	■	E	D	A	M
A	C	E	■	M	A	N	X	C	A	T	■	I	M	P
N	E	X	T	■	M	A	C	H	■	H	A	T	E	S
T	E	C	A	T	E	■	D	O	W	E	L	■	■	■
■	■	O	M	A	N	I	■	■	H	E	L	P	E	R
H	O	M	E	R	■	N	A	P	E	■	S	A	R	I
A	B	E	■	M	I	D	N	I	N	E	T	I	E	S
C	O	D	■	A	L	I	E	N	■	L	A	N	C	E
K	E	Y	■	C	L	A	W	S	■	F	R	E	T	S

YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

S	O	L	O	■	■	M	U	F	F	L	E	D
T	■	A	■	C	■	I	■	L	■	A	■	U
A	N	T	I	H	I	S	T	A	M	I	N	E
N	■	E	■	E	■	S	■	G	■	D	■	T
D	■	■	■	E	M	U	■	E	■	B	■	■
A	D	D	E	R	■	S	U	L	T	A	N	A
R	■	I	■	F	■	■	■	L	■	C	■	M
D	I	S	T	U	R	B	■	A	N	K	L	E
■	■	T	■	L	■	O	P	T	■	■	■	T
A	■	A	■	N	■	A	■	I	■	H	■	H
C	O	N	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	E	R	Y
I	■	C	■	S	■	E	■	N	■	R	■	S
D	R	E	S	S	E	D	■	■	H	O	S	T

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.

MADRID IS MORE



Madrid

@ales_santos



WITH AIRALO

Make the most of anywhere with unlimited data

airalo

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Usage restrictions apply. See more at airalo.com

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

REPORT ON BUSINESS

OTTAWA/QUEBEC EDITION ▪ TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 ▪ GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

S&P/TSX	DOW	S&P 500	NASDAQ	DOLLAR	GOLD (oz.)	OIL (WTI)	GCAN (10-YR)
34,138.88	49,704.47	7,412.84	26,274.13	73.17/1.3667	US$4,750.70	US$98.21	3.53%
+61.12	+95.31	+13.91	+27.05	+0.10/-0.0019	+22.00	+0.14	+0.06

Jesta Group to spend $500-million on Toronto condo units

RACHELLE YOUNGLAI
REAL ESTATE REPORTER

Real estate company Jesta Group plans to spend $500-million to buy more than 1,000 newly built Toronto condos and turn them into rentals, taking advantage of the recently announced Harmonized Sales Tax rebate to make its foray into the city.

In its first purchase under the program, the Montreal-based company paid $30-million to buy nearly all of the unsold units in a recently completed condo building near Toronto Metropolitan University in the downtown core.

"We're approaching developers saying, 'Would you like to sell all of your inventory?' " said Anthony O'Brien, Jesta's senior managing director. Mr. O'Brien would not provide the exact number of units purchased in the initial deal or the name of the building or developer.

Jesta is entering the market as other corporate entities are also looking to make bulk purchases of unsold inventory. That includes the $1.3-billion government-backed High Art Capital, which recently formed to buy 2,200 condo units and turn them into rentals, some of which will be rented at affordable rates.

JESTA, B7

MARKETS



AI FERVOUR EDGES OUT IRAN IMPASSE

Tech optimism pushes up major indexes, even as crude prices spike amid stalling Middle East peace negotiations B11

An oil refinery in Schwedt, Germany, on Monday. Crude prices rose after U.S. President Donald Trump dismissed Iran's latest proposal, stoking concerns about upward pressure on inflation. PATRICK PLEUL/REUTERS

Barrick CEO says firm may reach early Fourmile deal with Newmont

NIALL McGEE
MINING REPORTER

Barrick Mining Corp. chief executive Mark Hill says the company may reach an early agreement with **Newmont Corp.** to bring its promising Fourmile discovery into their joint venture Nevada Gold Mines (NGM).

Toronto-based Barrick and Denver-based Newmont are 61.5-per-cent and 38.5-per-cent holders respectively in NGM, a joint venture that contains most of Barrick's North American assets.

Barrick's wholly owned Fourmile discovery, which the Canadian mining company calls "one of the century's greatest gold discoveries," is not part of NGM, and wasn't expected to be "vended in" for a few more years.

A prefeasibility study is expected to be complete in 2028, which would give Newmont a better understanding of the value of the project, located in Nevada.

On a Monday conference call with analysts after the release of Barrick's first-quarter earnings, Mr. Hill said there's a possibility an early agreement could be reached with Newmont on Fourmile. He did not specify a timeline.

"If we can reach an agreement, I mean we would bring it in for sure," he said. "It will be an open discussion, and we'll just see if we can bring it in early."

BARRICK, B6

Telus plans data-centre expansion in B.C., including two new centres in Vancouver

PIPPA NORMAN
IRENE GALEA
JOE CASTALDO

Telus Corp. says it will develop two data centres in Vancouver and expand an existing facility in Kamloops to handle artificial-intelligence workloads – all of which will require a combined 150-plus megawatts of electricity by 2032.

The data centre in Kamloops will come online later this year, as will a data centre in Vancouver's Mount Pleasant neighbourhood that is being set up in an existing building. That facility will scale up through 2028.

The third, a new development by BC Place in downtown Vancouver, will become operational in 2029. It is slated to be the largest of the three, spanning 400,000 square feet with the capacity to consume up to 100 MW of electricity.

The project will also receive support from the federal government, as the first successful applicant to be announced under an AI data-centre program launched earlier this year by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. However, details of Ottawa's involvement are so far scarce.

Demand for facilities to train and run AI models and applications is surging, as adoption of the technology grows. Canada and other countries are also trying to ensure they have the infrastructure to support AI development and lessen dependence on American tech giants.

"This expansion will ensure we meet the continued demand and serve growing AI ecosystems coming from Canadian businesses, entrepreneurs, startups, researchers and, yes, government at all levels," Telus chief executive officer Darren Entwistle said at a press conference in Vancouver on Monday morning.

Telus – like its rival, Bell Canada parent company BCE Inc. – has been investing in artificial intelligence and data centres in recent years in search of new areas of growth. Last year, Telus converted an existing data centre in Rimouski, Que., to handle AI processing.

TELUS, B6

You talk, it types: How a Toronto AI startup plans to kill the keyboard

JOE CASTALDO

In the great span of human history, the ubiquity of typing is a relatively recent development. The first practical typewriter was patented in 1867, while the QWERTY keyboard layout didn't emerge for another decade or so. But we've had the capacity for spoken language for 100,000 years, if not more.

That makes Neil Chudleigh more of a traditionalist, even if his method of working is, well, untraditional. As often as he can, he clips a small microphone to his shirt pocket or the rim of his hoodie and murmurs to his devices instead of typing. "This is a bit of a new thing," he said of the wireless mic tucked into his pocket. "A lot of people use a podcast mic."

Dictation is having a moment, and it has everything to do with artificial intelligence. LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman, for one, wrote last year that he has been "voicepilled," which he defined as the moment you realize you can "amplify your ability" by talking to your computer.

This is particularly true among software engineers. Many already use tools such as Anthropic's Claude Code to develop applications based on plain-language instructions. But pressing keys individually is an impediment to productivity, which is why some developers are adopting AI-powered speech-to-text apps to verbally issue instructions to Claude. It's either the platonic ideal of translating thought into action, or a sign of our productivity-obsessed working world reshaping our behaviour.

Mr. Chudleigh is both a participant and driving force of the trend.

SUPERWHISPER, B6

COMPANIES

BIRCHCLIFF ENERGY B11
CAE B3
CINEPLEX B5
DUOLINGO B3
ENBRIDGE B11
WSP GLOBAL B11



CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

M&A
No deal currently in the works to sell Cineplex, theatre chain's CEO says
B5

TARIFFS
Canada's U.S. ambassador says trade war hurts American auto sector
B2

HOUSING
Why aging baby boomers won't trigger a wave of homes for young families
B10

SPORTS

B13-B17

BASKETBALL Toronto Tempo tapping into unconventional sponsorship markets B13

HOCKEY Head coach St. Louis at heart of Montreal's playoff run B16



A truck crosses the Blue Water Bridge into the United States from Sarnia, Ont., last year. Canada's ambassador to the U.S. underlined on Monday how Donald Trump's protectionist agenda is causing economic blowback in the U.S. GEOFF ROBINS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trump's trade war hurts the U.S. too and co-operation is the way forward, ambassador says

'We all have to act with urgency,' Wiseman tells conference in Washington

ADRIAN MORROW
U.S. CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON

Mark Wiseman, Canada's ambassador to the U.S., is warning that President Donald Trump's trade war is hurting the American auto industry by choking off its most lucrative export market – its neighbour to the north.

Speaking in Washington on Monday, Mr. Wiseman, who took over the diplomatic post in February, underlined how Mr. Trump's protectionist agenda is causing economic blowback in the U.S.

The President's Section 232 tariffs, which imposed 25-per-cent levies on autos and auto parts imported into the U.S. – and which triggered retaliatory tariffs from Ottawa – are not only "costing jobs" and "creating hardship" in Canada, he said.

"It is also closing off the most important foreign market for the sale of U.S. automobiles," Mr. Wiseman told a conference of the Canada-United States Law Institute at Johns Hopkins University's campus in Washington. "It's important to remember what is the impact on the United States of America of these tariffs."

The U.S. would be better off, he said, by co-operating with other countries. "One of the phrases I've started to use now is 'America First doesn't mean America alone,' and I think the auto sector is a great example of that."

Official talks to end the trade war have been frozen since last October and there has been little sign of movement ahead of a July 1 date to start a joint review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which governs continental trade. Mr. Wiseman was mum on his discussions with U.S. officials since taking office.

But he said that he and Prime Minister Mark Carney, a long-time friend, have been working frenetically behind the scenes.

"There is a lot to get done. We all have to act with urgency. Again, I think the U.S. administration is operating the same way and it's now more and more what I'm used to in the business context. So, a lot happens by text. It happens fast," said the ambassador, a career financier who previously worked for public pension funds and on Wall Street.

Mr. Carney often texts him at 5 a.m., Mr. Wiseman said. "If I reply at, like, 5:15 a.m., he's like, 'What took you so long?' "

Ottawa is serious about alleviating one major bilateral point of friction by cranking up defence spending, the ambassador said. "We're arguably the most important security relationship that the United States has. And it's not been perfect. Canada has under-spent. We know that, we admit to it."

Mr. Wiseman pointed out that Canada reached NATO's target of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence at the end of this past fiscal year – 14 years after making the commitment, but six years earlier than former prime minister Justin Trudeau had planned on hitting the benchmark.

"We're on our way to five per cent," Mr. Wiseman said.

The ambassador also cracked frequent jokes during the talk. He referred to the Prime Minister as "Mark One," himself as "Mark Two," and Mark Glauser, Canada's deputy ambassador in Washington, as "Mark Three."

Describing Mr. Carney's play as a collegiate hockey goalie, Mr. Wiseman said the position "put him in good stead to be a politician because he's willing to get hit a lot."

After lauding former U.S. president Dwight Eisenhower for building the country's interstate highway system, he quipped: "If only he'd thought of high-speed rail."

Pete Hoekstra, the U.S. ambassador to Canada, also spoke at the conference, his first public appearance since abruptly pulling out of an Ottawa speaking engagement on Friday. Organizers of that event said he was summoned to the White House for urgent meetings.

Mr. Hoekstra, joined the Monday event via video link and said he was in Ottawa. He did not address the reasons for cancelling his Friday talk at the Canada Strong and Free Network conference, which was hosted by the conservative advocacy group founded by Preston Manning.

He struck a diplomatic tone at odds with his bombastic reputation.

"From the Trump team perspective, we see a great potential for this good relationship to continue to grow and be even better," he said of U.S.-Canada relations. "Ottawa can be a great partner, enabling us to achieve our objectives and achieve the objectives of the Carney government."

In recent months, Mr. Hoekstra has said "We don't need Canada," that he didn't understand why Canadians were "so mad" about Mr. Trump openly talking about annexing them, and reportedly shouted and swore at an Ontario government official over a provincial anti-tariff ad that aired in the U.S.

Google disrupts effort by criminal hackers to exploit vulnerability using AI

MATT O'BRIEN

Google said Monday that it had disrupted a criminal group's attempt to use artificial intelligence to exploit another company's previously unknown digital vulnerability, adding to heightened worries across government and private industry about AI's risks for cybersecurity.

Google shared limited information about the attackers and the target, but John Hultquist, chief analyst at the tech giant's threat intelligence arm, said it represents a moment cybersecurity experts have warned about for years: malicious hackers arming themselves with AI to supercharge their ability to break into the world's computers.

"It's here," Mr. Hultquist said. "The era of AI-driven vulnerability and exploitation is already here."

It comes at a time of leaps in AI's abilities to find vulnerabilities, including the Mythos model announced a month ago by Anthropic. Among those trying to boost their defences is U.S. President Donald Trump's White House, which has shifted its approach in how it plans to vet the most powerful AI models before their public release.

After following through with a campaign promise to repeal Democratic president Joe Biden's guardrails around the fast-developing technology, the Republican administration and its allies are now sending mixed signals about the government playing a larger role in AI oversight.

"Some people don't want there to be a regulatory response to this and others do," said Dean Ball, a senior fellow at the Foundation for American Innovation who was previously a White House tech policy adviser and a lead author of Mr. Trump's AI policy road map last year.

"I don't like regulation," Mr. Ball said. "I would prefer for things not to be regulated. But I think we need to in this case."

Google said it observed a group of prominent "threat actors" planning a big operation relying on a bug they had found. The vulnerability allowed them to bypass two-factor authentication to access a popular online system administration tool, which Google declined to name.

The company called it a zero-day exploit, a cyberattack that takes advantage of a previously unknown security vulnerability. "Zero-day" refers to the fact that the security engineers have had zero days to develop a fix for the vulnerability.

Google said it notified the affected company and law enforcement and was able to disrupt the operation before it caused any damage. But as it traced the hackers' footprints, it found evidence they had used an AI large language model to discover the vulnerability.

Google didn't reveal which AI model was used in the cyberattack, only that it was most likely not Google's own Gemini or Anthropic's Claude Mythos. Google also didn't reveal which group it suspected in the attack but said there was no evidence it was tied to an adversarial government, though the company said groups tied to China and North Korea have been exploring similar techniques.

Mr. Hultquist said that compared with government spies who typically work slowly and quietly, criminal hackers have some of the most to gain from AI's "tremendous capability for speed" in finding and weaponizing security bugs.

"There's a race between you and them to stop them before they can essentially get whatever data they need to extort you with, or launch ransomware," he said in an interview. "AI is going to be a huge advantage because they can move a lot faster."

Mr. Trump's Commerce Department announced last week that it signed new agreements with Google, Microsoft Corp. and Elon Musk's xAI to evaluate their most powerful AI models before their public release, building on previous agreements the Biden administration made with Anthropic and ChatGPT maker OpenAI. But the announcement later disappeared from the Commerce Department website.

It was the latest example of jumbled signals from the Trump administration in the month since Anthropic announced a new model it called Mythos that it said was so "strikingly capable" at hacking and cybersecurity work that it could only release it to a small group of trusted organizations.

Anthropic created an initiative called Project Glasswing bringing together tech giants including Amazon, Apple, Google and Microsoft, along with other companies like JPMorgan Chase, in hopes of securing the world's critical software from "severe" fallout that the new model could pose to public safety, national security and the economy.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Onex founder Schwartz gives up voting control of company

JAMES BRADSHAW
INSTITUTIONAL INVESTING REPORTER

Onex Corp. founder Gerry Schwartz has given up control of the private equity and credit business he founded 42 years ago through a planned change in voting power that took effect on Monday.

Three years ago, Onex shareholders approved a plan to put a sunset date on the dual-class share structure that had assured Mr. Schwartz's control of the company.

The change creates a single class of voting shares, with one vote per share, that elects 80 per cent of the company's board of directors. Holders of the multiple voting shares owned primarily by Mr. Schwartz and his family are still entitled to choose the other 20 per cent of board directors, but won't otherwise be allowed to vote at shareholder meetings, subject to some exceptions.

Mr. Schwartz, 84, is a pioneer in private equity and has been a mainstay among Canada's corporate leaders for decades. His stake in Onex made him a billionaire, and he still owns 10.6 per cent of the company's ordinary shares, according to a company statement on Monday.

When Onex first proposed the transition plan, Mr. Schwartz intended to hang on to control for another five years. But the company shortened the sunset period after hearing feedback from shareholders.

The change creates a single class of voting shares, with one vote per share, that elects 80 per cent of the company's board of directors.

For years, Onex has been working to reinvent itself, most recently under the leadership of chief executive officer Bobby Le Blanc, who took over when Mr. Schwartz stepped down as CEO in 2023. Mr. Schwartz is still Onex's chairman.

The company branched out from its private equity roots to build a successful credit business, and starting in 2019, made an ill-fated foray into private wealth management for high net-worth clients.

And last October, Mr. Le Blanc reshaped the company's balance sheet by taking control of insurer Convex Group Ltd. in a US$7-billion deal with American International Group Inc., following a trend that has seen major private equity players push into investing insurance capital.

Mr. Le Blanc has been working to sell assets in order to return cash to investors, and to narrow a large discount between the trading price of Onex's shares and the net value of its assets, partly through share buybacks.

Last year, Onex sold a 25-percent stake in WestJet Airlines for US$550-million and made back its entire investment in the company, including dividends.

On Monday, Onex also announced it is selling trade-show operator Emerald Expositions LLC to funds managed by Apollo Global Management Inc. for an undisclosed sum.

Apollo will take Emerald private, delisting its shares from the New York Stock Exchange.

Onex initially acquired Emerald for US$950-million in 2013, then made a follow-on investment in 2020, and now controls about 90 per cent of the company's shares.

A new CEO, Hervé Sedky, took over at Emerald in 2021, when in-person events such as trade shows had mostly shut down because of health concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since then, the business has bounced back and Onex is selling Emerald at an enterprise value of US$1.5-billion, including debt. Onex investors will earn a full return on their invested capital, which is held through its third and fifth flagship private equity funds, the company said.

Onex shares fell 1.9 per cent to $113.47 on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Monday. Emerald shares rose 9.2 per cent to US$4.99 on the NYSE.

Onex will hold its annual shareholders meeting on Thursday and report its first-quarter earnings on Friday.

Ottawa unconvinced by Duolingo's lobbying to get online English test approved for immigration applications

VANMALA SUBRAMANIAM
FUTURE OF WORK REPORTER

American edtech company Duolingo lobbied Ottawa for approval as an official language test provider for immigration applications, but was ultimately unsuccessful in its attempts.

Lobbying records show that **Duolingo Inc.,** which offers popular online language courses, was trying to get its online-only English test accepted by the federal immigration department as one of the approved language tests for the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot, or EMPP, an immigration stream that grants permanent residency to high-skilled international refugees.

Federal approval of a digital language test could potentially help scores of prospective migrants from war-torn regions with no access to physical language test centres to complete their immigration applications, which require proof of English or French competency.

Current rules around language tests at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada do not allow for remote online testing, and decree that applicants need to perform a test in person at designated testing centres across the world. There are three English tests and two French tests currently accepted by IRCC, including the International English Language Testing System, or IELTS, test.

Federal lobbying records show that representatives of Duolingo met with IRCC officials five times between August and December, 2025, to discuss "improvements" to the EMPP program, including the merits of digital language testing options. The lobbying records also stated that Duolingo had discussions with IRCC about English testing for federal immigration programs more broadly.

Two sources close to Duolingo said that government officials were concerned about the integrity of Duolingo's online tests, specifically how to ensure that the person performing the online test was actually the applicant themselves. The sources spoke to The Globe on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized by their employers to speak about internal lobbying efforts.

Duolingo language courses and tests soared in popularity during the pandemic, when most countries were under strict lockdown and remote learning became the norm. The Duolingo English Test (DET) eventually became widely accepted by many colleges and universities in Canada, Britain and the U.S. as a language proficiency test for international students. In 2021, Ireland began accepting the DET as part of study visa applications.

In an e-mail, Duolingo's Canada spokesperson Marlene Olsavsky said that the company was no longer in conversation with IRCC, and declined to elaborate on whether its lobbying efforts might resume.

For Hamdan Albuhaisi, a Palestinian citizen residing in the Gaza Strip, IRCC's requirement that language tests have to be performed in person at a designated testing centre has affected his application for the EMPP program – and now become the subject of a judicial review in federal court.

Launched in 2018, the EMPP program was specifically designed to attract skilled immigrants who are designated as displaced persons or refugees by the UN Refugee Agency. Recently, Ottawa temporarily suspended the program, along with a number of other immigration streams, owing to mounting application backlogs.

Mr. Albuhaisi is a UNRWA-registered refugee with a master's degree in computing systems from Al-Azhar University in Gaza. He applied for Canadian permanent residency through the EMPP program in June, 2025, when it was still accepting applications. But he was ultimately rejected because he was unable to submit an accepted English language test, according to submissions made by his lawyer in federal court last year. He launched a judicial review of IRCC's decision late last year, and also filed an appeal directly to IRCC on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

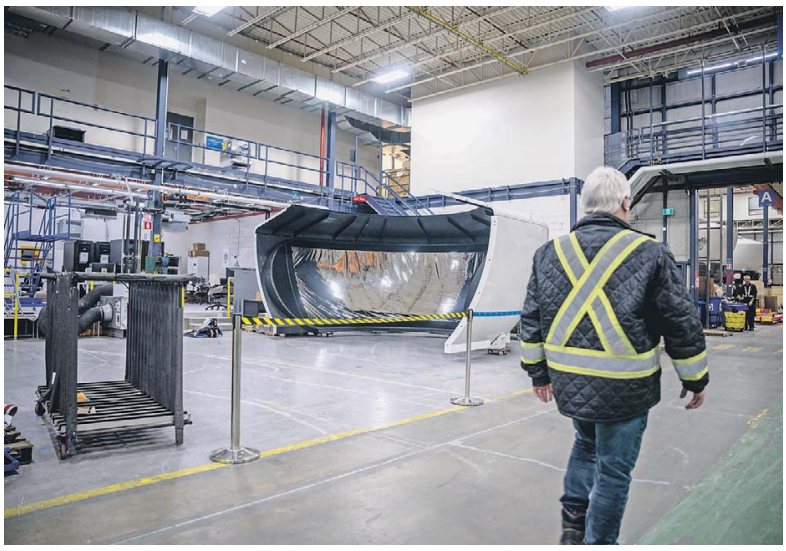
Mr. Albuhaisi, who is fluent in English and has worked for the United Nations for more than a decade, took the online Duolingo English Test and submitted its results to IRCC, court documents state, because no IRCC-approved English tests were available in Gaza. His DET score, when measured against the Canadian Language Benchmark, or CLB – a yardstick IRCC uses to determine language competency – far surpassed IRCC's minimum standards for qualification.

Before the Israel-Hamas war broke out in October, 2023, there were two IELTS testing centres in Gaza, administered by the British Council. Those centres, a British Council spokesperson wrote in an e-mail, closed in October, 2023, and the only option for residents of Gaza is an online IELTS test – one that is not accepted by IRCC.

Kelly O'Connor, a Montreal-based immigration lawyer representing Mr. Albuhaisi, called IRCC's decision "unreasonable" because it neglected to consider the conditions Mr. Albuhaisi was in, and the danger he and his family faced, living in Gaza. In March, 2024, 11 of his family members, including his eight-year-old daughter, were killed in an Israeli air strike, Ms. O'Connor said.

She also said the Canadian government should strongly consider accepting the Duolingo English Test under humanitarian and compassionate grounds, specifically in situations where an applicant meets all the other criteria for permanent residency, but simply has no ability to attend an in-person language test.

In an e-mail to The Globe, an IRCC spokesperson said they understand that accessing language tests may be challenging for certain applicants, but that proof of language abilities is an "important requirement for applicants to economic programs."



A CAE employee walks by a disassembled CAE simulator screen in the company's manufacturing plant in Montreal in December. ANDREJ IVANOV/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

CAE exploring options for Flightscape business as it moves to reset asset base

Montreal aviation training company has been evaluating its non-core businesses under new CEO Matthew Bromberg

NICOLAS VAN PRAET

CAE Inc. is exploring a potential sale or other options for its Flightscape aviation software business as the company pushes to reshape its asset base after a decade of expansion.

Montreal-based CAE, which builds flight simulators and trains military and commercial pilots, said Monday the move is aimed at positioning Flightscape for its next phase of growth while CAE refocuses on the company's core capabilities. Options for the business include a sale, strategic partnerships or outside investments, CAE said.

Flightscape is "a strong, differentiated business that may be better positioned for its next chapter through alternative ownership or partnership structures," CAE chief executive officer Matthew Bromberg said in a statement.

> There's been high interest from private equity players for aviation software businesses over the past three years, suggesting there should be good demand for Flightscape as well, Bank of Nova Scotia analyst Konark Gupta said in a note.

Mr. Bromberg, a former submarine commander in the U.S. Navy who took over last year from long-time CEO Marc Parent, is working to boost profits and cash flows after a 15-year expansion left the company on solid footing but unable to generate high returns from some of its assets. Shareholder Browning West says Mr. Bromberg should be able to double the company's earnings per share over the next three to four years.

The CEO last fall unveiled the first steps of a transformation plan that includes tightening spending and streamlining internal organizational structures. After reviewing CAE's portfolio of assets, he then said in February that the company had identified several non-core businesses that represent about 8 per cent of total revenue that it would look to divest.

Flightscape is probably the biggest of those non-core assets, National Bank analyst Cameron Doerksen said in a research note. CAE bought the business – which offers flight and crew management tools and counts several major airlines as customers – from Sabre Corp. in early 2022 for an enterprise value of US$392.5-million.

CAE has subsequently invested in the business to develop and expand its product offering, but given that the unit's margins are below CAE's civil segment average, the company is not expected to recover that capital investment through a sale, Mr. Doerksen said. Still, "with large investment CAE has already made in the business and the potential for high incremental margins as it scales, Flightscape could be an attractive asset," he said.

There's been high interest from private equity players for aviation software businesses over the past three years, suggesting there should be good demand for Flightscape as well, Bank of Nova Scotia analyst Konark Gupta said in a note. He estimates that a full sale of the unit could potentially be accretive to CAE by between 75 cents to $2.50 per share.

"We continue to expect more CAE assets to come to the market over time," Mr. Gupta said.

Mr. Bromberg told analysts in February that making changes to CAE's civil training network represents "the most significant near-term opportunity" for improving the overall business. The company operates 373 full-flight simulators globally, including 250 for commercial airline training, and there's a wide range in how they perform, he said.

The CEO said there's an opportunity to rationalize training capacity and that the company will move about 10 per cent of its simulators in service to improve utilization and returns over the next two years. "The objective is a training network that is right-sized for the market and its expected growth, supported by a leaner cost structure and a stronger go-to-market execution," he said at the time.

Last month, CAE announced it is cutting 280 jobs, about 2 per cent of its work force, and putting training centres in Barcelona, Brussels and Stockholm under review for potential sale or closure. The company has approximately 20 training facilities in Europe and remains focused on expanding its sales to European civilian and military customers.

Mr. Bromberg is expected to announce more details and financial targets when the company reports fourth quarter results next week.

"Some of the actions required to strengthen the business will have some near-term revenue impact," CAE executive chairman Calin Rovinescu said on the company's most recent earnings call. "We're comfortable with that trade-off as we position the company to become more resilient and to deliver stronger returns with more disciplined capital allocation."



waddington's

Major Spring Auction: Canadian & International Fine Art

fineart@waddingtons.ca
416-504-5100
www.waddingtons.ca

Lawren Stewart Harris
Lake Superior Sketch, VI, ca. 1925-1928
Estimate: $700,000-900,000

OPINION & ANALYSIS

Telecoms show Ottawa they're not bluffing

BCE, Rogers and Telus slash spending on the country's digital backbone, its fibre and wireless services

ANDREW WILLIS
OPINION





Telecom giant Rogers Communications spent $4-billion to improve its operations in 2024. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

For years, the country's three largest telecom companies threatened to cut spending on their domestic networks in response to federal government policies that put competition ahead of profits.

This year, Bell parent BCE Inc., Rogers Communications Inc. and Telus Corp. showed they're not bluffing.

At the same time Prime Minister Mark Carney pushes business leaders to boost investment in Canadian infrastructure, telecom chief executive officers are slashing spending on the country's digital backbone, its fibre and wireless services.

In simple terms, established operators are pushing back against a series of Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission decisions that gave newcomers access to incumbents' cellphone and internet networks at below-market prices.

Companies that benefited from these policies include Quebecor Inc., which offers its Freedom Mobile cellphone service over Rogers' system, and Telus, which won access to its rivals' fibre in Eastern Canada.

In the regulated telecom sector, where executives seldom take shots at politicians, CEOs are firing live ammo.

When Rogers announced financial results in late April, CEO Tony Staffieri used an investor call to take direct aim at the CRTC. He explained telecom companies spend billions of dollars on technology in expectation of payoffs that stretch over decades.

"We need government policies that reward investment and maintain certainty, especially in a slow-growth environment," said Mr. Staffieri. "The government has introduced policies that do the opposite, and this means we need to adjust our spending."

Rogers spent $4-billion to improve its operations in 2024. The company cut its 2026 capital spending by more than 30 per cent, to between $2.5-billion and $2.7-billion.

Shortly after Mr. Staffieri took an axe to spending, analyst Maher Yaghi at Bank of Nova Scotia said: "Rogers' decision to slim down capex spend and focus on improving free cash flow production in the face of regulatory policy headwinds is exactly the right call."

Rogers's share price popped on the announcement. What's bad for the future of Canada's digital infrastructure is good for the company's profits and cash flow.

Bell and Telus are following the same game plan, cutting back on investments in domestic networks that serve the bulk of the population, while putting money into businesses with better prospects.

Three years ago, Bell cut back planned spending on legacy operations, including its domestic fibre-to-the-home network. Instead, the company investing in infrastructure for artificial intelligence data centres and acquiring U.S-based Ziply Fiber.

Last Thursday, when Bell announced its financial results, CEO Mirko Bibic said: "In the current environment, we've seen others in the industry recalibrate their capital spending. We totally understand that because it's what we've been doing."

On Friday, Telus CEO Darren Entwistle announced the company was "moderating capital expenditures" by taking next year's capital spending down 10 per cent, to $2.3-billion.

In recent years, Mr. Entwistle put a priority on spending on digital health care and agriculture technology businesses.

There's a case to be made for the incumbent telecoms, at least in part, as authors of their own misfortune.

Bell and Telus carry significant debt after heavy spending on 5G cellphone networks and replacing copper with fibre. Rogers is paying down leverage taken on to pay for the $26-billion takeover of rival Shaw Communications Inc. All three telecoms are cutting capital spending in part to fix their balance sheets.

The telecoms are also cutting back on network spending because the government's decision to turn off the taps on immigration means far less demand for cellphones and new fibre than the CEOs expected.

That doesn't make the digital infrastructure challenge facing regulators, and the federal government, any less meaningful.

Canadians made it through the nightmare of the COVID-19 pandemic because business and education were able to move online relatively smoothly. The domestic telecom companies proved their worth in a global crisis.

Looking ahead, everyone agrees our economy will become more reliant on telecom technology in a future defined by AI and online efficiency.

Facing that future, Bell is putting its money into a U.S. fibre platform, Rogers is spending on sports and Telus is betting big on digital health care.

The CRTC and a Prime Minister obsessed with kick-starting infrastructure investment need to roll out policies that give the telecoms a reason to focus on their bread-and-butter businesses: robust domestic networks.

Between the U.S. and Europe, Canada must find a third path on AI

JAXSON KHAN
OPINION

Senior fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy at the University of Toronto, where he is co-director of the AI Competitiveness Project. He is the co-author of the recent report Sovereign by Design. Mr. Khan also serves as chief executive officer of Aperture AI.

As a middle power, Canada must make strategic bets. We can't do everything. Given how quickly artificial intelligence is developing and reshaping the global economy, it is particularly important that we determine our strategy and path forward. But that doesn't mean we should fall into the binary trap.

On the technology stack, it is rapidly becoming clear that U.S. models (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini) and Chinese models (DeepSeek, Qwen, Kimi) are dominant on frontier capabilities and market share. These advances are heavily supported by state-driven subsidies, government and defence contracts, and national security strategies.

On AI governance, there is political pressure for Canada to move toward a more U.S.-style, light-touch approach or a European-Union-style, highly regulated market. Neither the U.S.–China tech binary nor choosing between U.S.–EU regulatory alignment will work well for Canada.

Instead, we need a third path that strengthens Canada's competitiveness while protecting our economic and digital sovereignty.

Other middle powers – including Britain, Australia, Japan and South Korea – are grappling with the same challenges. There is no perfect solution, but some common patterns are emerging.

The first is that no country, particularly a middle power, can own the entire AI stack. The current Canadian discourse on AI sovereignty conflates five very different things: compute, model, data, cultural and regulatory sovereignty. Treating them as one bundle could invite expensive nationalist projects where the economics do not hold and regulatory posturing where rules don't make a meaningful difference.

A key choke point is cloud infrastructure: We depend heavily on U.S. hyperscalers. However, building all our own infrastructure is neither feasible nor desirable given the cost premium. In other areas, we have real strengths to build on, including in enterprise AI models, where Cohere recently reached a $20-billion valuation through a merger with German Aleph Alpha to focus on sovereign AI, and AI applications, where there are many emerging Canadian players.

A decision-making framework for AI infrastructure (and other major investments) could borrow from Canada's new Defence Industrial Strategy, with one adjustment: buy, partner, build.

Buy and deploy the best AI fast. Partner with allied countries, particularly for frontier model development. And then build where Canada can own a meaningful slice of the stack, including in the AI application layer, and emergent areas like quantum, where Canadian companies like Photonic and Xanadu demonstrate we still have a window to compete.

Underlying all of this is data. We could tier our policy approach by data sensitivity. Classified workloads, sensitive personal data held by governments and regulated sectors like banking and health care, and routine commercial data each may demand very different treatments of data sovereignty. We also could modernize our federal security framework to stop overclassifying data.

On governance, neither Brussels nor Washington should be our model. The EU has a comprehensive AI Act but has slow AI adoption and innovation. The EU has now passed a Digital Omnibus legislative proposal to simplify its own regulations. The U.S. has world-leading frontier capabilities but a shifting rule book that may not provide the stability needed to build trust and drive adoption. Canadian AI policy has the opportunity be interoperable with allies, proportionate to actual risk and explicitly designed to accelerate adoption.

Rule-making on AI without underlying capability in AI is not leadership. Instead, it will keep us on a path of technological dependency.

Canada's productivity gap is also a real sovereignty problem. Health care, natural resources, defence and financial services are where AI could make or break economic competitiveness this decade. If our hospitals, miners, banks and shipyards do not run on competitive technology, no amount of government infrastructure projects can drive our economy.

A serious AI sovereignty agenda has at least three key pillars. Own the infrastructure that is non-negotiable for national security. Reduce vulnerabilities where the economics hold, for example sovereign cloud at the highest tiers of data sensitivity. And drive the broad adoption of the best AI across our strategic sectors.

Ultimately, countries with deep AI capability will shape the rules for AI. Countries that only regulate will be regulated by others. AI competitiveness is a prerequisite for credible rule making, not an alternative to it.

The choice for Canada is not choosing between Washington, Brussels or Beijing. It is whether we design an AI economy of our own, or lose competitiveness and leverage, while watching others write the rules of our economy.

Lament for a lost generation: Young Canadians' bleak future shames us all

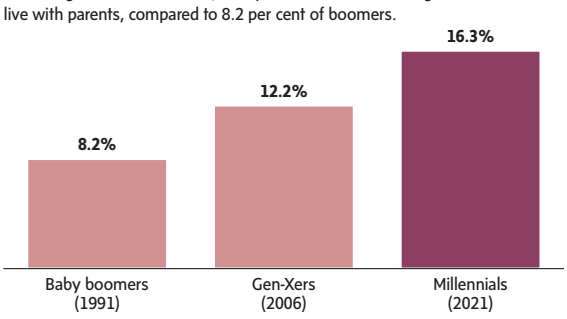
JOHN TURLEY-EWART
OPINION

Contributing columnist for The Globe and Mail, a regulatory compliance consultant and a Canadian banking historian



Millennials are twice as likely to live with parents compare to boomers

According to the 2021 census, 16.3 per cent of millennials aged 25-39 live with parents, compared to 8.2 per cent of boomers.



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

Waves of interns are now making their way to Toronto's Bay Street. They are easy to spot – young, big smiles, eager to learn and grateful for a taste of economic opportunity. You can see them in smaller cities too, heading to the regional offices of banks, insurance companies, accounting practices, technology businesses, energy organizations, and large consulting outfits. Some have delightful titles such as summer associates.

Interns believe they have a shot at success, sustaining if not surpassing the middle-class lifestyle their parents want for them. Such is, to use the words of Prime Minister Mark Carney from earlier this year, a "pleasant fiction." For those without parental support, it is a long shot at best.

In Canada, the K-shaped economy is a generational one. The 45-plus cohort mostly align with the top arm of the K, the haves. They possess assets (houses, investment portfolios) and free cash flow. Those under 45 largely form the bottom arm of the K, the have-less, and those under 35 have much less.

Statistics Canada released a report last week pointing to the reality those 35 and under face. Back in 1991, roughly 33 per cent of people between the ages of 25 and 39 living in Toronto owned a detached home, the kind of residence with space to raise a family. In Vancouver, that figure was a little more than 36 per cent. Such homes typically cost roughly 3.5-times household incomes back then.

Based on 2021 census data, the number of 25- to 39-year-olds that own detached family-friendly homes was more than 19 per cent in Toronto and about 12 per cent in Vancouver. It's likely less now.

Twenty-six per cent of millennials aged 25 to 39 are living with their parents in Toronto today. The Vancouver figure is 19 per cent. "Fewer millennials aged 25 to 39 were married with children (26.6 per cent) compared with Gen-Xers (34.5 per cent) and baby boomers (46.6 per cent) when they were the same age," the Statistics Canada report concludes.

Some academic theories are offered up by the agency to supplement an obvious factor: housing affordability. It points to "life stretching," where younger Canadians choose to take "more time at each typical stage of modern life," and demographics tied to new Canadians preferring to live in multigenerational households.

Canadian economic history is a better guide. Prior to 1950, households often accommodated multiple generations, young men and women lived with their parents for longer, and building a career took time as well, given the impact of the Great Depression and wartime austerity.

What changed after 1950 was the post-Second World War job boom that spiked incomes. Better access to mortgage financing gave Canadians better financial tools to pursue economic and social opportunities faster. It led to a boom in demand for family-friendly housing that was matched with the needed supply. The baby-boomer generation followed.

Canadians under 35 are enduring their own version of the Great Depression today. They are, as RBC Economics has noted, the only group in the country to experience a decline in real incomes between 2020 and 2025. Their incomes have fallen behind inflation, whereas those of all other age groups have exceeded the inflation rate over that time.

That income shortfall mirrors the falling employment rate for Canadians under 35. It has decreased the most compared to other age cohorts.

When this year's interns finish their studies, the lucky ones will land white-collar jobs when they are 23 or 24 with salaries that likely start at $65,000 on Bay Street (after tax and deductions, they will bank about $4,200 a month in most provinces).

Renting a small one-bedroom apartment plus other monthly fixed costs will consume 60 to 70 per cent of their take-home pay in cities such as Toronto and Vancouver. If they pick up a side hustle, the taxes paid on the income above $65,000 will roughly double. Labour more for less is their choice. Working hard and smart may, in five to seven years, lead to promotions and a salary of about $100,000 annually, adding $2,000 a month in take-home pay. This will reduce monthly fixed costs to about 50 per cent of after tax and deduction dollars, delivering some breathing room, given they are still happy in a small rental apartment and owning little.

If they find love and partner up with someone making about the same salary, buying a home will cost about seven to eight times their combined net household income. Once again, 60 to 70 per cent of their take-home income will vanish into the void of fixed costs, most of it going to pay mortgage interest for the first decade, leaving little cash flow to support retirement investments and savings for a rainy day.

That many of this year's summer interns will eventually do the middle-class math and decide to live at home as adults isn't a measure of their lack of ambition. It's a reflection of ours.

Pearson CEO touts perks of current ownership model

Flint points to growth that saw passenger numbers nearly double to 47.3 million last year

CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS

As talk of privatization swirls, the head of Toronto's Pearson airport says the existing public ownership model has served travellers well – but she remains open to "enhancements" that tap into private-sector investment.

Deborah Flint, CEO of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, said in an interview she shares the federal government's goal of growing Pearson's capital value, but that the current framework has proven its worth by steering Canada's biggest air travel hub through major expansions over the decades.

"There have been many strong suits about this model. When we think about how much the airport has grown in the 30 years since this model began, it's pretty incredible," she told The Canadian Press.



Greater Toronto Airports Authority CEO Deborah Flint, seen at Toronto Pearson International Airport in Mississauga on Monday, says she shares Ottawa's goal of growing Pearson's capital value. NATHAN DENETTE/CP

Ms. Flint pointed to growth that saw passenger numbers nearly double to 47.3 million last year from 24.7 million in 2003. On average, more than 950 passenger planes took off or landed daily there in 2025, connecting to more than 200 destinations, versus about 165 spots in 2012.

The current ownership model already amounts to a form of privatization, she said.

"That's a bespoke model and what might come in the future would be further enhancements of this bespoke model."

In Canada, commercial airports are owned by the federal government and run by not-for-profit authorities that lease them and oversee operations.

In its spring economic update last month, however, the government indicated it was eyeing privatizing those assets, which pay $525-million in annual rent to Ottawa, according to the Canadian Airports Council.

"The government is also assessing opportunities to unlock the full value of airports in support of investments in Canada's long-term growth, including through alternative models of ownership," the update states.

Prime Minister Mark Carney doubled down on the potential turn away from the ownership structure.

"We will look at options for the airports so they better serve Canadians, and so that the capital that is tied up in those airports can be redeployed potentially in other ventures that will grow our economy," he told reporters in Mirabel, Que., last week.

The potential for privatization likely has airlines concerned.

The issue, raised periodically over the past quarter-century, has been pooh-poohed by carriers over the possibility of higher landing and terminal fees charged to carriers – a cost passed on at least partly to passengers – by a private owner aiming to please shareholders in near-monopoly markets. In 2017, then-National Airlines Council of Canada CEO Massimo Bergamini called for a "clear repudiation of an idea that carries no demonstrable benefits for travellers, communities or Canada's airlines."

The industry group did not reply immediately to questions from The Canadian Press.

Pearson on Monday launched a multibillion-dollar upgrade that aims to boost passenger numbers by more than a third to 65 million a year by the early 2030s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cineplex CEO says company open to potential merger or acquisition

SUSAN KRASHINSKY ROBERTSON
RETAILING REPORTER

No deal is currently in the works to sell **Cineplex Inc.,** its chief executive officer said on Monday, but the company remains open to a potential merger or acquisition if the right offer comes along.

"There is no deal on the table," CEO Ellis Jacob said in an interview with The Globe, referring to reports in recent weeks about the company seeking a potential buyer in order to combine its operations with other movie-theatre chains. "But I basically always say, I'm opportunistic, that if something comes out that's beneficial to our shareholders and our employees, I would look at it."

Cineplex has not engaged advisers on a potential deal, he said. "The biggest thing is, we are focused on our recovery."

Canada's largest cinema operator, and the industry at large, have been working to bounce back from the deep losses of the pandemic, and of the actors' and writers' strikes in 2023. Movie-theatre companies also face the threat of streaming services that have changed many viewers' habits and provided them with seemingly bottomless content to watch at home.

Against that backdrop, talks of consolidation have ramped up. Last week, Sky News reported that Europe's largest cinema operator, Vue, was seeking either a sale of its business or a stock-market listing. In April, Bloomberg reported on Cineplex gauging interest in a potential deal from industry peers such as Cinemark Holdings Inc. and Regal Cineworld Group.

Cineworld reached a $2.2-billion deal to acquire Cineplex in late 2019, before pulling the plug months later amid the pandemic shock to the industry. Cineworld later filed for bankruptcy, slashed its debts and emerged under new leadership.

"Six years ago, when I sold the company, I believed that consolidation was important because studios were consolidating, and exhibitors had to look at the same opportunities," Mr. Jacob said. "But you can only do it when you're in a stronger position, and that's what we are working towards – and others in the business are doing the same thing."

Mr. Jacob said Cineplex's first-quarter results, which it reported on Monday, signal that it is headed in the right direction. The company ended the quarter with cash in the bank, and not drawing on its credit line, he added.

The Toronto-based company narrowed its losses to $22.4-million or 36 cents per diluted share in the quarter ended March 31, compared with a loss of $36.6-million or 58 cents a share during the same period last year. Still, Cineplex's stock price fell by more than 8 per cent as of mid-afternoon on Monday following the report.

Cineplex's revenue grew to $291-million in the quarter, up 16 per cent from last year, as blockbuster hits such as *Project Hail Mary* drew higher box-office and concession sales. Attendance grew to 9.8 million visitors compared to 8.4 million during the quarter last year.

Movie-theatre companies have been encouraged by recent promises from streaming services to uphold a longer window of showing their own new movies exclusively in cinemas before making them available to watch from home.

"Getting most of the studios – pretty well all of them now, the major ones – committing to a window over 45 days, is very positive," Mr. Jacob said.

He added that he is hoping to leave "on a big high" when he retires at the end of this year, with "the product getting much stronger, the stock doing better, and the studios partnering in a great way with us as we move forward."

2026 ICD NATIONAL DIRECTOR CONFERENCE & FELLOWSHIP AWARDS GALA

June 1-2, 2026 | Halifax Convention Centre

Future Tense: The Agile Board

*Join the ICD for a gala evening with keynote speaker **Shaun Majumder**. Through humour, insight and authenticity, he will share why it is time to be optimistic about Canada, and the role directors play in shaping its future.*



GALA KEYNOTE
Shaun Majumder
Actor, Comedian, Writer, Producer

2026 ICD FELLOWSHIP AWARDS GALA HONOUREES



Pierre Boivin
Chair of METRO Inc. and Solotech Inc., Vice Chair of Claridge Inc., Director of National Bank of Canada, and CH Group



Darlene K. Hyde, ICD.D
Chair of Stabilization Central Credit Union of BC, Director of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and TransLink, Former chair of Insurance Council of British Columbia and Westminster Savings



Barbara Munroe, ICD.D
Vice Chair of ENMAX Corporation and Director of Whitecap Resource



Jean St-Gelais
Chair of Beneva and Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ)

TITLE: Emera, KPMG
PREMIUM: Deloitte., empire, FGS·LONGVIEW, SOUTHLEA, The Globe and Mail, TORYS LLP
CONFERENCE PATRON: EDC
GALA PATRON: HUGESSEN CONSULTING, NATIONAL BANK, POSTMEDIA

REGISTRATION CLOSES SOON.
REGISTER BY MAY 22, 2026 AT **CONFERENCE.ICD.CA/FY26**

Superwhisper: Dictation software firm has many rivals, but was early to market

FROM B1

In July, 2023, he made a dictation app called Superwhisper that uses AI models to transcribe spoken words and process the copy into different styles, such as a formal e-mail or a casual text. Within a few months, he was earning more money through the app than he was at his full-time job – at a company he co-founded, no less – and he quit.

He runs his new company, which is registered as SuperUltra, from Toronto. The app has hundreds of thousands of weekly active users from companies such as Meta Platforms Inc., OpenAI Global LLC, Coinbase Global Inc. and Dropbox Inc., while non-techies use it to take notes and dictate e-mails, texts and Slack messages. Employees at U.S. financial institutions are among its customers, too. Revenue is modest, in the seven-figures, but growing quickly. It offers a lifetime subscription option for about US$250, in addition to monthly plans.

Mr. Chudleigh, 32, only hired his first employee in August, 2025, and has taken no outside funding. The company now employs six people and five contractors and in April moved out of a bland office on the outskirts of Toronto and into a trendy neighbourhood in the west end. In an office of Superwhisper users, the team has developed a sixth sense for whether someone is making conversation or talking to their computers.

But Superwhisper faces a lot of competition in its quixotic goal of supplanting keyboards. Its biggest rival is likely Wispr Flow. Based in the AI mecca of San Francisco, Wispr boasts some 80 employees and US$81-million in financing. There are many other apps, too, sometimes with variations of "whisper" in the name. And the risk of a tech-savvy customer base is that they can code their own version, possibly even while using Superwhisper.

Mr. Chudleigh has the advantage of being early to market. He launched his app about a year before Wispr, and it spread via word-of-mouth. Some of it can be traced to Andrej Karpathy, a founding employee of OpenAI and a former University of Toronto student.

Mr. Karpathy is a bit of an AI guru these days and is credited with coining the term "vibe-coding" in a post on X last year to refer to building software with AI, as opposed to writing every line by hand. In the same missive, he cited Superwhisper as part of his workflow. "I barely even touch the keyboard," he wrote.

David Brustein, a systems administrator in New York, purchased a lifetime subscription to Superwhisper and uses it for dictating e-mails, texting his mom and as part of his coding setup. The point is all about saving time. He can type some 60 words a minute but dictates at 162, according to stats provided by Superwhisper. He was hard-pressed to say what exactly he's doing with these time-savings, though.



Superwhisper founder Neil Chudleigh, seen at his office in Toronto last month, hired his first employee last August and has taken no outside funding. The company now employs six people and five contractors. EDUARDO LIMA/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Superwhisper faces a lot of competition in its quixotic goal of supplanting keyboards. Its biggest rival is likely Wispr Flow. Based in the AI mecca of San Francisco, Wispr boasts some 80 employees and US$81-million in financing.

There are pitfalls with dictation. Whereas typing forces us to focus our thoughts, speaking aloud lends itself to stream-of-consciousness ramblings that would be unfair to foist upon our colleagues in a message.

"Sometimes I will get a little verbose," Mr. Brustein acknowledged. Because Superwhisper allows for customization, he's gotten around this problem by introducing a step for an AI model to summarize his messages before firing them off, while keeping his tone of voice.

Others find value in verbosity. Bob Bradley, vice-president of data science and AI engineering at Geotab Inc., uses a rival app called OpenWhispr, including for building web applications.

"When an idea goes from my brain to my fingers to my keyboard, I'm filtering that information," he said. "I find stream-of-consciousness much more informative and results in a much better output."

Nothing gets lost travelling from brain to computer, in other words.

Voice-to-text technology is not new and can be traced to the 1950s when Bell Labs built a machine to recognize the numbers zero to nine when spoken by its inventor. Capabilities have progressed in fits and starts since then, notably with digital assistants such as Siri and Alexa.

Mr. Chudleigh has long been interested in voice-to-text and alternative ways of working with computers, such as eye-tracking software. He has a custom-built retainer that allows him to control his computer with his tongue and by tilting his head, though it's an accessibility device that isn't practical for him to use. After studying mechanical engineering and computer science at Western University, he co-founded an affiliate marketing company in 2015 and relocated to San Francisco to go through the storied Y Combinator accelerator program before returning to Toronto. (The company, PartnerStack, was acquired by AppDirect in April.)

While always a voice-to-text adherent, the technology never worked well enough for his liking. Advances with AI models have changed that. OpenAI released a speech-recognition model in 2022, while Google has its own offerings. Toronto's Cohere Inc., meanwhile, released an open-source model in March that boasts the lowest English-language error rate, according to one ranking.

Mr. Chudleigh built Superwhisper to take advantage of these improvements, and the app allows users to choose from a variety of AI models capable of speech recognition.

"It was a great time to solve my own need," he said. While he's determined to keep the operation lean and avoid outstanding financing, he's made a few hires. Nico DiPlacido, an early employee at PartnerStack, jumped ship in March to work on Superwhisper, which he was already using. "I actually had to stop using it and start typing again so that I could maintain my skills," he said.

Even fans of the app still have need of a keyboard. Robert Oberg, a content creator in Mexico, will speak aloud to Superwhisper for 10 or 20 minutes about ideas for a newsletter post, and then write the traditional way. "I have never been very interested in replacing typing, because it is something physical that exercises my brain," he said. Still, he has noticed some dictation-creep, and he's started to speak to Superwhisper to respond to e-mails and messages.

Russell Dunphy, head of engineering at a company in Britain, has tried both Superwhisper and Wispr Flow, but recently prompted Claude Code to make his own version. It took about 45 minutes.

"I've made an objectively worse version. But it's okay in the ways that are what I need," he said.

His employer is evaluating whether to switch to his app and save about £400 (roughly $740) a month.

At Superwhisper, Mr. Chudleigh didn't seem worried about the myriad dictation apps, nor that vibe-coded versions were going to erode his customer base. "A lot of people frame startups as zero-sum games. I don't think that's the case," he said. "If you're talking about replacing every keyboard on the planet, it's just such a huge market."

Barrick: Preliminary assessment says Fourmile could produce up to 750,000 ounces of gold a year for 25 years

FROM B1

A preliminary economic assessment completed by Barrick last year said Fourmile could produce up to 750,000 ounces of gold a year for at least 25 years, which would make it one of the biggest gold mines in the world.

While Fourmile isn't part of NGM, it is an integral part of Barrick's planned partial spin-off of its North American operations, which is slated to happen before the end of this year. The company plans to spin-off a stake of between 10 and 15 per cent in its North American operations, which also includes its stake in NGM, and its 60-per-cent stake in the Pueblo Viejo mine in the Dominican Republic.

Earlier this year, Barrick said the spin-off, to be called "North American Barrick," will have its primary stock listing in New York with a secondary listing in Toronto. It is unclear where the spinout will be domiciled.

Former chief executive Mark Bristow told The Globe and Mail last year that Barrick was considering redomiciling to the United States.

Mr. Bristow parted ways with Barrick last September. In an address to shareholders on Friday, Barrick chairman John Thornton appeared to make it clear that Barrick, which will retain a majority stake in North American Barrick, has no intention of moving to the U.S. He said Barrick "will always be an iconic Canadian company," with a dual listing.

Mr. Thornton declined an interview request. Barrick is spinning off its North American operations in an attempt to boost its long-term stock market valuation. Barrick has long traded at a discount to peers such as Toronto-based Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. owing to its heavy exposure to risky jurisdictions such as Africa, the Middle East and Pakistan. By creating a pure play with only exposure to its lower-risk North American operations, it is hoping that will result in a "re-rate" of its stock.

Barrick remains significantly undervalued, Jefferies analyst Fahad Tariq said in a note to clients on Monday. While its strong quarterly performance is helping, "a material re-rating" likely requires both the execution of the North American IPO and "divesting assets in challenging jurisdictions," he said.

Volatility has risen recently in Mali, where Barrick operates the Loulo-Gounkoto gold complex. Late last month, Russian troops abandoned a key military base in Mali after insurgents launched attacks.

When asked in the conference call about possible asset sales, Mr. Hill expressed some reservations about Africa, saying it was obvious which countries are not ideal for investment.

Volatility has risen recently in Mali, where Barrick operates the Loulo-Gounkoto gold complex. Late last month, Russian troops abandoned a key military base in Mali after insurgents launched an unprecedented wave of coordinated attacks across the country.

"We're trying to focus our growth in more stable areas, where we have more certainty around the mining regime and the ability to operate without a lot of interference," Mr. Hill said.

Barrick beat analyst expectations in the first quarter, with higher profits and lower costs than anticipated.

With a report by Geoffrey York

Telus: Company estimates it will spend $2.3-billion in 2026 capital expenditures

FROM B1

It did not say how much it intends to spend on these new data centres.

"While we don't disclose specific investment amounts for competitive reasons, any related capital spend in 2026 is covered under our existing capital envelope, and the outlook for 2026 hasn't changed," Telus spokesperson Liz Sauvé said.

Telus has estimated it will spend $2.3-billion in capital expenditures this year, 10 per cent less than it spent last year.

Canada's largest telecom companies have been cutting capital spending in recent quarters, as they seek to pay down heavy debt loads after years of substantial outlays on infrastructure and acquisitions, and as lower cellphone plan prices and static population numbers have slowed revenue growth from their core businesses.

Monday's announcement marks the start of negotiations between the federal government and Telus to determine how the two parties will work together on the project, AI Minister Evan Solomon said. A memorandum of understanding will follow, though the timeline for this remains unclear.

"We will have more to share once those discussions conclude," Ms. Sauvé said.

The 2025 federal budget tasked Mr. Solomon with identifying and negotiating "new promising AI infrastructure projects" with industry, while taking steps to enable the Canada Infrastructure Bank to invest in these developments. The minister has said that Ottawa is open to providing financial backstops and offtake agreements, where the government purchases capacity, in order to complete data centre deals.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada put out a call for proposals under a program to support large-scale AI data centres earlier this year. Criteria included economic benefits and Indigenous participation, among other factors. Mr. Solomon said Monday that the government received 160 applications through this program, and Telus's project is the first of the successful applicants to be announced.

Federal Conservative MP Ben Lobb said that Canada should already be a hub for data centres, owing to its energy supplies and cool climate. "They don't need government involvement or tax dollars, they just need the Liberal government to get out of the way," he said in a statement.

Telus's new facilities will house more than 60,000 graphics processing units from Nvidia Corp. once fully operational, according to the telecom, making it a sizable cluster for Canada.

In March, Bell Canada announced it would spend $1.7-billion over two years to build a 300-megawatt data centre outside Regina, part of its overall strategy to offer a range of AI services to businesses.

Unlike Telus, Bell is not building out the internal technology itself, but leasing space to two tenants – Cerebras and CoreWeave Inc. – to add their own GPUs.

Telus said it was working with Vancouver real estate development firm Westbank Corp. on the new data centre projects.

Westbank has faced a challenging few years. As of 2023, the company was facing several lawsuits, along with liens, as contractors claimed millions of dollars in unpaid bills. Most recently, a court-appointed receiver said nearly $290-million is owed to 20 secured creditors in relation to Westbank's Vancouver rental developments at 5083 Joyce St.

Mr. Solomon said the federal government will approach its work with Telus and Westbank with prudence, promising transparency and rigour. "We want to make sure this project is done right by the right people."

Fertilizer shortage to have only modest effect: report

RITIKA DUBEY

As shipping constraints in the Middle East disrupt global fertilizer supply and drive up prices, a new TD report says Canada is better positioned to face any inflationary pressures on its food production – at least in the short run.

Canada's fertilizer imports from the Gulf region are less than 5 per cent, limiting its exposure to the continuing war in Iran. That's lower than Mexico and the United States, which import roughly 30 to 40 per cent of their nitrogen-rich urea from that region.

While high global oil prices have been in the spotlight since the effective blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the war in Iran has choked more than just oil supply.



A drone view shows a cereal farmer spraying a barley field in France last week. NOEMIE OLIVE/REUTERS

Other essential commodities, such as fertilizers and aluminum, are also facing shortages and higher prices as tanker traffic remains halted. Roughly one-third of global seaborne fertilizer shipments of nitrogen and phosphate products pass through the Strait of Hormuz, according to the TD report. Demand for replacement fertilizer from alternative providers has gone up, raising prices globally.

But Canada may not face fertilizer-related inflationary pressures as severe as those in Asian and African countries, wrote Anusha Arif, TD economist and author of the report.

"Canada's position is distinct," Ms. Arif wrote in her report. "As the world's largest potash exporter, it supplies a nutrient that supports drought resistance and overall plant health."

Potash works differently from nitrogen-based fertilizers, which need to be reapplied every season. Potash, meanwhile, can accumulate in the soil, so farmers may be able to draw down from the previous planting season's application.

"This provides some relief, and Saskatchewan benchmark potash prices have remained essentially flat since Feb. 28," Ms. Arif said.

On the nitrogen fertilizer side, access to domestic and U.S. production lower the risk of supply problems, though Ms. Arif noted there is no immunity from price increases influenced by global trends.

Meanwhile, Canada entered the year with stronger inventories of canola and corn that offer some short-term stability; however, "the cushion is limited," Ms. Arif said.

Soybeans remain a weak point, with significantly lower inventory than a year ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jesta: Housing industry predicts shortage of new homes coming to market by 2030

FROM B1

Jesta, which manages rental apartments and other commercial property in Montreal, Europe, the United States and Britain, has been trying to expand into Toronto's residential rental market for some time.

In 2017, the developer bought a hotel in Toronto and planned to turn it into rentals. Instead, it capitalized on the boom in commercial land and sold the property a year later.

Today's real estate climate has prompted Jesta to act.

It's not just because there are deals to be had with developers that are sitting on heaps of unsold condo inventory.

The housing industry is predicting that by 2030 there will be a shortage of new homes coming to the market since there are very few condo projects breaking ground today. That, along with forecasts that the country's population will grow, means there will eventually be more demand for housing in Toronto.

"It's a very good economic opportunity," said Mr. O'Brien, adding that he could buy newly built condos at a cheaper price than it would take to develop and deliver a condo project over the next three to five years.

"It'll cost us more to build brand new and deliver in three years than to buy brand new finished product ready to lease tomorrow," he said.

In five years – when immigration is expected to boost demand for housing and the supply of new homes is expected to drop – Mr. O'Brien said Jesta expects to start selling its Toronto condo units.

"We feel demand will increase at that time. That will have upward pressure on pricing, and that will be a good window to exit on the strategy," he said.

High Art Capital also expects to sell its condo rental units after holding them for a minimum of five years.

Jesta's $500-million program is made up of $100-million in equity and $400-million in debt. The developer will make the decisions on purchases, property management and sales, and will use $20-million of its own capital and raise $80-million in equity from four to five other investors, according to Mr. O'Brien.

Jesta's criteria is that the building must be in the downtown core and must have a minimum of 30 unsold units to buy. It has no interest in relatively cheaper areas such as Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, which has a surfeit of unsold condos and is at the northern end of one of Toronto's main subway lines.

Jesta will also not purchase any unit with an interior bedroom with a glass wall that looks into the rest of the unit. "We just don't see that as livable," Mr. O'Brien said.

The developer will, however, buy units as small as 350 square feet. On average, it expects to spend less than $500,000 a unit, which Mr. O'Brien said is feasible given that it is looking at studios and one-bedrooms.

Jesta said the building must be either delivered in the past year or about to be completed within a year. That meets one of the requirements for the HST rebate, as construction had to have started prior to March 31, 2026, for investors who plan to turn condos into rentals.

Mr. O'Brien said the HST rebate was the catalyst to make the first deal work. He said Jesta could have made its purchase without the tax break, but it would have required more negotiations with the developer.

The asking price for unsold inventory averaged $1,189 a square foot in the Toronto and Hamilton region in the first quarter of this year, according to industry group Urbanation Inc.

That is much pricier than the resale market and higher than Jesta's price range of $700 to $800 a square foot. The developer aims to rent the units out at about $4.25 a square foot. On a 500-square-foot unit, that works out to a price tag of $400,000 and a monthly rental rate of $2,125.

Although there has been other investor interest in buying condos in bulk, Mr. O'Brien said he did not think his company faced much competition on its first deal.

"I know there's a lot of people out sniffing, but I'm not hearing about a lot of deals closing, at least at this scale," he said.

He said Jesta is looking at about 20 buildings in downtown Toronto

As of the end of the first quarter, there were a record number of 4,295 units that were completed and not sold, according to Urbanation. That does not include the estimated thousands of units that developers had to take back because buyers defaulted on their purchases.

The tax rebate was designed to clear up the thousands of condo units that have been recently built but are unsold and sitting empty.

Buyers have until March 31, 2027, to make the purchases before the HST rebate expires.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL INTERSECT/26

CALGARY MAY 13, 2026

Canada is facing a pivotal moment. With threats to our sovereignty, a slowing economy, and growing strain on the social foundations we depend on, this is the time for urgent action and leadership.

Join the Globe and Mail at **INTERSECT/26** Calgary and gain direct exposure to national decision-makers, emerging policy directions, and cross-sector leaders as we explore a national vision to spur growth, innovation and economic development in Alberta.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE



Martha Hall Findlay
Director, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary and James S. and Barbara A. Palmer Chair in Public Policy



Jon McKenzie
CEO, Cenovus



Stephen Poloz
Special Advisor at Osler Hoskin & Harcourt LLP and former Governor of the Bank of Canada



Deborah Yedlin
President and CEO, Calgary Chamber of Commerce

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!

$299* Single Ticket Price | $2,500* Table Price | Virtual Ticket FREE

*Plus taxes and service fees

FOR FULL AGENDA AND TICKETS, VISIT TGAM.CA/INTERSECT26CALGARY OR SCAN HERE

PLATINUM SPONSORS

EDC Export Development Canada / Exportation et développement Canada
Canadian Race Relations Foundation / Fondation canadienne des relations raciales
Sun Life

BRAND PARTNERS

CIMA+ dream WSP

POWERED BY

THE GLOBE AND MAIL EVENTS

PRESENTING SPONSOR

CIBC

Ontario farmsteads merge architecture with agritourism

Two rural owners adapt heritage farms into sustainable destinations that support the local economies

ALICIA COX THOMSON

In the picturesque northwest corner of Caledon, Ont., lies the historic village of Alton, home to GoodLot Farm and Farmstead Brewing Co., an organic hopyard and solar-powered brewery located on a 19th-century farmstead among lush green fields.

GoodLot is a buzzing community destination where tourists, daytrippers and locals can enjoy live music, rotating food pop-ups and a dozen varieties of craft beer made on site with land-grown hops and other hyperlocal ingredients. Two family-friendly beer gardens overlook the hops in bloom, and the restored 1890 Oast Barn tasting room has beers on tap and for sale to take home.

Owners Phil and Gail Winters transformed their 30-acre farmstead into a thriving brewery, but that wasn't the plan when they purchased the land and buildings in 2009.

"We moved here to become farmers," says Mr. Winters, whose wife grew up in Caledon. "We wanted to indulge our passions, which for Gail was always growing plants and for me was always growing food in our backyard."

After eight years of planting, growing more than 1,500 hops varieties and becoming suppliers to a range of Ontario breweries, the Winters opened GoodLot in 2017.

Adding a brewery to a working hops farm on a heritage farmstead transformed the site's purpose from purely agriculture into agritourism. The shift signals how farm owners are adapting their properties to evolving tourism and real estate trends across Canada.



In Ontario's picturesque village of Alton sits GoodLot Farm and Farmstead Brewing Co., an organic hopsyard and solar-powered brewery owned by Phil and Gail Winters, who bought the 30-acre property in 2009. NATHAN CYPRYS



Building the brewery took two years, with a new concrete floor, footings and perimeter beam installed to stabilize the structure before solar panels and equipment were added. The tasting room was also restored in 2023 using original salvaged timber structure and beams. NATHAN CYPRYS



The Brighthouse Farm, located in Prince Edward County's charming Wellington village, presents an elevated yet easygoing vibe. Located on a 100-acre farmstead, the event space is owned by sisters and business partners Jessica and Natalie Schnurr. BRIGHTHOUSE FARM

THE RISE OF AGRITOURISM IN ONTARIO

The past five years have reinvigorated agritourism – the practice of farms, ranches, dairy businesses and other agricultural enterprises rezoning and renovating to include features such as breweries, pick-your-own produce, farm-to-table dining, event venues and more.

Influenced by the pandemic and the fluctuating economy, Canadian travel habits have shifted toward local exploration.

"People were forced to look in their own backyard in terms of what they can do because we can't travel or travel as easily," says Kevin Vallier, chief executive of Agritourism Ontario.

"I think that's when a lot of people discovered that they can go visit a local farm. ... People want to know where their food is grown and support Ontario businesses. The farm owners have been really creative in terms of attracting people to visit."

In April, Agritourism Ontario released its first-of-its-kind economic growth study, which found the economic output from properties rezoned for agritourism to be $633-million annually, with over 8,700 jobs created in rural communities each year.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION MEETS SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION

GoodLot is just one of a group of heritage farmsteads in Ontario that have transformed into an agritourism destination.

Mr. Winters worked with ERA Architects in Toronto to preserve and protect as much of the original exterior of the 157-year-old barn as possible, while also turning the interior into a modern solar-powered brewery.

ERA has a portfolio of adapted heritage barns, which includes Caledon-based Cambium Farms, Wilda Farmhouse, which produces natural spritzers, and the Brighthouse Farm, an event venue in an 1867 farmhouse and barn based in Prince Edward County.

"Our work at ERA is always grounded by our origin story, which is really about the protection, adaptive reuse and evolution of heritage buildings," says Shelley Ludman, principal architect. "This specific rural hospitality portfolio evolved naturally from one of our early initiatives that looked at understanding the economic challenges facing Canadian rural communities and trying to help entrepreneurs leverage both natural and cultural local resources."

The brewery took two years to complete and a new concrete floor, footings and perimeter beam were installed to stabilize the structure before solar panels and equipment were added.

The Oast Barn tasting room was restored in 2023 using original salvaged timber structure and beams.

"Some upgrades are necessary purely just to be functional, so we do have to make some selective updates, but our goal is always to remain sensitive and true to the building and try to make those interventions as minimal and as less disruptive as possible," says Lyndsey Sneddon, associate architect at ERA.

CALIFORNIA VIBES IN THE COUNTY

Jessica Schnurr and her sister and business partner, Natalie, grew up coming to Sandbanks Provincial Park in Prince Edward County with their family every year. They now own and operate the Brighthouse Farm, a stylishly laidback-yet-well-appointed event space located on a 100-acre farmstead in the nearby village of Wellington.

Ms. Schnurr had a vision of a fresh new type of event space and accommodation, inspired by her time in Ojai, Calif.

"People would set up camp for the day, pack elaborate picnics, play games, drink wine, listen to live music. There was no rush, no pressure, and it was so social and communal," Ms. Shnurr says. "I hadn't seen that in Ontario wine country yet."

She found the acreage and got to work with her sister on the rezoning plans, renovating the farmhouse herself before working with ERA to reimagine the 1867 timber-frame barn into a high-functioning multipurpose event space.

To preserve the barn's exterior aesthetic and create more outdoor space and flow, an elevated deck was added to the rear of the building. The main floor was mostly preserved as a wide-open space and dance floor, with the addition of a window-flanked marble bar and restroom, while the basement contains areas for food, service and a second bathroom.

"They added two huge 70-foot windows on either side of the bar," Ms. Schnurr says. "It was really important for us to kind of have that indoor-outdoor feel. Even when you're indoors, you can see the land, the forest and the gardens outside."

CONTINUED EXPANSION AS LOCAL CONNECTION GROWS

Both the Schnurr sisters and the Winters have plans to expand and grow their heritage farmstead operations.

"The next project for us would be the 1890 Italianate farmhouse," Mr. Winters says. "We want to renovate it into three suites for overnight accommodation, or we might convert it into a farm-to-table restaurant."

There are big plans for added accommodations at Brighthouse Farm, too.

Ms. Schnurr has plans for cabins on the property, with a central hub for a variety of experiences and events.

"It's a space that's really intended to bring people together in the countryside, built around how people gather outdoors," she says. "It's less of a traditional hotel and more of a community space."

Preservation is never far from her mind, a characteristic born from her roots.

"My sister and I actually grew up on 100 acres, and so we've grown up around this our whole lives. We do feel an incredible responsibility to the land and the people that came prior," Ms. Schnurr says.

Special to The Globe and Mail

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

TO PLACE AN AD CALL: 1-866-999-9237
EMAIL: ADVERTISING@GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

MEETING NOTICES

THE WAWANESA MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
THE WAWANESA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Notice of Annual Meeting

The joint annual meeting of The Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company ("**WMIC**") and The Wawanesa Life Insurance Company ("**WLIC**" and, together with WMIC, the "**Company**") will be held at 11:00 a.m. (CT) on Thursday May 28, 2026 at 202 – 4th Street, Wawanesa, Manitoba, for the following purposes: (a) to receive the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2025, together with the reports of the auditor and actuary on those statements; (b) to appoint the auditors of the Company; (c) to elect the directors of the Company; and (d) to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

These items of business are described in the management proxy circulars for WMIC and WLIC. Each of: (a) WMIC's policyholders; (b) WLIC's participating policyholders; and (c) the holders of non-participating policies issued by WLIC on or before September 30, 1993 (together, the "**voting policyholders**") may obtain copies of the relevant management proxy circulars and other meeting materials by writing the Corporate Secretary at the address noted below.

Voting policyholders as of the close of business on Friday May 8, 2026 will be eligible to attend and vote at the meeting. Policyholders who cannot attend the meeting in person may vote by proxy. To be valid, proxies must be received by the Corporate Secretary at the address noted below no later than 4:00 p.m. (CT) on Tuesday May 19, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

James Bond, K.C.
Corporate Secretary
The Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company
236 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1P5
April 6, 2026

AltusGroup

RECENT ASSET TRANSACTIONS


GTA: RETAIL
175 Yorkland Boulevard
North York
$17,628,290
$205 per sq. ft.


GVA: RETAIL
13611 Smallwood Place
Richmond
$10,919,136
$604 per sq. ft.


GMA: OFFICE
11401-11451 Lacordaire Blvd, Montréal-Nord
$10,100,000
$190 per sq. ft.


GCA: APARTMENT
1711 12th Street SW
Calgary
$3,780,000
$236,250 per unit

GREATER TORONTO AREA

SECTOR	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	PRICE	UNIT PRICE	PARAMETER
Office	Old Toronto	95 Wellington Street West	$198,130,000	$600	per sq. ft.
Apartment	Oshawa	710 King Street West	$10,400,000	$416,000	per unit
Retail	Mississauga	2991 & 2993 Erin Centre Blvd	$5,100,000	$734	per sq. ft.

GREATER VANCOUVER AREA

SECTOR	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	PRICE	UNIT PRICE	PARAMETER
Apartment	Vancouver	727 East 7th Avenue	$10,640,000	$280,000	per unit
Office	Burnaby	#701-702, 6378 Silver Avenue	$2,847,000	$1,133	per sq. ft.
Industrial	Richmond	#145, 8231 Cambie Road	$1,500,000	$648	per sq. ft.

GREATER MONTREAL AREA

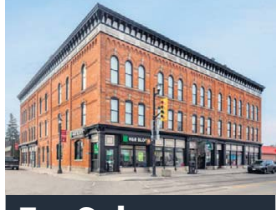
SECTOR	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	PRICE	UNIT PRICE	PARAMETE
Office	Plat-Mt-Royal	300 Léo-Pariseau Street	$48,000,000	$85	per sq. ft.
Apartment	Laval	3405-3413 René-Laennec Blvd	$35,500,000	$362,245	per unit
Industrial	Boucherville	1485 de Coulomb Street	$34,900,000	$146	per sq. ft.

GREATER CALGARY AREA

SECTOR	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	PRICE	UNIT PRICE	PARAMETER
Office	Calgary	#102, 103, 106, 3016 5th Ave NE	$16,660,000	$182	per sq. ft.
Apartment	Calgary	1815 16A Street SW	$4,706,000	$196,083	per unit
Apartment	Calgary	2614 24th Street NW	$3,300,000	$825,000	per unit

Altus Data Solutions Canada (Altus Group, 2026, altusgroup.com) – Empowering smarter real estate decisions.
This transaction data was previously released under REALNET Canada. It will now be released by Altus Group, powered by a proprietary data platform led by Altus Data Solutions Canada. Altus Group Limited makes no representation about the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the material represented herein for the particular purposes of any reader.

JLL



For Sale
46-Bed Student Residence
Ridgetown, ON

- Renovated early 1900s heritage building with 46 modern student beds
- 14-minute walk to University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus
- 7,527 SF commercial space at downtown's main intersection
- Established retail tenants including H&R Block

Michael Betsalel*
+1 647 728 0477
Michael.Betsalel@jll.com
Daniel Sparre*
+1 289 828 6309
Daniel.Sparre@jll.com

JLL Real Estate Services, Inc., Brokerage
** Broker *Sales Representative
jll.com

THE GLOBE AND MAIL
LOOKING FOR MORE GLOBE OPINION?
Visit tgam.ca/opinion

THE GLOBE AND MAIL PRESENTS

Wealth Leadership Forum:

Exclusive insights for financial advisors



THIS EVENT WILL BE CE ACCREDITED

PRESENTING SPONSOR

GLOBAL X by Mirae Asset

IN PERSON EVENT

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026 | 11:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. ET
THE GLOBE AND MAIL CENTRE, 351 KING STREET EAST, 17TH FLOOR, TORONTO

Join The Globe and Mail for a dynamic, CE-accredited event that empowers advisors to drive long-term growth and thrive in today's fast-changing financial landscape.

SESSIONS FOR THE DAY INCLUDE:





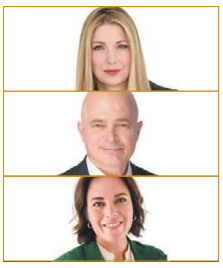
KEYNOTES

Sterling Shea
Managing Director, Head of Practice Strategy, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

What Sets the Best Apart: Lessons from America's Top Advisors
Drawing on his experience overseeing the Barron's Top Advisor rankings in the U.S., Sterling Shea explores the habits, mindsets and business strategies that consistently distinguish elite advisors from the rest of the field.

Brian Portnoy
PhD, CFA, Founder & CEO, Shaping Wealth

AI, Empathy, and the Future of Human Advice
As AI disrupts every industry, including wealth management, we are compelled to explore how "human" is our human capital. As advisory firms compete to "personalize at scale," we will entertain the ironic possibility that the explosion of AI may unlock a new era of human flourishing--but one that requires imagination, investment, and collaboration only some will achieve.



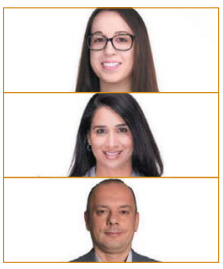
PANEL DISCUSSION

Amy Dietz-Graham
Senior Wealth Advisor and Portfolio Manager, National Bank Financial Wealth Management

Rob Djurfeldt
Wood Gundy Head of National Sales

Kendra Thompson
MBA, Founder, Epok Advice | North American Wealth & Asset Management Strategist | Industry Modernization Advocate

Next-gen clients: Retain and attract the heirs of wealth
Strategies for attracting and retaining Gen X, millennial and Gen Z clients. We'll focus on building multi-generational practices and how younger advisors can help reimagine onboarding, communication, and values-based investing for younger generations.



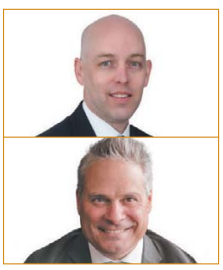
PANEL DISCUSSION

Diandra Camilleri
CIM®, Associate Portfolio Manager, Verecan Capital Management

Jeet Dhillon
MBA, CFA, Senior Portfolio Manager, TD Wealth Private Wealth Management

Jason Pereira
MBA, CFA, CFP (Can & US), RFP, TEP, FP, Senior Partner & Financial Planner at Woodgate Financial and IPC Securities

How AI and automation are redefining financial advice
How advisors are using AI tools for portfolio management, compliance and client communications. We'll explore real-world examples of integrating AI into advisory workflows (such as AI-generated financial plans, or CRM).



INTERVIEW

Chris McHaney
CFA, Executive Vice President, Head of Investment Management and Strategy, Global X

Michael Zagari
FCSI®, CIM®, CIWM, Portfolio Manager, Zagari Wealth Advisory, Wellington-Altus Private Wealth Inc.

Is Crypto a once-in-a-generation opportunity?
Like it or not, cryptocurrencies are here to stay. Now that asset managers in Canada and the U.S. have launched investment funds covering this space – from bitcoin to other altcoins – there is no shortage of access. How should advisors treat these unique opportunities while managing the potential risks – especially as crypto assets gain legitimacy among governments and financial market alike? And what opportunities and challenges does the emergence of tokenized assets and stablecoins present for advisors and their clients?

This event is exclusively for top-performing advisors with a securities (Dealing Representative - Investment Dealer) or portfolio manager licence (Advising Representative).

Regular Ticket: $299 + HST & fees OR Table of 10: $2500 + HST & fees

REGISTER TODAY AT TGAM.CA/FORUM26 OR SCAN HERE

GOLD SPONSORS

CIBC CIBC ASSET MANAGEMENT
CIBC CIBC PRIVATE WEALTH WOOD GUNDY
Investment Planning Counsel FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR LIFE
TD

BRAND PARTNERS

Manulife Investments
NEI
OPTIMIZE
Sun Life

POWERED BY

THE GLOBE AND MAIL EVENTS

GLOBE INVESTOR

Aging boomers don't bring a glut of housing

While many young families are seeking out suburban homes, the 'silver tsunami' once predicted isn't occurring

MIKE MOFFATT

OPINION

Founding director of the Missing Middle Initiative and co-host of the *Missing Middle* podcast

Suburbs across Canada are filled with family-sized homes, owned by aging baby boomers whose children have long since moved out. Many young families, meanwhile, are stuffed into condos and townhouses with cramped space.

It wasn't supposed to play out like this. A prediction first made in the 1990s was that Canada would experience a glut of family-sized homes as part of the so-called "silver tsunami," which would eventually cause home prices to crash. This crash would allow young middle-class parents to buy these homes at affordable prices and eliminate the need to build more homes.

Unfortunately, those who believe the middle-class housing crisis will solve itself are failing to consider the number of young people currently looking for family-sized homes, how long generational turnover really takes and, most importantly, the impact of immigration on housing demand.

The silver tsunami theory of housing gets a lot right. As of the 2021 census, 54 per cent of all single- and semi-detached homes were owned by those aged 55 and up. Those 4.2 million homes will eventually be turned over, as their owners either downsize, move to long-term care facilities or die.

The theory also correctly acknowledges the impact of Canada's falling fertility rates. Statistics Canada projects that, by around 2029, for the first time in Canadian history, deaths will outpace births, with roughly 355,000 deaths and 351,700 births. The gap between the two will grow over time: By 2050, there will be 80,000 more deaths each year than births.

However, these trends will not leave Canada with a sudden glut of family-sized suburban homes for three reasons. First, baby boomers will not be leaving these homes all at once to downsize or move into long-term care homes. Rather, it will be a gradual process, as the baby-boom generation covers almost two full decades. The house doesn't tend to go onto the market until both members of a couple move on – and those couples could be 10 years apart in age or more.

The silver tsunami thesis also overlooks the large number of families who do not own a suburban home, but would like to. If Canadians who were between the ages of 15 to 44 in 2021 eventually own single- and semi-detached homes at the same rate as the baby boomers, they will occupy 4.9 million homes, well above the 4.2 million that will one day be freed up by those aged 55 and up.

A prediction first made in the 1990s was that Canada would experience a glut of family-sized homes as part of the so-called 'silver tsunami,' which would eventually cause home prices to crash. This crash would allow young middle-class parents to buy these homes at affordable prices and eliminate the need to build more homes.

The pent-up demand to buy a home among those born in the 1980s, 90s and 2000s will exceed the number put on the market by the baby boomers. In fact, the Missing Middle Initiative predicts many of those homes may never be sold at all and instead will be inherited by the boomers' grandchildren. Suburban homes could increasingly become something that young families inherit rather than purchase.

Finally, the silver tsunami theory overlooks the impact of immigration. Having 80,000 more deaths each year than births is noteworthy, but it is relatively small compared to the population growth driven by immigration.

The federal government's recent immigration plan would add an additional 370,000 permanent residents annually in 2027 and 2028. The target beyond 2028 has not been set, but it will almost certainly be above 80,000 a year. Statistics Canada's projections have the target increasing to 455,000 persons by 2050.

Newcomers to Canada don't often buy suburban homes upon arrival, but many eventually do – whether they were new arrivals from Italy in the 1950s or India in the 1990s. A large part of what makes Canada attractive to newcomers is the opportunity to own a home with a garden, a yard and space to raise children.

The Missing Middle Initiative has a tool that translates population projections into housing demand forecasts, called the Rest of Canada Average Benchmark (RoCA Benchmark). The tool takes into account sources of new housing demand such as immigration and young people reaching home-buying age, as well as the number of homes that will be freed up, owing to population aging, to indicate how many homes need to be built each year to keep pace, called the "net demand."

Using Statistics Canada population projections, we find that the net demand for ground-based ownership housing, including single- and semi-detached homes and townhomes, will fall from roughly 100,000 homes a year later this decade to 85,000 by 2046 owing to the silver tsunami, after which net demand begins to rise again.

The silver tsunami will happen, and the increased turnover of suburban homes will reduce the number of family-sized homes we need to build. But for net demand to turn negative, immigration levels would need to be reduced to levels unseen since the 1930s, which no mainstream political party is proposing to do.

We still need to build more homes.

Number of Canadians filing for insolvency is picking up fast, with B.C. seeing highest spike

ZARIF SINHA
MARIYA POSTELNYAK

Canadians are filing for insolvencies at levels unseen in more than a decade as rising costs and uncertainty around housing and employment put more strain on consumers, according to the latest data from the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy.

The number of Canadians who filed for insolvency jumped 8.5 per cent year-over-year in the first quarter of 2026 to 37,121, the highest quarterly volume since 2009, the OSB recorded in statistics released on Monday.

But the accelerating pace of insolvencies may be even more concerning than the volume, said Doug Hoyes, a licensed insolvency trustee and co-founder of Hoyes, Michalos & Associates.

Insolvencies rose 4.2 per cent year-over-year in the 12-month period ending March 31 and the number of monthly insolvencies rose 17.5 per cent between January and March.

"It's the canary in the coal mine," he said.

Although insolvencies reached their highest quarterly volume since 2009, Mr. Hoyes said the numbers cannot be easily compared. That's owing to the change in population levels, updates to the insolvency filing process and the global financial crisis at the time.

In the OSB data, British Columbia posted the highest overall spike in consumer insolvencies – bankruptcies and consumer proposals combined – rising 16.2 per cent year-over-year.

A consumer proposal, Mr. Hoyes said, is a deal that allows someone in debt to avoid losing assets by agreeing to repay their creditors more over time. A bankruptcy means individuals may be required to forfeit assets to pay the debt.

Consumer proposals are more common among people who feel relatively stable or optimistic about their future finances, Mr. Hoyes said.

In Ontario, consumer proposals rose 14.7 per cent, but the province held a far bigger share of bankruptcies, which grew more than 25 per cent compared with 8.6 per cent in B.C.

Mr. Hoyes said some of the bankruptcy spike in Ontario may be tied to the bigger economic impact of U.S. tariffs in the province, as it has a large manufacturing sector.

Worsening economic conditions mean the trend in insolvencies could be sustained over a longer period.

Across Canada, the unemployment rate in April rose to 6.9 per cent compared with 6.7 per cent in March as the economy shed 18,000 jobs.

But the biggest strain on Canadians are expenses that are increasing faster than incomes, especially as the price of fuel sends costs at the pump soaring. Food, which uses fuel at almost every stage of production and delivery, has also been hit hard by gasoline costs.

In March, grocery prices were 35 per cent higher than just before the pandemic, BMO Economics reported last week.

While the bulk of insolvency filings are made by renters, according to Mr. Hoyes, homeowner insolvencies are gradually rising as well.

A February report from his firm found that homeowner insolvencies are now 8 per cent of filings compared with 5 per cent in 2024. The proportion of two-income households reaching insolvency also spiked to 23 per cent, the highest level since 2017.

André Bolduc, a licensed insolvency trustee who was speaking on behalf of the Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals, said that the three main factors driving insolvencies are expenses related to housing, auto loans and food.

As consumers are amortizing their car payments over longer periods, with payments reaching as many as seven years now, their shortfalls become higher when they default or trade in their car early.

Mr. Bolduc says he has seen shortfalls on cars that range from $10,000 to $30,000. "That really adds up," he said.

He said while Canadians have carried higher levels of household debt than the rest of the G7 for more than a decade, rising housing costs and employment pressure could push Canadians who have long been on the brink of insolvency closer to the edge. He said he wouldn't be surprised if the trend continues for a while.

"Insolvency is kind of a lagging indicator," Mr. Bolduc said. "It's not the problem per se. It's a symptom of what's happened in the past."



A gold necklace is displayed inside a jewellery store in the old quarters of Delhi, India, on Monday. Gold is in high demand in India, particularly for weddings. BHAWIKA CHHABRA/REUTERS

Modi urges pause on gold buying in India to protect rupee

RAJENDRA JADHAV
NIMESH VORA MUMBAI

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to avoid gold purchases for a year to help protect foreign exchange reserves fuelled concerns of higher import tariffs on the metal, sending shares of Indian jewellery retailers lower.

The Iran war has sent oil prices surging and that in turn has resulted in mounting pressure on India's balance of payments and the rupee. India is the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, meeting more than 90 per cent of its crude oil needs and about half of its natural gas demand through imports.

Mr. Modi's remarks about gold on Sunday came along with a range of other measures he urged, including fuel conservation, increasing working from home and limits on travel and imports.

Gold is in high demand in India, particularly for weddings where gold jewellery is seen as a crucial part of a bride's attire and is a popular gift from family and friends. While it is the world's second-largest gold consumer, India relies on imports to meet nearly all of its demand.

Shares of jewellery makers such as Titan, Senco Gold and Kalyan Jewellers fell between 6 per cent and 9 per cent on Monday.

"There are concerns that the government might sharply increase import duty on gold for a year to discourage imports," said Surendra Mehta, national secretary at the India Bullion and Jewellers Association. "Duties could be raised even higher than levels seen in recent years."

In 2012 and 2013, New Delhi hiked tariffs on gold imports to stabilize a rapidly depreciating rupee. Now, jewellers fear that duty cuts made in 2024 to 6 per cent from 15 per cent to curb smuggling could soon be reversed.

> "There are concerns that the government might sharply increase import duty on gold for a year to discourage imports.
>
> **SURENDRA MEHTA**
> NATIONAL SECRETARY AT THE INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION

A government source said on Monday, however, that India has no plans to raise duties on gold and silver imports.

India's balance of payments is expected to deteriorate sharply this April-March fiscal year to a deficit of about US$66-billion to US$70-billion, compared with an estimated US$26-billion to US$28-billion in 2025-26.

Pressure on the rupee has prompted the central bank to sell the dollar and limit the size of trading positions that banks can take. It has also clamped down on arbitrage trades.

The Indian rupee closed at a record low of 95.31 to the U.S. dollar on Monday.

Senior government officials said on Monday India has sufficient gasoline and diesel supplies.

But, fuel retailers incur losses of about 100 rupees ($1.43) a litre on diesel and 20 rupees (29 cents) a litre on gasoline by selling the fuels below market rates.

State retailers have not raised gasoline and diesel prices since April, 2022.

Mr. Modi will embark on a five-nation tour taking in the United Arab Emirates and Europe from May 15 to 20, India's foreign ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Mr. Modi is to visit the UAE on Friday and subsequently travel to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, the statement said.

Mr. Modi and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will exchange views on bilateral issues, in particular energy cooperation, as well as "regional and international issues of mutual interest," the statement said.

The European leg of the trip will be to deepen India's trade and investment ties with these countries, following up on the India-EU trade deal agreed upon earlier this year, the statement said.

REUTERS

More market concentration means risks are rising, too

The rise of the 'Magnificent Seven' U.S. tech giants has only amplified problems

JAMIE McGEEVER ORLANDO

ANALYSIS



Currency dealers work in Seoul in April. Samsung accounts for around 20 per cent of South Korea's benchmark index. KIM SOO-HYEON/REUTERS

As the artificial-intelligence boom accelerates, stock-market concentration is reaching historic proportions – and not just in the U.S. where tech megacaps like Nvidia Corp. and Alphabet Inc. dominate. Increasingly, top-heavy indices are a feature of global equity markets, not a bug.

The rise of the "Magnificent Seven" U.S. tech giants has amplified equity market concentration. The top 10 U.S. stocks currently account for 33 per cent of the overall market's value, according to Morgan Stanley analysts, and 37.5 per cent of the MSCI USA Index.

It's even more extreme in some other tech-heavy markets. The top single stocks in South Korea and Taiwan – Samsung and TSMC – account for around 20 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, of their benchmark indexes, Morgan Stanley figures show. In fact, these two companies alone account for one-fifth of the entire MSCI Emerging Markets Index, which covers 24 countries.

So should investors be worried? It depends.

On the one hand, market concentration can help lift all boats on the way up, as we are seeing today. Average annualized U.S. equity returns in times of increasing concentration since 1950 have been notably higher than during periods of declining concentration, Morgan Stanley's team notes.

But it's the down leg that matters.

The current period of concentration is mostly tied to one theme: AI. This means the S&P 500 and Nasdaq – and a growing number of indices in Asia – have essentially become directional bets on the success of this nascent technology.

In turn, if earnings and guidance from just a few tech giants fall short of expectations, the top-down drawdown could be as indiscriminate as the rally, potentially turning into a disorderly rout, as battle-scarred investors know all too well.

And given sky-high AI expectations, a market correction need not require AI to flop. The technology simply needs to be less revolutionary than expected.

If that occurs, where is the offset?

Investors in an S&P 500 index fund may think they are diversified, but this is mostly an illusion. As RBC Wealth Management analysts note, more than US$40 of every US$100 invested goes into just 10 companies. This "passive concentration trap" creates a feedback loop where fund inflows lift the biggest stocks and increase their weights, regardless of whether their fundamentals justify it.

Perhaps an inflection point is near. Analysts at RBC note that the market-cap-weighted S&P 500 is outperforming its equal-weighted counterpart by more than 30 per cent, a historically wide margin.

"This evolution requires a recalibration of assumptions," they wrote earlier this year. "The index has been a resilient benchmark, but its top-heavy structure warrants scrutiny."

Extreme concentration does not necessarily mean stocks at the top are overvalued, however, if the fundamentals of the top firms are also booming.

REUTERS

Major stock indexes inch higher as AI fervour edges out Iran impasse

Stocks closed slightly higher on Monday, with AI optimism fuelling upward momentum even as the earnings-driven fervour of the recent rally eased in the home stretch of reporting season and as crude prices rose, stoking inflation worries as U.S.-Iran peace negotiations stalled.

All three major U.S. stock indexes and the S&P/TSX Composite Index advanced, and the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq eked out their latest in a series of all-time closing highs.

Semi-conductors handily outshone other sectors on Wall Street, with the PHLX Semiconductor Index jumping 2.6 per cent, suggesting the AI wave is showing few signs of abating.

"The semis and AI infrastructure trade has taken on a life entirely of its own," said Ross Mayfield, investment strategy analyst at Baird in Louisville, Ky. "And there's so much momentum and chasing to get in on some of these names that it seems almost somewhat divorced from any sort of like headline or announcement."

But some market watchers believe the rally is about to run out of momentum. Investor Michael Burry warned on Monday that stocks are likely about to crash. In a post on his Substack, Mr. Burry, one of the biggest winners of the 2008 financial meltdown, said that the 2026 rally in tech stocks is about to end with a thud.

The first-quarter reporting period is nearing the finish line, with 440 of the companies in the S&P 500 having reported. Of those, 83 per cent have topped earnings expectations, according to LSEG IBES. As of Friday, analysts estimated first-quarter S&P 500 earnings growth, on aggregate, of 28.6 per cent year-on-year. That's nearly double the 14.4-per-cent first-quarter growth estimates as of April 1.

But as earnings season nears the finish line, focus returns to macroeconomics and geopolitical developments.

U.S. President Donald Trump dismissed Iran's response to an American peace proposal, causing crude prices to spike and stoking concerns that a prolonged conflict will keep putting upward pressure on inflation, particularly at gas pumps.

On that point, investors will pay close attention to U.S. economic indicators this week, particularly the Labour Department's Consumer Price Index and the retail sales report from the Commerce Department.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 95.31 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 49,704.47, the S&P 500 gained 13.91 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 7,412.84 and the Nasdaq Composite gained 27.05 points, or 0.10 per cent, to 26,274.13.

The S&P/TSX Composite Index was up 0.18 per cent at 34,138.88. Materials and gold both rose over 3 per cent and energy stocks gained 1.7 per cent. U.S. West Texas Intermediate settled at US$98.07 a barrel, up $2.65, or 2.78 per cent.

Barrick Mining jumped 9 per cent and was among the top gainers on the TSX index after the miner beat estimates for first-quarter profit, helped by record gold prices.

REUTERS, GLOBE STAFF

These beaten-down TSX companies are growing at cheap valuations

ARJUN DEIVA
NUMBER CRUNCHER

CFA and MBA candidate at the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Canadian stocks that have sold off year-to-date but that continue to grow rapidly and trade at attractive valuations.

THE SCREEN

Canadian and U.S. equity markets have rallied to record highs in 2026, driven by first-quarter earnings growth for the S&P 500 index tracking at more than 25 per cent year-over-year, the strongest pace since the fourth quarter of 2021. Despite this rally, several Canadian companies have fallen behind owing to weaker commodity prices and geopolitical concerns, creating potential entry points for investors with a growth at a reasonable price mindset.

Using FactSet's screening tool, I identified TSX-listed companies that have sold off year-to-date but that continue to deliver strong growth, by applying the following criteria:

- traded on the S&P/TSX Composite Index
- market capitalization greater than $1-billion
- forecasted one-year sales growth greater than 15 per cent
- forecasted one-year earnings growth greater than 15 per cent
- year-to-date total return below negative 10 per cent

The eight remaining companies were ranked by a multifactor set of ratios: price-to-earnings, price-to-sales, price-to-free-cash-flow and price-to-book.

WHAT WE FOUND

Birchcliff Energy Ltd., a Calgary-based natural gas producer, ranked first with a forecasted one-year sales growth rate of 18.6 per cent and a price-to-book ratio of 0.9 times. The stock has declined 15 per cent year-to-date amid persistent weakness in AECO natural gas prices, which fell from $3.50 on Dec. 10, 2025, to below $2 a gigajoule for much of the early winter of 2026. While global crude oil prices have surged on the conflict in Iran, natural gas trades on regional rather than global markets because it moves by pipeline rather than by ship. Western Canadian gas has been pressured by local oversupply, a mild winter and a slower-than-expected ramp-up of Canadian export capacity. Despite weak pricing, Birchcliff achieved record annual production of 80,086 barrels of oil equivalent a day in 2025. The 2026 growth outlook is supported by the ramp-up of Canadian export capacity and rising natural gas demand from data centres. Birchcliff is scheduled to report first-quarter 2026 results on Wednesday.

WSP Global Inc., a Montreal-based engineering and professional services firm, ranked second with a forecasted one-year sales growth rate of 21.5 per cent and a price-to-earnings ratio of 29 times. The stock has declined 13.1 per cent year-to-date as investors have grown cautious about elevated leverage after the company's US$3.3-billion acquisition of TRC Cos., completed on Feb. 24. The combined entity is now the largest engineering and design firm in the United States by revenue and the country's leading power and energy platform, positioning WSP for grid modernization and data-centre infrastructure spending. WSP reported first-quarter 2026 results on May 6, with adjusted EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) growing 16.5 per cent year-over-year to $622.2-million and adjusted earnings per share rising 26 per cent. WSP's order backlog reached a record $19.7-billion, up 19 per cent over the prior 12-month period.

Beaten down opportunities

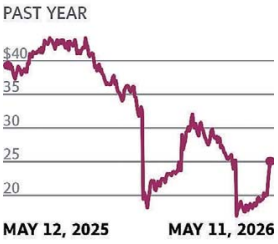
RANK	NAME	TICKER	SECTOR	PRICE ($)	MKT. CAP. ($ MIL.)	YTD. TTL. RTN. (%)	DIV. YLD. (%)	1Y. ESTIM. SALES GROWTH (%)	1Y. ESTIM. EPS GROWTH (%)	PRICE/ EARNINGS (X)	PRICE/ SALES (X)	PRICE/ FREE CASH FLOW (X)*	PRICE/ BOOK (X)
1	Birchcliff Energy Ltd.	BIR-T	Energy	6.32	1,737.25	-15.0	1.9	18.6	195.8	31.3	3.0	21.0	0.9
2	WSP Global Inc.	WSP-T	Industrials	215.52	29,055.68	-13.1	0.7	21.5	20.2	29.0	1.6	16.6	2.9
3	Boyd Group Services Inc.	BYD-T	Consumer Cyclicals	158.14	4,401.05	-27.6	0.4	31.8	53.6	193.1	1.3	14.6	2.6
4	Advantage Energy Ltd.	AAV-T	Energy	9.94	1,667.64	-15.3	0.0	25.4	225.8	16.8	3.0	#N/A	1.1
5	Premium Brands Holdings Corp.	PBH-T	Consumer Non-Cyclicals	89.85	4,686.37	-10.7	3.8	24.4	33.8	92.3	0.5	#N/A	1.9
6	Lundin Gold Inc.	LUG-T	Non-Energy Materials	95.99	23,202.25	-14.7	4.6	39.1	45.9	20.4	9.4	16.3	13.5
7	Constellation Software Inc.	CSU-T	Technology	2,571.61	54,496.35	-22.1	0.2	18.0	19.3	101.9	4.3	19.8	14.3
8	Shopify, Inc. Class A	SHOP-T	Finance	150.68	196,503.50	-31.8	0.0	28.3	29.4	116.4	12.6	73.3	12.3

*Source: FactSet. *N/A if negative free cash flow in last-twelve-months. Data updated as of May 9, 2026.*

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

PAST YEAR

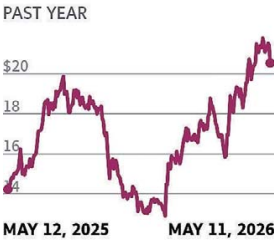


SOURCE: BARCHART

AG GROWTH INT'L (AFN-TSX)
CLOSE $25.04, UP $1.34

"Encouraged by early signs of operational improvement under new management" and believing "better execution should lead to a re-rate [for its] shares," RBC Dominion Securities analyst Andrew Wong upgraded **Ag Growth International Inc.** to an "outperform" rating from "sector perform" previously. "We think the new management team has demonstrated strong execution in turning around AGI in the past several months," he said.
Target: His target rose to $30 from $25. Consensus is $25.67.

PAST YEAR

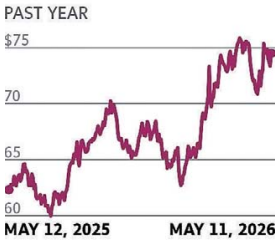


SOURCE: BARCHART

NFI GROUP (NFI-TSX)
CLOSE $20.52, DOWN 88¢

In a client report titled Win-Win, Scotiabank Capital analyst Jonathan Goldman emphasized **NFI Group Inc.** has just logged its third-consecutive "clean" quarter, which he called "the key for an execution story – and the trend leaves ample upside for a guidance raise later in the year."
Target: Maintaining his "sector outperform" rating, Mr. Goldman increased his target to $25 from $24.50. Consensus is $25.33.

PAST YEAR

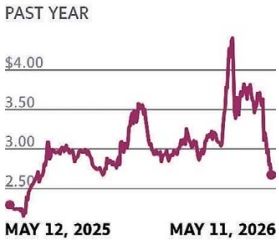


SOURCE: BARCHART

ENBRIDGE (ENB-TSX)
CLOSE $74.48, UP $1.15

RBC Dominion Securities analyst Maurice Choy sees **Enbridge Inc.** poised to benefit from "a favourably evolving macro for energy infrastructure." "As the market is reassured by the in line Q1/26 results and the reiteration of guidance ranges, we find ourselves better appreciating the platform and scale that Enbridge has today," he said.
Target: Mr. Choy raised his target to $79 from $76 with an "outperform" rating. Consensus is $77.89.

PAST YEAR

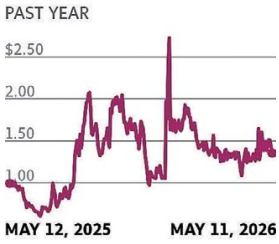


SOURCE: BARCHART

ITAFOS (IFOS-TSXV)
CLOSE $2.67, DOWN 14¢

Raymond James analyst Steve Hansen downgraded **Itafos Inc.** to "outperform" from "strong buy" to reflect "surging raw material costs driven by the ongoing Middle East conflict" that led to a downward revision to his estimates. "While our near-term enthusiasm has tempered, we continue to recommend shares of IFOS," he added.
Target: He lowered his target by $1 to $4.50, which is the consensus.

PAST YEAR



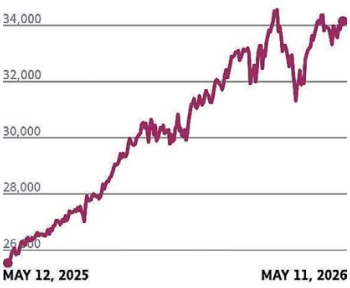
SOURCE: BARCHART

CRESCO LABS (CL-CN)
CLOSE $1.35, DOWN 7¢

In response to its first-quarter results, Canaccord Genuity's Kenric Tyghe upgraded **Cresco Labs Inc.** to "buy" from "speculative buy" previously, pointing to drivers that he sees as "incrementally positive." "We believe that Cresco is better positioned today to leverage its leading wholesale positions in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Ohio than at any point in the last 12 months," he said.
Target: His target increased to $2.50 from $2.25. Consensus is $2.56.

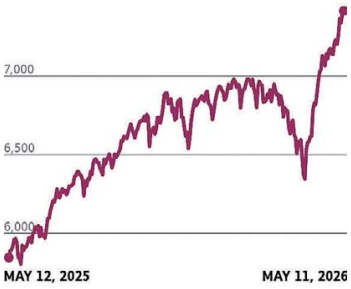
S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS

34138.88 | 61.12 | 0.18 % | 7.65 % YTD | 288036 VOL(000)



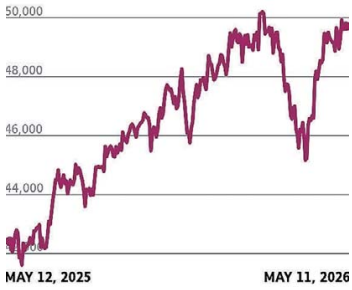
S&P 500
PAST 12 MONTHS

7412.84 | 13.91 | 0.19 % | 8.29 % YTD | 3378815



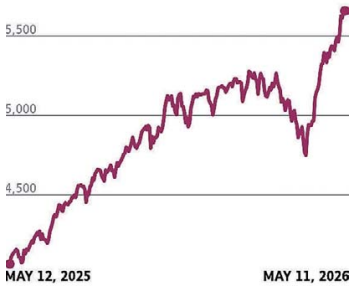
DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE
PAST 12 MONTHS

49704.47 | 95.31 | 0.19 % | 3.41 % YTD | 493233 VOL(000)



S&P GLOBAL 100 INDEX
PAST 12 MONTHS

5656.57 | 8.18 | 0.14 % | 9.92 % YTD



TSX INDEXES AND SUB INDEXES

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TSX COMPOSITE IND	34138.88	61.12	0.18	288036	7.65
TSX 60 INDEX	1977.24	-0.17	-0.01	126569	6.30
TSX COMPLETION IN	2351.62	20.97	0.90	161467	13.08
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	1463.71	13.91	0.96	106206	22.33
TSX VENTURE COMPO	1005.58	8.26	0.83	74725	1.81
TSX CONSUMER DISC	393.77	-5.28	-1.32	5312	2.92
TSX CONSUMER STAP	1204.95	-24.50	-1.99	6465	-2.68
TSX ENERGY CAPPED	417.40	6.95	1.69	52513	38.94
TSX FINANCIALS CA	677.33	-2.81	-0.41	33967	7.94
TSX HEALTH CARE C	24.34	-0.52	-2.09	2399	11.14
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	479.76	-6.34	-1.30	16572	2.73
TSX INFORMATION T	274.14	-10.94	-3.84	11928	-16.06
TSX MATERIALS CAP	862.42	27.17	3.25	90227	15.04
TSX REAL ESTATE C	309.80	-2.89	-0.92	6302	-2.08
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	945.08	29.68	3.24	109177	15.66
TSX GLOBAL MINING	257.12	7.85	3.15	352965	22.67
TSX INCOME TRUST	239.99	0.38	0.16	6836	8.97
TSX PREFERRED SHA	708.07	2.02	0.29	535	1.70
TSX COMMUNICATION	156.81	-1.05	-0.67	13253	-0.03
TSX UTILITIES CAP	391.81	1.50	0.38	16659	11.21

TSX VOLUME
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	74.48	1.15	1.57	15456	13.40
HOD BETAPRO CRUDE	1.12	-0.08	-6.67	12468	-80.66
KEEL KEEL INFRAST	5.85	0.45	8.33	9887	95.00
CS CAPSTONE COPPE	12.92	0.30	2.38	8911	-6.24
BTO B2GOLD CORP.	7.36	0.11	1.52	7809	19.09
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	89.08	1.50	1.71	7432	46.22
ARX ARC RESOURCES	30.94	0.36	1.18	7396	20.16
T TELUS CORPORATI	17.18	-0.28	-1.60	7316	-5.03
ABX BARRICK MININ	64.40	5.35	9.06	7157	7.71
IVN IVANHOE MINES	12.05	0.25	2.12	5591	-22.81
CVE CENOVUS ENERG	39.83	0.99	2.55	5494	71.53
RY ROYAL BANK OF	247.37	-1.42	-0.57	5299	5.72
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	6.57	-0.05	-0.76	4875	47.97
MFC MANULIFE FIN	54.66	-0.06	-0.11	4842	9.67
CNQ CDN NATURAL R	61.76	0.87	1.43	4592	32.85
AQN ALGONQUIN POW	8.17	-0.17	-2.04	4263	-3.20
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	146.43	-0.52	-0.35	4257	13.20
HND BETAPRO NAT G	4.62	-0.44	-8.70	4068	-38.65
BB BLACKBERRY LIM	8.52	-0.28	-3.18	4042	64.48

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AMD ADVANCED MICR	83.58	0.61	0.74	815	112.08
ALS ALTIUS MINERA	55.10	1.67	3.13	161	34.92
AMAT APPLIED MATE	49.48	0.86	1.77	14	69.86
CGI CDN GENERAL I	52.41	0.22	0.42	2	10.92
CSCO CISCO CDR (C	47.26	0.84	1.81	10	26.63
CTGO CONTANGO SIL	36.51	-0.71	-1.91	23	8.89
EMA-PR-H EMERA IN	26.35	0.25	0.96	6	1.27
ENB-PF-K ENBRIDGE	26.04	0.24	0.93	7	2.56
ENB-PF-V ENBRIDGE	25.15	0.00	0.00	2	0.88
CBIL-L GLOBAL X 0	50.03	0.00	0.00	1	
CASH-L GLOBAL X H	50.03	0.00	0.00	2	
HPS-A HAMMOND POW	328.95	17.83	5.73	78	106.26
IGM IGM FINANCIAL	77.38	0.24	0.31	522	25.19
INTC INTEL CDR (C	73.20	2.44	3.45	479	247.41
KLAC KLA CDR (CAD	25.19	-0.21	-0.83	9	5.27
LRCX LAM RESEARCH	26.21	0.20	0.77	2	3.64
MFC MANULIFE FIN	54.66	-0.06	-0.11	4842	9.67
MFC-PR-K MANULIFE	26.15	0.20	0.77	1	3.20
MRV MARVELL TECHN	27.81	-0.01	-0.04	16	5.74
MDA MDA SPACE LTD	51.17	3.91	8.27	2005	92.08

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
QQQU MEGALONG 3X	45.26	0.46	1.03	73	43.73
SPYU MEGALONG 3X	36.20	0.06	0.17	2	18.38
SOXU MEGALONG 3X	56.72	3.95	7.49	45	328.24
MU MICRON CDR (CA	35.17	2.14	6.48	3289	175.67
MRC MORGUARD CORP	124.84	1.85	1.50	1	7.62
NEO NEO PERFORMAN	29.64	0.56	1.93	460	90.49
NVDA NVIDIA CDR (	49.34	0.84	1.73	1743	16.59
QCOM QUALCOMM CD	31.05	2.44	8.53	363	37.63
PWRS QUANTA SERVI	29.69	0.85	2.95	2	
RGBM RETURN STACK	27.95	0.12	0.43		14.08
SNDK SANDISK CDR	37.96	-0.34	-0.89	275	17.31
NBCU SAVVYLONG 2X	35.19	0.23	0.66	2	36.03
STCK STACK CAPITA	29.12	0.15	0.52	123	88.60
TECK-A TECK RESOU	89.23	0.48	0.54	7	35.67
TECK-B TECK RESOU	89.28	0.53	0.60	884	35.87
TSAT TELESAT CORP	75.34	0.44	0.59	51	90.40
TXN TEXAS INSTRUM	31.25	1.36	4.55	7	70.02
VBNK VERSABANK	24.69	-1.11	-4.30	33	20.44
VRT VERTIV CDR (C	27.53	2.06	8.09	9	8.90
WDC WESTERN DIGIT	31.58	2.21	7.52	27	12.03

TSX GAINERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ABXU SAVVYLONG 2X	36.38	6.63	22.29	1	3.47
COIU LFG DAILY 2X	8.84	1.47	19.95	11	-32.21
SBT-U PURPOSE SIL	45.11	6.74	17.57		21.10
CRCY HARVEST CIRC	7.19	1.01	16.34	188	22.91
SLVU BETAPRO SILV	103.39	12.70	14.00	152	-4.36
EDR ENDEAVOUR SIL	15.46	1.73	12.60	1891	19.75
ITH INTERNATIONAL	3.90	0.39	11.11	165	54.15
CARS-B EVOLVE AUT	43.45	4.30	10.98		29.05
KSI KNEAT.COM INC	5.15	0.50	10.75	530	4.67
CVVY CAVVY ENERGY	1.50	0.14	10.29	1176	64.84
CGMU MEGALONG 3X	15.47	1.42	10.11	125	3.79
SOLQ-U 3IQ SOLANA	7.89	0.72	10.04	1	-20.70
SVM SILVERCORP ME	20.19	1.69	9.14	1237	75.87
GASU SAVVYLONG GE	7.07	0.59	9.10	7	-36.59
ABX BARRICK MININ	64.40	5.35	9.06	7157	7.71
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	10.48	0.87	9.05	2873	-35.71
URC URANIUM ROYAL	5.98	0.49	8.93	692	23.55
ASM AVINO SILVER	10.28	0.84	8.90	1268	20.37
PDN PALADIN ENERG	13.30	1.08	8.84	207	53.23
ABHI NINEPOINT BA	16.54	1.34	8.82	13	-0.84

TSX LOSERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
COID SAVVYSHORT -	5.73	-1.67	-22.57	8	-62.45
GASD SAVVYSHORT G	4.90	-1.00	-16.95	2	-38.75
SHPU SAVVYLONG 2X	5.74	-0.95	-14.20	132	-67.53
SLVD BETAPRO SILV	2.57	-0.41	-13.76	2531	-69.98
QQD-U BETAPRO NAS	3.58	-0.54	-13.11		-25.42
CSUU SAVVYLONG 2X	7.14	-0.98	-12.07	13	-53.42
GEO GEODRILL LIMI	2.91	-0.39	-11.82	195	-29.71
IFA IFABRIC CORP	3.75	-0.50	-11.76	55	103.80
GDV GLOBAL DIVIDE	12.24	-1.57	-11.37	52	14.91
CGMD MEGASHORT -3	7.90	-0.89	-10.13	11	-61.84
DCBO DOCEBO INC	26.14	-2.92	-10.05	188	-14.27
MSTZ SAVVYSHORT -	3.20	-0.32	-9.09	62	-85.21
CGX CINEPLEX INC.	10.77	-1.03	-8.73	1133	2.18
HND BETAPRO NAT G	4.62	-0.44	-8.70	4068	-38.65
SHHI NINEPOINT SH	5.74	-0.53	-8.45	67	-46.15
ADW-B ANDREW PELL	6.60	-0.58	-8.08		1.07
SHPE HARVEST SHOP	6.86	-0.59	-7.92	144	-47.83
AGTF AGT FOOD AND	15.58	-1.32	-7.81	170	-26.68
TCS TECSYS INC J	32.50	-2.74	-7.78	12	6.04
TSLD SAVVYSHORT -	8.26	-0.69	-7.71	41	-12.31

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS $1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ABT ABBOTT LABS C	14.55	-0.29	-1.95	36	-34.72
AGTF AGT FOOD AND	15.58	-1.32	-7.81	170	-26.68
ALYA ALITHYA GROU	1.32	-0.03	-2.22	48	-20.96
APH AMPHENOL CDR	18.24	-0.91	-4.75	27	-11.50
BCHT BIRCHTECH CO	1.79	-0.14	-7.25	2	-64.06
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	154.86	-3.28	-2.07	114	-29.17
CAR-UN CDN APARTM	34.31	-0.65	-1.86	753	-6.94
EFN ELEMENT FLEET	26.85	-1.15	-4.11	1883	-25.52
GEO GEODRILL LIMI	2.91	-0.39	-11.82	195	-29.71
CBIL-L GLOBAL X 0	50.03	0.00	0.00	1	
CASH-L GLOBAL X H	50.03	0.00	0.00	2	
HD HOME DEPOT CDR	19.40	-0.39	-1.97	38	-10.31
INTU INTUIT CDR (	23.98	-0.12	-0.50	1	-4.42
ISRG INTUITIVE SU	21.95	-1.49	-6.36	62	-26.44
JEPH JPMORGAN US	24.37	-0.48	-1.93		-2.36
LULU LULULEMON CD	5.52	-0.22	-3.83	533	-39.61
MCDS MCDONALDS CD	23.25	-0.15	-0.64	58	-10.89
QQQD MEGASHORT -3	7.41	-0.07	-0.94	51	-38.56
SOXD MEGASHORT -3	2.71	-0.22	-7.51	36	-86.82
MTEK METATEK GROU	4.85	-0.07	-1.42	20	-1.62

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
MRU METRO INC	88.14	-1.18	-1.32	648	-10.78
PET PET VALU HOLD	19.76	-0.41	-2.03	442	-29.15
PWRS QUANTA SERVI	29.69	0.85	2.95	2	
SHPU SAVVYLONG 2X	5.74	-0.95	-14.20	132	-67.53
COID SAVVYSHORT -	5.73	-1.67	-22.57	8	-62.45
MSTZ SAVVYSHORT -	3.20	-0.32	-9.09	62	-85.21
NVDD SAVVYSHORT -	10.96	-0.64	-5.52	15	-37.87
SJ STELLA JONES I	72.07	0.79	1.11	444	-15.34
SYK STRYKER CDR (	19.25	-0.30	-1.53	23	-4.47
THNC THINKIFIC LA	1.36	-0.01	-0.73	96	-29.90
TC TUCOWS INC.	20.00	-1.20	-5.66	8	-34.21
WCN WASTE CONNECT	206.55	-1.23	-0.59	335	-14.19
WFCS WELLS FARGO	20.51	-0.61	-2.89	5	-22.02

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX STOCKS
LARGEST STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
VNP 5N PLUS INC.	38.54	0.94	2.50	367	117.49
ABRA ABRASILVER R	18.76	0.39	2.12	985	75.66
AAV ADVANTAGE ENE	10.06	0.12	1.21	1509	-14.31
ARE AECON GROUP I	53.00	-0.04	-0.08	405	69.44
AEM AGNICO EAGLE	269.48	5.00	1.89	733	15.78
AC AIR CANADA	19.26	-0.76	-3.80	2547	-0.16
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	60.08	0.74	1.25	790	13.36
AQN ALGONQUIN POW	8.17	-0.17	-2.04	4263	-3.20
ATD ALIMENTATION	78.03	-1.20	-1.51	837	4.10
AAUC ALLIED GOLD	40.87	0.51	1.26	1783	29.95
AP-UN ALLIED PROP	9.74	-0.10	-1.02	427	-27.15
ALA ALTAGAS LTD.	51.51	0.74	1.46	1040	23.08
AIF ALTUS GROUP L	42.06	-2.50	-5.61	336	-25.83
USA AMERICAS GOLD	9.72	0.69	7.64	1645	38.07
ARX ARC RESOURCES	30.94	0.36	1.18	7396	20.16
ARIS ARIS MINING	27.68	0.77	2.86	721	24.35
ATZ ARITZIA INC	145.25	-3.10	-2.09	1096	23.78
ACO-X ATCO LTD. C	68.88	0.75	1.10	179	22.17
ATH ATHABASCA OIL	11.82	0.34	2.96	1780	68.14
ATRL ATKINSREALIS	90.20	-0.93	-1.02	429	1.81
ATS ATS CORPORATI	46.88	-1.58	-3.26	227	23.99
ASM AVINO SILVER	10.28	0.84	8.90	1268	20.37
AYA AYA GOLD AND	27.20	0.76	2.87	1270	38.49
BTO B2GOLD CORP.	7.36	0.11	1.52	7809	19.09
BCE BCE INC.	33.23	0.14	0.42	3904	1.50
BDGI BADGER INFRA	82.00	-2.10	-2.50	156	12.13
BMO BANK OF MONTR	209.38	0.11	0.05	3020	17.46
BNS BANK OF NOVA	105.43	-0.66	-0.62	2580	4.15
ABX BARRICK MININ	64.40	5.35	9.06	7157	7.71
BHC BAUSCH HEALTH	7.33	-0.55	-6.98	685	-23.08
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	6.57	-0.05	-0.76	4875	47.97
BIR BIRCHCLIFF EN	6.36	0.04	0.63	755	-14.86
BDT BIRD CONSTRUC	52.47	-1.03	-1.93	214	83.98
BB BLACKBERRY LIM	8.52	-0.28	-3.18	4042	64.48
BEI-UN BOARDWALK	64.41	-0.50	-0.77	111	-0.11
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	273.99	-14.99	-5.19	417	17.34
BLX BORALEX INC.	36.81	0.04	0.11	521	45.32
BYD BOYD GROUP SE	154.86	-3.28	-2.07	114	-29.17
BAM BROOKFIELD AS	66.82	-1.19	-1.75	1550	-7.07
BBUC BROOKFIELD B	43.42	1.24	2.94	164	-11.48
BN BROOKFIELD COR	63.32	-1.06	-1.65	2007	0.48
BIP-UN BROOKFIELD	51.18	0.84	1.67	406	7.27
BEP-UN BROOKFIELD	47.04	0.44	0.94	151	26.83
DOO BRP INC	77.97	-0.11	-0.14	245	-19.66
CAR-UN CDN APARTM	34.31	-0.65	-1.86	753	-6.94
CNQ CDN NATURAL R	61.76	0.87	1.43	4592	32.85
GIB-A CGI INC	89.43	-3.92	-4.20	484	-29.46
CRT-UN CT REAL ES	17.60	0.03	0.17	154	8.17
CAE CAE INC	35.73	-1.16	-3.14	700	-14.40
CCO CAMECO CORP	164.54	4.56	2.85	838	30.92
CM CANADIAN IMPER	151.77	1.20	0.80	2024	21.97
CNR CANADIAN NATI	151.34	-1.37	-0.90	2340	11.48
CP CANADIAN PACIF	115.95	-1.74	-1.48	826	14.75
CTC-A CANADIAN TI	185.19	-5.62	-2.95	357	6.47
CU CANADIAN UTILI	48.52	0.32	0.66	1062	13.55
CPX CAPITAL POWER	66.67	0.52	0.79	605	13.87
CS CAPSTONE COPPE	12.92	0.30	2.38	8911	-6.24
CJT CARGOJET INC.	80.95	-0.35	-0.43	127	-3.56
CCL-B CCL INDUSTR	83.43	-1.02	-1.21	326	-3.77
CLS CELESTICA INC	521.99	7.91	1.54	308	28.57
CVE CENOVUS ENERG	39.83	0.99	2.55	5494	71.53

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
CG CENTERRA GOLD	25.60	0.53	2.11	592	29.55
CEU CES ENERGY SO	17.81	0.02	0.11	609	45.15
CSH-UN CHARTWELL	21.05	-0.58	-2.68	589	4.73
CHP-UN CHOICE PRO	15.61	0.12	0.77	428	5.40
CCA COGECO COMMUN	63.41	-0.54	-0.84	238	-4.60
CIGI COLLIERS INT	131.18	-4.15	-3.07	183	-34.98
CSU CONSTELLATION	2414.31	-157.30	-6.12	58	-26.87
CRR-UN CROMBIE RE	17.21	0.13	0.76	117	12.70
CURA CURALEAF HOL	5.46	0.14	2.63	875	60.12
DFY DEFINITY FINA	66.58	-2.00	-2.92	103	-12.31
DML DENISON MINES	5.25	0.13	2.54	3915	44.23
DSG DESCARTES SYS	94.16	-4.76	-4.81	196	-21.80
DSV DISCOVERY SIL	10.07	0.39	4.03	2768	20.17
DOL DOLLARAMA INC	173.77	-0.06	-0.03	710	-15.29
DPM DPM METALS IN	47.74	0.38	0.80	1417	12.54
DIR-UN DREAM INDU	14.25	0.07	0.49	497	13.28
EQB EQB INC	117.82	-3.17	-2.62	82	13.41
ELD ELDORADO GOLD	47.05	0.38	0.81	928	-4.62
EFN ELEMENT FLEET	26.85	-1.15	-4.11	1883	-25.52
EMA EMERA INCORPO	71.43	-0.53	-0.74	1995	5.60
EMP-A EMPIRE COMP	45.82	-0.72	-1.55	818	-3.98
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	74.48	1.15	1.57	15456	13.40
EDR ENDEAVOUR SIL	15.46	1.73	12.60	1891	19.75
EFX ENERFLEX LTD	36.54	-0.58	-1.56	722	72.68
EFR ENERGY FUELS	30.03	0.76	2.60	962	51.06
EQX EQUINOX GOLD	20.36	0.82	4.20	3234	5.55
ERO ERO COPPER CO	39.66	0.70	1.80	463	2.14
EIF EXCHANGE INCO	97.89	-0.85	-0.86	134	19.44
FFH FAIRFAX FINAN	2257.83	10.35	0.46	57	-13.69
FTT FINNING INTL	97.58	0.11	0.11	386	31.21
FCR-UN FIRST CAPI	23.49	0.06	0.26	377	24.29
AG FIRST MAJESTIC	32.29	2.39	7.99	1810	41.00
FM FIRST QUANTUM	34.90	-0.10	-0.29	3647	-5.16
FSV FIRSTSERVICE	179.58	-4.65	-2.52	94	-15.87
FTS FORTIS INC	76.89	0.15	0.20	1554	7.75
FVI FORTUNA MININ	14.90	0.15	1.02	2066	10.78
FNV FRANCO-NEVADA	324.98	7.47	2.35	193	14.22
FRU FREEHOLD ROYA	17.55	0.24	1.39	424	15.54
GMIN G MINING VEN	54.57	0.86	1.60	827	31.53
GFL GFL ENVIRONME	50.14	-0.17	-0.34	467	-14.96
GEI GIBSON ENERGY	28.53	0.48	1.71	661	13.57
GIL GILDAN ACTIVE	78.87	-2.23	-2.75	384	-8.07
GSY GOEASY LTD	30.80	-2.19	-6.64	337	-76.54
GRT-UN GRANITE RE	92.22	-1.25	-1.34	76	12.86
GWO GREAT-WEST LI	75.93	-0.34	-0.45	1362	12.17
HWX HEADWATER EXP	12.89	0.35	2.79	981	37.57
HR-UN HR REAL EST	10.67	-0.02	-0.19	391	4.30
HBM HUDBAY MINERA	34.89	0.62	1.81	1239	28.04
H HYDRO ONE LIMIT	58.73	-0.03	-0.05	1315	7.49
IAU I 80 GOLD COR	2.18	0.02	0.93	1485	7.92
IAG IA FINANCIAL	168.20	2.11	1.27	311	-5.42
IMG IAMGOLD CORP	25.97	0.38	1.48	1483	14.66
IGM IGM FINANCIAL	77.38	0.24	0.31	522	25.19
IMO IMPERIAL OIL	177.88	4.18	2.41	595	50.01
IFC INTACT FINANC	253.33	-1.67	-0.65	269	-11.34
IPCO INTERNATIONA	36.29	0.60	1.68	99	46.15
IIP-UN INTERRENT	13.19	-0.02	-0.15	542	0.00
IVN IVANHOE MINES	12.05	0.25	2.12	5591	-22.81

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
SAP SAPUTO INC.	40.19	-1.06	-2.57	1036	-2.71
SEA SEABRIDGE GOL	45.67	2.92	6.83	134	12.24
SES SECURE WASTE	21.73	-0.09	-0.41	1323	25.83
SHOP SHOPIFY INC	140.28	-10.40	-6.90	3215	-36.52
SIA SIENNA SENIOR	22.59	-0.29	-1.27	248	10.57
SVM SILVERCORP ME	20.19	1.69	9.14	1237	75.87
SKE SKEENA RESOUR	44.58	1.07	2.46	311	36.75
SRU-UN SMARTCENTR	28.41	-0.05	-0.18	246	10.33
SOBO SOUTH BOW CO	48.44	0.94	1.98	785	28.32
SII SPROTT INC.	197.33	4.36	2.26	84	46.78
SSRM SSR MINING I	47.54	0.77	1.65	783	57.99
STN STANTEC INC	117.38	-2.20	-1.84	231	-9.37
SJ STELLA JONES I	72.07	0.79	1.11	444	-15.34
SCR STRATHCONA RE	43.48	1.58	3.77	511	53.48
SLF SUN LIFE FINA	96.35	0.50	0.52	2804	12.45
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	89.08	1.50	1.71	7432	46.22
SPB SUPERIOR PLUS	7.50	-0.01	-0.13	388	6.53
TRP TC ENERGY COR	89.69	1.08	1.22	3333	18.67
X TMX GROUP LIMIT	53.95	-1.39	-2.51	390	3.29
TVE TAMARACK VALL	12.30	0.21	1.74	1763	54.14
TKO TASEKO MINES	10.38	0.15	1.47	969	33.59
TECK-B TECK RESOU	89.28	0.53	0.60	884	35.87
T TELUS CORPORATI	17.18	-0.28	-1.60	7316	-5.03
TVK TERRAVEST IND	128.34	-0.02	-0.02	77	-21.99
TFII TFI INTERNAT	188.05	-2.00	-1.05	119	32.55
NWC THE NORTH WES	49.85	-0.24	-0.48	240	1.92
TRI THOMSON REUTE	122.02	-4.92	-3.88	572	-32.63
TPZ TOPAZ ENERGY	31.77	0.34	1.08	951	15.36
TXG TOREX GOLD RE	69.35	0.76	1.11	484	5.81
TIH TOROMONT IND	216.24	-1.06	-0.49	304	30.23
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	146.43	-0.52	-0.35	4257	13.20
TOU TOURMALINE OI	65.87	0.70	1.07	2598	6.98
TA TRANSALTA CORP	17.48	-0.01	-0.06	1674	0.69
TCL-A TRANSCONTIN	5.43	-0.04	-0.73	331	-76.10
TFPM TRIPLE FLAG	48.56	3.00	6.58	264	6.47
TSU TRISURA GROUP	41.42	-0.74	-1.76	167	-3.04
VET VERMILION ENE	16.75	0.59	3.65	862	46.67
VITL-UN VITAL INF	5.68	-0.02	-0.35	481	1.43
VZLA VIZSLA SILVE	5.08	0.24	4.96	2044	-32.45
WSP WSP GLOBAL IN	211.28	-4.24	-1.97	352	-14.98
WCN WASTE CONNECT	206.55	-1.23	-0.59	335	-14.19
WDO WESDOME GOLD	29.31	1.22	4.34	1173	28.89
WFG WEST FRASER T	82.81	-1.83	-2.16	124	-1.38
WN WESTON GEORGE	94.02	-1.67	-1.75	378	-0.71
WPM WHEATON PRECI	196.75	6.81	3.59	702	21.93
WCP WHITECAP RESO	16.00	0.37	2.37

SPORTS

Elks quarterback Fajardo believes team is ready to compete for the Grey Cup ■ B14

Rays standing tall against big bankroll teams in the AL East, writes **Marty Klinkenberg** ■ B15

BLUE JAYS VS. RAYS



Double millennium

Blue Jays pitcher Kevin Gausman salutes the crowd after recording his 2,000th career strikeout during the fourth inning against the Rays at the Rogers Centre in Toronto on Monday. For the game story, head to ■ GLOBESPORTS.COM

MARK BLINCH/GETTY IMAGES

It will take more than a draft lottery makeover to prevent tanking

CATHAL KELLY

OPINION



Over the weekend, the NBA draft lottery worked as it should, which is a pity. The Washington Wizards won and will pick first.

Washington was the worst team in the league last year. How bad was it? Recently, The Athletic anonymously polled players and asked them to name the "least impressive" head coach. One of them said, "I don't even know who's coaching the Wizards, but whoever coaches the Wizards."

The No. 2 and 3 picks went to equally terrible teams – Utah and Memphis. It is a modern sports ritual to celebrate this incompetence as it is gifted the brightest young talent. They won by losing.

The logic behind the prevailing lottery model is Marxist – to each according to their needs.

Except maybe what teams need isn't an incentive to rip their fans off.

The NBA has come around to that idea. Beginning next year, the draft odds will disadvantage the bottom three teams in the standings. This year, Washington had a 14-per-cent chance of winning the draft. If it is in the same spot next year, its odds will be 5.4 per cent (and it won't be allowed to win two years in a row in any case).

The seven other teams that miss the playoffs, but aren't in the bottom three, will each have an 8.1-per-cent chance at the top pick. Also, the lottery goes from 14 to 16 teams. This is all in an effort to fight tanking, the thing everybody's doing, but no one's allowed to talk about. Maybe that was the first clue.

Tanking isn't ruining sport – teams were terrible long before anyone gave them a reason to be. But it is ruinous to the spirit of sport.

No team should be incentivized to lose. You wouldn't do it in Little League, so why do it in the pros? Were sports policed like a real business, doing so would be illegal.

Sports professionals love the tank because it is a billboard-sized fig leaf behind which to hide their own lack of ability/smarts/cunning.

All of them love to talk about the endless hustle of the sports executive life, until they blow it. Then it's time to cut the engines and strap on a parachute. Everybody's going down, except for them.

You know how hard it is to tank a pro sports team? It's the easiest thing in the world, and I'm speaking literally. There is no other job where being spectacularly bad is considered a good thing. It'd be like the boss giving me a tap on the shoulder and saying, "Corporate says there's too much cash on hand. Time to start libeling the hell out of everyone." I mean, nothing would please me more, but what sort of example would we be setting? Think of all the children I would have to libel.

Any idiot can take the bad employees they have now and swap them for theoretically good ones to be acquired at a later date. The beauty of this system is that no one need ever be right. If the theoretically good future employees prove to be bad in reality, that just means it's time to tank harder.

Somehow, fans have been tricked into believing this serves their interests. I suppose it's the same instinct that causes people to fall for online romance scams. Who wants to date some average guy you met at the grocery store when you could be in a hot, hot, Zoom-only affair with Brad Pitt?

■ KELLY, B17

Sponsors eager to tap into Tempo and align with WNBA 'rocket ship'

RACHEL BRADY



Temi Fagbenle of the Toronto Tempo arrives at the arena before the game against the Washington Mystics on Friday at Coca-Cola Coliseum in Toronto. MARK BLINCH/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

There was a time when people were shy to talk about periods and the products women and girls use to prepare for that time of the month.

That's not the impression you get at a Toronto Tempo game, where you may see the Tampax logo on the players' warm-up shirts, around their home court or on the basketball nets. A photo montage of the team's luxe new locker room inside Coca-Cola Coliseum on its Instagram page even had Tampax boxes tastefully placed on shelves.

It's one example of the corporate activations you might notice as you watch Canada's first WNBA team in its arena or on TV this season, or while surfing its social-media channels. The Tempo have 17 partners so far in this first season, although not all have been announced yet. The team's sports sponsorships spread across many industries and look anything but traditional.

"Seeing a new team in the WNBA expand into Canada is powerful, and there's a momentum that will come with it that we wanted to be at the forefront of from Day 1," said Chelsey Harshman, senior director for North America Tampax.

"We're ready to move with the Tempo into this new era where brands and athletes can openly talk about women's needs – which includes periods – and help remove the stigma to ensure that periods are never a barrier to her participating and unleashing the confidence that we know comes from sport."

Tampax and the Tempo will also work together on youth programming with Lay-Up, a charitable basketball organization.

"We have long been in the business of confidence, and sports is such a visible place where confidence matters," added Harshman.

The Tempo have had a surge of interest from sponsors wanting to get in early with the new expansion team, and onto "the rocket ship that is the WNBA," as the Tempo's chief revenue officer Lisa Ferkul describes. While new, the team arrives with a leg up on other emerging Canadian women's sports properties because it's joining an established league that is entering its 30th season, experiencing huge growth in attendance, viewership, engagement and franchise valuations.

Ferkul said brands had been calling the Tempo about sponsorships before the Tempo even made her employee No. 3 in August, 2024, just a few months after the WNBA awarded Toronto the franchise. She brought two decades of experience in partnerships, including a decade with Scotiabank and then as chief commercial officer at Golf Canada.

■ TEMPO, B17

Fajardo believes Elks are ready to contend again

Quarterback says Edmonton's roster this season is 'good enough to win a Grey Cup'

JOHN KOROBANIK EDMONTON



Elks quarterback Cody Fajardo completed 282 of 385 passes for 3,409 yards and 14 touchdowns after taking over the starting role in Edmonton midway through last season. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE CANADIAN PRESS

After the Tre Ford quarterback experiment failed last year, the Edmonton Elks turned to the most accurate passer in CFL history in hopes of ending five years of futility.

Veteran signal-caller Cody Fajardo, who joined the team last year and signed a one-year contract extension this off-season, isn't shying away from lofty expectations.

It took just one two-hour training camp session on Sunday for the two-time Grey Cup champion to declare this year's roster "good enough to win a Grey Cup."

Bold words for a team that has missed the CFL playoffs the last five years and hasn't posted a winning regular-season record since 2017. Still, the first two days of training camp at old Clarke Stadium – site of some of the franchise's great moments – were filled with enthusiasm and optimism.

The 34-year-old Fajardo said players talk about winning the Grey Cup on Day 1 and then "stop talking about it because then you want your focus to be right in front of you."

"But you have to let the guys know what the end goal is. And the end goal is a Grey Cup. We have a Grey Cup-winning roster," he said.

That would mark a massive turnaround for a team that finished 7-11 the past two seasons and will play its home exhibition game at Clarke Stadium before returning to Commonwealth Stadium, which is undergoing upgrades that include new turf ahead of a pre-World Cup soccer friendly.

Starting the season as the No. 1 quarterback is a role Fajardo knows well, so last year – when he stood on the sidelines and watched Ford and the team stumble to a 1-6 start – became a learning experience for the nine-year CFL veteran. Ford departed for Hamilton on a two-year deal in the off-season.

"Last year was new for me, and it helped me grow in ways that I didn't think I would be able to grow," said Fajardo, who owns the highest career completion percentage in CFL history at 71.53 among qualified quarterbacks. "So I grew as a player, I grew as a human, I grew as a man, as a quarterback. So I'm just implementing that into this training camp."

He showed what he could do once he took over the starting role midway through last season. Fajardo, who won Grey Cups in 2017 with Toronto and 2023 with Montreal, completed 282 of 385 passes for 3,409 yards – the third-highest total of his career – and 14 touchdowns. He also rushed for 319 yards and seven TDs.

All the Grey Cup talk will ring hollow if the team can't avoid another poor start. The Elks opened 1-6 last season after going 0-7 in 2024, 0-9 in 2023 and 2-7 in 2022.

"It's everything right now for us," Fajardo said of needing a strong start. "Those early games are really four-point games because they set you up later on, and you don't want to be in that chase-pack mentality when everybody's jockeying for position. At the end of the year, you want to put yourself in the driver's seat, and the only way you can do that is by winning early."

He's confident it can happen because, unlike previous seasons, there was no major overhaul to the roster.

"We don't have a bunch of new guys coming in, we don't have new systems that we have to learn. So we're able to have that continuity and jell a little bit quicker. And so I'm excited for that, and I'm excited just to see how these days continue to progress and how we continue to get better offensively, defensively, special teams."

And make no mistake, this version of the Elks – which hasn't made the playoffs since the franchise changed its name in 2020 – won't be content to simply make the playoffs.

"This isn't a team that, oh, we just want to make the playoffs. Oh, we just want to make a run," said Fajardo. "We want to win a Grey Cup. And this roster is good enough to win a Grey Cup.

"And for me, you know, you only have so many years left. So I'm in the business of winning games, and I'm in the business of winning Grey Cups. And so you talk about it Day 1, and then after that you focus on how we get better to get to that end goal."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

DIVISION FINALS

(Best-of-7; All Times Eastern)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DIVISION
BUFFALO (1) VS. MONTREAL (3)
(Montreal leads series 2-1)
Sunday
Montreal 6 Buffalo 2
Tuesday
Buffalo at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 14
x-Montreal at Buffalo, TBD

METROPOLITAN DIVISION
CAROLINA (1) VS. PHILADELPHIA (3)
(Carolina wins series 4-0)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
CENTRAL DIVISION
COLORADO (1) VS. MINNESOTA (3)
(Colorado leads series 2-1)
Monday
Colorado at Minnesota
Wednesday, May 13
Minnesota at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Friday
x-Colorado at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

PACIFIC DIVISION
VEGAS (1) VS. ANAHEIM (3)
(Series tied 2-2)
Sunday
Anaheim 4 Vegas 3
Tuesday
Anaheim at Vegas, 9:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 14
x-Vegas at Anaheim, TBD

PWHL PLAYOFFS

SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-5; All Times Eastern)
MONTREAL (1) VS. MINNESOTA (3)
(Series tied 2-2)
Monday
Minnesota at Montreal, ppd.

BOSTON (2) VS. OTTAWA (4)
(Ottawa wins series 3-1)
Sunday
Ottawa 4 Boston 3 (2OT)

WNBA

Monday
No games scheduled.

Sunday
Seattle 89, Connecticut 82
New York 98, Washington 93, OT
Las Vegas 105, Los Angeles 78
Golden State 95, Phoenix 79

Tuesday — All Times Eastern
Atlanta at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
New York at Portland, 10 p.m.

Wednesday
Seattle at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Las Vegas at Connecticut, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Golden State, 10 p.m.
Indiana at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-7; All Times Eastern)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
DETROIT (1) VS. CLEVELAND (4)
(Detroit leads series 2-1)
Monday
Detroit at Cleveland
Wednesday
Cleveland at Detroit, TBD
Friday
x-Detroit at Cleveland, TBD

NEW YORK (3) VS. PHILADELPHIA (7)
(New York wins series 4-0)
Sunday
New York 144 Philadelphia 114

WESTERN CONFERENCE
OKLAHOMA CITY (1) VS. LAKERS (4)
(Oklahoma City leads series 3-0)
Monday
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers
Saturday
Oklahoma City 131 L.A. Lakers 108
Friday
x-San Antonio at Minnesota, TBD

SAN ANTONIO (2) VS. MINNESOTA (6)
(Series tied 2-2)
Sunday
Minnesota 114 San Antonio 109
Tuesday
Minnesota at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Friday
x-San Antonio at Minnesota, TBD

OHL PLAYOFFS

J. ROSS ROBERTSON CUP

(Best-of-7; All Times Eastern)

KITCHENER (W1) VS. BARRIE (E2)
(Kitchener leads series 3-0)
Sunday
Kitchener 4 Barrie 3 (2OT)
Tuesday
Kitchener at Barrie, 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 14
x-Barrie at Kitchener, 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 16
x-Kitchener at Barrie, 7 p.m.
Monday, May 18
x-Barrie at Kitchener, TBA

QMJHL PLAYOFFS

GILLES-COURTEAU TROPHY

(Best-of-7; All Times Eastern)
MONCTON (1) VS. CHICOUTIMI (2)
(Series tied 1-1)
Tuesday
Moncton at Chicoutimi, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 13
Moncton at Chicoutimi, 7 p.m.
Friday, May 15
x-Chicoutimi at Moncton, 6 p.m.
Sunday, May 17
x-Moncton at Chicoutimi, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 19
x-Chicoutimi at Moncton, 6 p.m.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	26	13	.667	—
New York	26	15	.634	1
Toronto	18	22	.450	8½
Baltimore	18	23	.439	9
Boston	17	23	.425	9½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	21	21	.500	—
Chicago	19	21	.475	1
Detroit	19	22	.463	1½
Kansas City	19	22	.463	1½
Minnesota	18	23	.439	2½
WEST DIVISION				
Athletics	21	19	.525	—
Texas	19	21	.475	2
Seattle	19	22	.463	2½
Houston	16	25	.390	5½
Los Angeles	16	25	.390	5½

Monday
L.A. Angels at Cleveland
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore
Tampa Bay at Toronto
Seattle at Houston

Sunday
L.A. Angels 6, Toronto 1
Baltimore 2, Athletics 1
Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1, 1st game
Minnesota 5, Cleveland 4
Chicago White Sox 2, Seattle 1
Detroit 6, Kansas City 3

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
L.A. Angels (Ureña 1-3) at Cleveland (Cecconi 2-4), 6:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Warren 4-1) at Baltimore (TBD), 6:35 p.m.
Tampa Bay (McClanahan 4-2) at Toronto (Corbin 1-1), 7:07 p.m.
Kansas City (Kolek 1-0) at Chicago White Sox (Fedde 0-4), 7:40 p.m.
Seattle (Woo 2-2) at Houston (Imai 1-0), 8:10 p.m.

INTERLEAGUE

Monday
Arizona at Texas

Sunday
Cincinnati 5, Houston 0
Texas 3, Chicago Cubs 0
Milwaukee 4, N.Y. Yankees 3

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Philadelphia (Wheeler 1-0) at Boston (TBD), 6:45 p.m.
Detroit (Flaherty 0-3) at N.Y. Mets (Peralta 2-3), 7:10 p.m.
Miami (Perez 2-4) at Minnesota (Ober 3-2), 7:40 p.m.
Arizona (Gallen 1-3) at Texas (Gore 2-3), 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Pallante 3-3) at Athletics (Springs 3-2), 9:40 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	28	13	.683	—
Miami	19	22	.463	9
Philadelphia	19	22	.463	9
Washington	19	22	.463	9
New York	15	25	.375	12½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago	27	14	.659	—
Milwaukee	22	16	.579	3½
St. Louis	23	17	.575	3½
Cincinnati	22	19	.537	5
Pittsburgh	22	19	.537	5
WEST DIVISION				
Los Angeles	24	16	.600	—
San Diego	24	16	.600	—
Arizona	19	20	.487	4½
San Francisco	16	24	.400	8
Colorado	16	25	.390	8½

Monday
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers

Sunday
Miami 5, Washington 2
Philadelphia 6, Colorado 0
Cincinnati 5, Houston 0
Atlanta 7, L.A. Dodgers 2
Arizona 5, N.Y. Mets 1
San Diego 3, St. Louis 2, 10 innings
San Francisco 7, Pittsburgh 6, 12 innings

Tuesday
All Times Eastern
Colorado (Lorenzen 2-4) at Pittsburgh (Skenes 5-2), 6:40 p.m.
Washington (Mikolas 1-3) at Cincinnati (Singer 2-2), 6:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Rea 4-1) at Atlanta (Holmes 2-1), 7:15 p.m.
San Diego (Waldron 1-1) at Milwaukee (Sproat 0-2), 7:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Houser 0-4) at L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 3-2), 10:10 p.m.

TELEVISION

TUESDAY (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

BASEBALL
MLB: Tampa Bay vs. Toronto, SN 1, 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL
NBA: Minnesota vs. San Antonio, NBC, TSN 1, 8 p.m.

HOCKEY
NHL: Buffalo vs. Montreal, CBC, SN Ontario, 7 p.m.
NHL: Anaheim vs.Vegas, SN Ontario, 9:30 p.m.
OHL: Kitchener vs.Barrie, TSN 4, 7 p.m.
QMJHL: Moncton vs. Chicoutimi, TSN 2,7 p.m.
WHL: Everett vs. Prince Albert, TSN 4, 10 p.m.

TENNIS
WTA/ATP Tour: Italian Open, TSN 5, 5 a.m., TSN 2, 1 p.m.

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Arsenal	36	24	7	5	68	26	79
Man City	35	22	8	5	72	32	74
Man United	36	18	11	7	63	48	65
Liverpool	36	17	8	11	60	48	59
Aston Villa	36	17	8	11	50	46	59
Bournemouth	36	13	16	7	56	52	55
Brighton	36	14	11	11	52	42	53
Brentford	36	14	9	13	52	49	51
Chelsea	36	13	10	13	55	49	49
Everton	36	13	10	13	46	46	49
Fulham	36	14	6	16	44	50	48
Sunderland	36	12	12	12	37	46	48
Newcastle	36	13	7	16	50	52	46
Leeds	36	10	14	12	48	53	44
Crystal Palace	35	11	11	13	38	44	44
Nottin' Forest	36	11	10	15	45	47	43
Tottenham	36	9	11	16	46	55	38
West Ham	36	9	9	18	42	62	36
Burnley	36	4	9	23	37	73	21
Wolverhampton	36	3	9	24	25	66	18

Monday
Tottenham 1, Leeds 1

Sunday
Burnley 2, Aston Villa 2
Crystal Palace 2, Everton 2
Nottingham Forest 1, Newcastle 1
West Ham 0, Arsenal 1

Wednesday
All Times Eastern
Man City vs. Crystal Palace, 3 p.m.

NSL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Ottawa	3	2	1	0	10	5	6
Halifax	2	1	0	1	3	1	4
Toronto	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Calgary	2	0	2	0	2	7	0
Vancouver	3	0	3	0	2	11	0

Sunday
Montreal 1 Toronto 0

Wednesday
All Times Eastern
Halifax at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 16
Montreal at Calgary, 5 p.m.

WHL PLAYOFFS

ED CHYNOWETH CUP

(Best-of-7; All Times Eastern)
PRINCE ALBERT (E1) VS. EVERETT (W1)
(Series tied 1-1)
Tuesday
Everett at Prince Albert, 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Everett at Prince Albert, 9:30 p.m.
Friday
Everett at Prince Albert, 9:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 17
x-Prince Albert at Everett, 10 p.m.
Monday, May 18
x-Prince Albert at Everett, 10 p.m.
x Ñ played only if necessary

ATP/WTA WORLD TOUR

INTERNAZIONALI BNL D'ITALIA

Monday
At Rome
Purse: €8,235,540
Surface: Red clay
MEN'S
SINGLES — ROUND OF 32
Jannik Sinner (1), Italy, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 6-2, 6-0.
Daniil Medvedev (7), Russia, def. Pablo Llamas Ruiz, Spain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Thiago Agustin Tirante, Argentina, def. Flavio Cobolli (10), Italy, 6-3, 6-4.
Andrey Rublev (12), Russia, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (21), Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
Andrea Pellegrino, Italy, def. Frances Tiafoe (20), United States, 7-6 (8), 6-1.
Nikoloz Basilashvili, Georgia, def. Brandon Nakashima (30), United States, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Martin Landaluce, Spain, def. Mattia Bellucci, Italy, 6-4, 6-3.
Hamad Medjedovic, Serbia, def. Mariano Navone, Argentina, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

WOMEN'S
SINGLES — ROUND OF 16
Elena Rybakina (2), Kazakhstan, def. Karolina Pliskova, Czechia, 6-0, 6-2.
Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Iva Jovic (16), United States, 5-7, 7-5, 6-2.
Iga Swiatek (4), Poland, def. Naomi Osaka (15), Japan, 6-2, 6-1.
Jessica Pegula (5), United States, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 7-6 (6), 6-2.
Mirra Andreeva (8), Russia, def. Elise Mertens (21), Belgium, 6-3, 6-3.
Elina Svitolina (7), Ukraine, def. Nikola Bartunkova, Czechia, 6-2, 6-3.
Sorana Cirstea (26), Romania, def. Linda Noskova (13), Czechia, 6-2, 6-4.
Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, def. Anna Kalinskaya (22), Russia, 6-1, 6-2.

WOMEN'S
DOUBLES — ROUND OF 32
Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini (1), Italy, def. Vittoria Paganetti and Gaia Maduzzi, Italy, 6-4, 6-3.
Alexandra Panova, Russia, and Marie Bouzkova, Czechia, def. **Gabriela Dabrowski, Ottawa, Canada**, and Luisa Stefani (4), Brazil, 6-2, 6-7 (4), 10-3.
Asia Muhammad, United States, and Anna Danilina (6), Kazakhstan, def. Xu Yifan and Xinyu Jiang, China, 6-4, 1-6, 13-11.
Nicole Melichar-Martinez, United States, and Cristina Bucsa (7), Spain, def. Jesika Maleckova and Miriam Skoch, Czechia, 6-2, 6-2.
Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, and Nadiia Kichenok, Ukraine, def. Ulrikke Eikeri, Norway, and Quinn Gleason, United States, 6-4, 6-4.
Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Laura Siegemund, Germany, def. Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Miyu (1994) Kato, Japan, 7-5, 7-6 (4).

RESULTS AS OF MONDAY, MAY 11, 9:30 P.M.

CORNERED

OFF THE MARK

SPEED BUMP

BIZARRO

Rays' resurgence shouldn't surprise anyone

Tampa Bay continues to find ways to field top teams despite being heavily outspent

MARTY KLINKENBERG



Toronto Blue Jays catcher Brandon Valenzuela, left, looks on as Tampa Bay Rays outfielder Chandler Simpson crosses the plate to score during the second inning of Monday's game at Rogers Centre in Toronto. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It may have come as a surprise to baseball fans to wake up on Monday and find that the Tampa Bay Rays had the American League's best record and the second-best mark overall in the major leagues.

From year to year they are overlooked by pundits and fans outside of central Florida but quite often end up creating havoc within the AL East Division, perhaps the toughest in Major League Baseball.

And now here they are again stirring up trouble against more heavily bankrolled powers from New York, Toronto and Boston. Tampa Bay pays its players a combined US$101-million, compared to the Yankees' US$292-million and the Blue Jays' US$283-million.

Yet the Rays entered the first of three games at Rogers Centre on Monday atop the AL East. They had won eight of their previous nine contests and 14 of the past 16, including a three-game sweep of the Blue Jays in St. Petersburg, Fla.

As usual they are doing it with exceptional pitching, timely hitting and tight defence.

"Not surprised," Toronto's George Springer said a few hours before Monday's game. "They have really good players and they have always had them. They are well managed and play together.

"They are always able to pitch, hit well situationally and always have a knack for rising to the occasion in big moments."

Since losing three of their first four series they have won seven of the last nine. They began this visit facing pitcher Kevin Gausman, who was in pursuit of the 2,000th strikeout of his career.

At the same time, Tampa Bay went with its ace Drew Rasmussen (2-1). The Rays have won eight straight season series versus Toronto.

Tampa Bay pitchers entered the evening having allowed three or fewer runs in a franchise-record 16 consecutive games, the longest streak in the big leagues since 2010. Over that span they had yielded just 24 runs and led all major league pitching staffs in seven categories.

"Their pitching is always good and their defence keeps them in a lot of games," said pitcher Patrick Corbin, who will get the start for Toronto on Tuesday against Shane McClanahan. "They have a mindset that their guys buy into.

"They are a small-market team without a lot of so-called big-name players but they have done this for quite a long time now."

Kevin Cash has managed the Rays since 2015 and with him in charge nearly always outperform.

"I am very impressed with the guys have played this year, and they want to keep doing it," Cash said beforehand. "Our guys do a pretty good job at what they are good at."

No argument there.

"What is this, about 15 years with them being very good?" Blue Jays manager John Schneider said.

"Everyone calls them pesky or upstart but the top of their lineup is as good as anybody's in baseball and they seem to have a never-ending supply of great pitchers."

BATTERED BLUE JAYS CONTINUE TO SHUFFLE THE ROSTER

Addison Barger's start to the 2026 season continues moving forward like a sad country song.

On Monday the Blue Jays placed the power-hitting outfielder on the 10-day injured list due to inflammation in his right elbow. Barger returned to the lineup on Saturday after missing a month with an ankle injury and was back on the IL fewer than 48 hours later.

Manager John Schneider said Barger may have had nagging soreness in his elbow on Saturday and could have aggravated it further when he made a 101-mile-per-hour throw from right field to catch Jorge Soler of the Angels out at home plate.

"He is disappointed, as are we," Schneider said of Barger before Toronto met the Tampa Bay Rays in the first of three games at Rogers Centre. "For him and a lot of other guys it has been a tough start.

"I don't think I have written up a lineup all season that included all of the guys we expected."

After banging out 21 home runs and driving in 74 in 2025, Barger has been limited to one hit in 22 at-bats. He had a cortisone shot earlier Monday in hope it would aid in his recovery.

The club called up impressive rookie Yohendrick Pinango from Triple-A Buffalo and he started in left field against the Rays.

In addition, Schneider said that veteran right-hander Jose Berrios, who has been slow to come back from a hairline fracture in his right elbow, is expected to see a surgeon in Dallas on Tuesday. Fellow starting pitcher Max Scherzer is expected to have a cortisone shot in his ailing right thumb as well.

Other than injuries, the biggest news of the day was that Toronto designated left-hander Erik Lauer for reassignment. Lauer, who is 1-5 with a 6.69 earned-run average, allowed six runs in five innings in Sunday's loss to Los Angeles.

"It was a tough decision and it's a tough business," Schneider said. "It was a tough conversation for him and maybe caught him off guard a little bit. He was professional about it and understood.

"We are just trying to move in a different direction."

MARTY KLINKENBERG

Hit the road 'Caps: Vancouver prepares for FIFA World Cup

GEMMA KARSTENS-SMITH
VANCOUVER



Vancouver Whitecaps defender Tristan Blackmon said that road trips can be a great time for team bonding. AMANDA LOMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a season marked by FIFA World Cup-induced schedule quirks, the Vancouver Whitecaps are embracing the strange.

The Major League Soccer club spent more than a month at home this spring, playing five straight games at B.C. Place between March 21 and April 25.

Now, as the stadium readies to host soccer's biggest showcase, the 'Caps are becoming road warriors with eight straight away matchups.

Life on the road has its perks, said defender Tristan Blackmon.

"You can just have bonding time together," he said. "Obviously, we have a really close group anyway, but it's fun to go on trips, and especially when you're doing well. It's fun to go into other stadiums and try to take points away from the home team."

Going from a heavy dose of sleeping in your own bed to airplanes and hotel rooms can be jarring, though.

"Having that long stretch at home and going on the road is a little bit weird," said striker Brian White. "Because everyone has their own routine, so you get stuck in your home game routine, so then you have to figure out what your away routine is again. And so it gets a little weird going back on the road, but it is what it is."

The Whitecaps sit second in the MLS standings with an 8-1-2 record and, with 1-1 draws away at the L.A. Galaxy and San Jose Earthquakes over the past two weeks, the club is 1-0-2 away from home.

A grass playing surface is being installed at B.C. Place before it hosts seven World Cup games, starting with a matchup between Australia and Turkey on June 12. The construction meant the 'Caps had to clear out well before FIFA takes over the stadium this week.

While he prefers home games, head coach Jesper Sorensen likes road trips for how he and his staff can work with players away from the field.

"It makes it easier for us as a coaching staff, if we want to show something, we have a lot of time around the training sessions," he explained. "Players don't have to go home or anything. We can call them in for small meetings and show them stuff and videos."

"There is a lot of travel, but there's also time in the schedule to relax a little bit. And, yeah, maybe me do some little bit of fun stuff as well."

There are many more road games to come, starting Wednesday when the squad visits FC Dallas in Frisco, Tex. The Whitecaps will then take on the Houston Dynamo on Saturday before heading back to Vancouver for recovery and training.

The team will finish off the first stretch of the season with a visit to San Diego FC on May 23.

When MLS play resumes in mid-July, the 'Caps will resume their road swing with visits to the Chicago Fire, Cincinnati FC and Minnesota United before finally returning to B.C. Place on Aug. 1 to host Los Angeles FC.

"It's a lot of time on the road with the guys and it's always fun to have a lot of meals together, hang out, a lot of downtime together," White said. "So it's like another little preseason."

For several years, the Whitecaps have held their preseason camp in Marbella, Spain. There, players and staff alike spend several weeks together, focused on soccer without any of the distractions of home.

That camp is a "very important part of the year," White said.

"Everyone goes away for the off-season, so you get to see each other again, catch up, new guys get into the fold, so you get to learn about them on and off the field," he said. "It's important to build that chemistry in preseason, and then that leads into the regular season as well."

Last year, the Whitecaps went 8-4-5 on the road in regular-season play, and added ample extra miles en route to the CONCACAF Champions Cup final and their fourth straight Canadian Championship title.

Those experiences have helped make the group stronger, Blackmon said.

"I think we've just been through a lot of moments together, and I think that builds just a belief among everybody, even with the additions of new players. I think they can feel that kind of culture when they get here," he said. "And obviously it helps when everything's going in the right way, and you're winning games and getting points every week."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



When Montreal Canadiens head coach Martin St. Louis, centre, was hired with a mandate to develop a young, rebuilding team he had a limited coaching résumé. MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES

St. Louis at the heart of Canadiens' playoff run

Head coach has led Montreal out of a rebuild and into the hunt for the Stanley Cup

DANIEL RAINBIRD MONTREAL

As a hockey-obsessed kid growing up in nearby Laval, Que., Martin St. Louis loved when the Canadiens went on deep playoff runs because it meant more nights past his bedtime.

"I grew up 20 minutes from here, and all my idols were the Canadiens," St. Louis said Monday. "I was able to stay up late in the playoffs. I could watch the whole game."

Now the head coach of his boyhood team, he's the one giving thousands of kids across Quebec a reason to ask their parents for a few extra minutes before bed.

St. Louis has guided the Canadiens out of a rebuild and into the hunt for the Stanley Cup in Montreal, where hockey madness has taken on a new dimension this spring.

The Hall of Fame player is taking it all in, whether during the "unbelievable" pre-game ceremonies he says he'll "remember forever" or on his usual walk to the Bell Centre.

"You feel the support from all the fans out there. I don't live far, I walk here," he said. "You just feel like we're all in this together with the fans. They're proud, they're happy, [you hear] a lot of 'good luck's,' 'great job.' It's a lot of fun."

As one of the faces of the franchise, the determined, inspirational coach is a big reason the excitement is so high.

St. Louis arrived in Montreal with a mandate to develop a young, rebuilding team. He has since shifted into win-now mode – and he's thriving.

The Canadiens are the youngest team in the playoffs and lead the Buffalo Sabres 2-1 in their second-round series, with Game 4 on Tuesday night in Montreal.

St. Louis's fingerprints have been all over Montreal's run, from betting on forward Kirby Dach to bounce back following a Game 2 gaffe to inserting veteran winger Brendan Gallagher to provide a spark in Game 5 of the opening round against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Against Buffalo, several players credited St. Louis for rallying the group with a pre-game speech before Game 2 after Montreal dropped the series opener. And so far, the Canadiens have not lost consecutive games this postseason.

"Pushing the right buttons at the right time," winger Cole Caufield said of his coach last week. "He's more confident in our group, the way he handles himself, we're confident in what he's doing."

There were skeptics when the Canadiens first hired St. Louis, a smart hockey mind whose coaching résumé was limited to Peewee hockey. But the undrafted winger turned NHL MVP believed his extensive playing experience would translate behind the bench.

That background has shaped his empathetic coaching style, something he said hasn't changed even as he's become more serious about winning.

"I'm not afraid to wear my heart on my sleeve, I'm not afraid to tell the truth, but there's always an empathetic angle that I have also, because I've felt what they've felt," St. Louis said Sunday morning. "I've made the same mistakes, I've cost the team, I have made big plays.

"When we have these moments of truth … it comes from a place of, I've been there before, and here's how I can help you."

Dach has felt that as he's worked through injury setbacks over the past three seasons.

"He's phenomenal," Dach said. "On a personal level, on a coaching level, he's able to connect with each guy in this room and find a way to drag the best out of you."

Defenceman Kaiden Guhle said a key moment in St. Louis's evolution came last season, when the coach said his players "puked all over" themselves after an ugly 6-3 loss to the Washington Capitals that October.

The intense team meeting – and gruelling bag skate – that followed marked a shift in tone.

"That's when it flipped, and he became more of a winning-now coach," Guhle said following Monday's optional practice. "He doesn't really yell at guys … but he demanded more.

"You look back at my first two years, it was a lot of development. He wanted us to win, but we knew we were still in a rebuild mode and [he was] trying to teach us how he thinks the game and how he wants us to play. … It's been cool to see that part of evolve, this year especially."

Defenceman Noah Dobson, acquired from the New York Islanders last summer, quickly noticed St. Louis's dedication.

"His passion and love for the game and that fire, but also [he's] just super intelligent," said the 26-year-old from Summerside, P.E.I. "He's been awesome to learn from."

Veteran centre Phillip Danault returned to the Canadiens in a December trade after parts of five seasons with the Los Angeles Kings. He said St. Louis's game-to-game adjustments stand apart.

"We put more emphasis on the neutral zone, forecheck … just little details," Danault said. "Marty brings in those details that I have never seen before."

Never seen before?

"Offensive mindset like that? No," Danault said. "He brings some touch-ups every game in the neutral zone. … Brings details every game, which I didn't see in the past. That means to me he's watching the game and he's thinking about the next game, what details he can do against certain teams, so very smart, very smart.

"It's good to play for a coach like that. I've never been part of this."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PWHL POSTPONES MINNESOTA-MONTREAL GAME 5 OUT OF PLAYER SAFETY CONCERN

MONTREAL Game 5 of the Professional Women's Hockey League semi-final between the Montreal Victoire and the Minnesota Frost has been postponed for what the league calls "player safety concerns related to illness."

The league made the announcement hours before the opening faceoff on Monday and said a rescheduled date will be announced soon. In a release, the league did not detail the nature of the illnesses that caused the postponement, but said a medical assessment determined that the symptoms are not consistent with hantavirus.

The rodent-borne disease has drawn attention in recent days after several Canadians were identified as contacts linked to a deadly outbreak aboard an Antarctic cruise ship, though no Canadian cases have been confirmed.

The PWHL said an update will be provided within a day. The league said tickets for the game will be honoured on the rescheduled date. Information on obtaining refunds will come at a later time.

The best-of-five series is tied 2-2. The Victoire are looking for their first playoff series win, while the Frost won the Walter Cup in each of the league's first two seasons. The winner of the series faces the Ottawa Charge in the final. The Frost beat the Charge in four games in last year's championship series.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAPLE LEAFS, SPECIAL ADVISER SHANE DOAN PART WAYS AFTER THREE SEASONS

Shane Doan and the Maple Leafs have parted ways.

The former NHLer has left the organization after three seasons as special adviser to the general manager, a league source confirmed to The Canadian Press.

Pierre LeBrun of TSN and The Athletic was first to report the move. Doan's contract with Toronto was set to expire at the end of June.

His return seemed unlikely after the Maple Leafs fired GM Brad Treliving in March, with the club set to miss the playoffs for the first time in a decade, and then replaced him with John Chayka last week.

Doan played 21 seasons for the Winnipeg Jets/Arizona Coyotes franchise from 1995 through 2017.

Chayka was GM of the Coyotes from 2016 through 2020, including Doan's final season in the desert.

After retiring as a player, Doan worked for the NHL and the Coyotes, along with management roles for Hockey Canada.

Doan recorded 972 points (402 goals, 570 assists) across 1,540 regular-season games with the Jets/Coyotes.

A two-time NHL all-star, Doan was the recipient of the Mark Messier Leadership Award in 2012 and the King Clancy Memorial Trophy in 2010.

He represented Canada at the 2004 World Cup of Hockey, the 2006 Olympics and six world championships.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pegula putting family experience in NFL and NHL to use in tennis prize money protest

ANDREW DAMPF ROME

Talk of a boycott from top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and Jannik Sinner has grabbed attention.

Behind the scenes, it's been Jessica Pegula, the 2024 U.S. Open runner-up, organizing the top tennis players in their protest with the Grand Slams over the share of tournament revenues devoted to prize money.

It comes naturally to Pegula, who grew up in a household of sports managers: Her parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and the NHL's Buffalo Sabres.

"I think it maybe does [come naturally] just because I feel like I've taken on a bit of a leadership role with it," Pegula said.

Already this year, No. 5-ranked Pegula was named to lead a new 13-person panel to suggest changes to the women's tennis calendar, rankings points rules and the requirements about competing in certain events. Now she's taking on the prize money issue, too.

"I'm not afraid to go up to any type of player and go like, 'Hey, are you interested in this or not?'" Pegula said. "Some players, they don't care, sometimes they're not worried about it. Sometimes they're like, 'Yeah, for sure, I'm 100 per cent in.' I've been reaching out to players on the men's and women's side."

Sabalenka said last week the players should consider a boycott for a bigger slice of tournament revenue, while Sinner said there's a lack of respect.

"At the end of the day the players are the ones that have the big voices," Pegula said. "It's been nice to see Aryna and Jannik kind of step out. I know a lot of other players feel the same way. But to have the two No. 1s very outspoken about it, that's kind of what it takes to get them to listen."

PLAYERS' SHARE DROPPED IN PARIS

Whereas in the NFL and NHL athletes take home about 50 per cent of the revenues, at most tennis events the number isn't even half of that. The upcoming French Open is allegedly devoting under 14.9 per cent to the players – down from 15.5 per cent in 2024, according to a players' protest statement issued last week.

Roland Garros organizers announced last month they were increasing overall prize money by about 10 per cent for an overall pot of €61.7-million (US$72.1-million), with the total amount up €5.3-million from last year. But the players' said that the underlying figures tell a very different story.

"It's crazy. It's an insane difference. Obviously they're different sports. They're run differently," Pegula said, comparing tennis to the NFL. "But tennis has been a very old-school sport. I think it's one of the things that needs to change. Sometimes change is good. Sometimes that means fighting for things."

The same group of players sent a letter a year ago to the heads of the four Grand Slams seeking more prize money and a greater say in decision-making. Wimbledon increased its 2025 total pot by 7 per cent, the U.S. Open by 20 per cent and the Australian Open this past January by 16 per cent.

Still, the players say the Grand Slams don't match the rate of 22 per cent at regular ATP and WTA Tour events.

"The slams have kind of just gotten away with paying not that much because we're a very individual sport," Pegula said. "It's hard to get players to come together. We're not on a salary where football players or basketball players can afford not to play."

Organizers at the French Open, which starts in less than two weeks, have not responded to requests for comment.

Wimbledon is due to announce its prize money next month and Pegula said the players have not had a response from the All England Club.

"We're just going to kind of continue to talk amongst ourselves," she said.

One of the big issues affecting tennis governance is that there are seven organizing bodies: The four Grand Slams, the ATP, the WTA and the International Tennis Federation.

"That's what makes it so hard is that our sport is super fragmented. Hard to get everybody on the same page," Pegula said. "That's why it's been huge to actually have the top 10 men and women really come together. I'm hoping that will get the Slams' attention."

PEGULA ADVANCES IN ROME

Before she gets to Paris, Pegula has been perfecting her clay-court game at the Italian Open, where she reached the quarter-finals with a 7-6 (6), 6-2 win over Anastasia Potapova on Monday. She routed Rebeka Masarova 6-0, 6-0 in the previous round.

Pegula will next face three-time Rome champion Iga Swiatek, who beat four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka 6-2, 6-1.

SABRES' PLAYOFF RUN

In between her matches and prize money activist duties, Pegula has been struggling to watch the Sabres' run to the playoffs for the first time in 15 years due to the time difference between the U.S. and Europe.

The Montreal Canadiens beat the Sabres 6-2 in Game 3 on Sunday night to take a 2-1 lead in their second-round playoff series.

"My gosh, I am so upset that I have not been able to see any of the games," Pegula said. "I would give anything to just be at a playoff game. … I love it so much. It's my favourite thing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Earlier this year Jessica Pegula, who is ranked No. 5 in the world, was named to lead a new 13-person panel to suggest changes to women's tennis. ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP



Wizards representative John Wall, left, and NBA deputy commissioner Mark Tatum pose for photos after Washington won the first pick in the NBA basketball draft lottery in Chicago on Sunday. NAM Y. HUH/AP

Kelly: Sports are meant to be even, not fair

FROM B13

All that he wants to do is love you (once you send him the money for that operation). If this Brad Pitt turns out to be a catfish, I'm sure next year's Brad Pitt will be the genuine article.

The NBA's move nudges sports executives to use their gigantic brains to think their way through problems, rather than defer that professional responsibility to a spinning wheel.

It won't stop the tank. The idea is too alluring. Everyone will try a little bit harder, until it becomes clear that trying isn't getting them anywhere. With 10 or 20 games left, that's when they begin their freefall through the standings. The future belongs to the demure tank. Watching the worst of the worst trying to scramble up to fourth could be fun, though.

Here's my idea – total randomness, in every league with a draft. Put 32 NHL team names in a hat and draw them out one by one. Then you run the thing back in the opposite order for the second round, like a fantasy draft.

Is this fair? No. That's why it's great. Sports isn't meant to be fair. It's meant to be even. It's not the same thing.

Where is the fairness in penalizing good teams for being good? Nobody looks back on those seventies Canadiens rosters and says, 'Great teams, but a little too good if you know what I mean.'

Wouldn't it be fun if teams like that still roamed the continent? Instead, we've HR'd the superteam out of existence. We can't have them making all the other teams feel bad about themselves.

Under a random system, you may be worrying that your wretched team, which has always been wretched, will continue to be so forever. Picture me putting a comforting arm around you as I say that you're right. Your team will never win. Never. Not because of the draft. But because it is run by people who have no idea what's going on.

They're doing what all the rest of us do at work – they're guessing. When they guess right, it's because they're geniuses. When they guess wrong, it's got something to do with statistics. And if they guess wrong at a truly heroic level, then they are given the best teenage player available, which lets everyone know they were playing a long game.

Meanwhile, through good years, bad years and indifferent ones, the club continues to separate you from your money. Did you buy a new jersey every year? Get that upgraded cable package? Then everyone on your team is winning. You're the only one who's losing.

Tempo: Team's partner philosophy has been 'fewer, bigger, better,' revenue officer says

FROM B13

Allison Litzinger, senior vice-president of marketing for Sephora Canada, was one of those early callers. The beauty retailer quickly became the team's founding sponsor.

Its sponsorship focuses on inclusion, diversity and belonging. Sephora branding adorns the Tempo jersey, and its arena, from the court to the hallway where players enter to show off their fashion on home game days, or the microphones they use in press conferences. Sephora also provided a "glam space" for the players' hair and makeup needs on media day. The partnership is visible in community activations too, and in Sephora stores.

Ferkul said Litzinger's vision for Sephora Canada and the Tempo inspired her U.S. counterparts at Sephora to do a deal with the WNBA's Golden State Valkyries and with Unrivaled too, the popular off-season three-on-three league where many WNBA players play.

Reitmans, the Canadian women's clothing brand, was another welcome phone call for Ferkul. The clothier, in its 100th year, wanted to reimagine its identity and saw opportunity with the Tempo.

Reitmans has branding in Toronto's arena and is the presenting sponsor of the Rhythm Section, the Tempo dance team. The company designed custom uniforms for the female members of the co-ed dance team, under its activewear banner, Hyba. Reitmans is also curating outfits for Tempo executives.

"Inaugural seasons set the tone – they're when culture forms and attention is at its highest," said Isabelle Bonin, vice-president of marketing for Reitmans.

"For us, it's a way to connect with a new generation of women in a space that feels current and relevant, not forced."

Although many of the Tempo's brands are female-focused, not all are, and in fact that strategy wasn't top of mind for Ferkul.

She points to a deal with Johnsonville, the popular sausage brand, which was keen to position itself within the emerging culture ecosystem of women's pro sports in Canada. She said it will lean in on the marketing idea of girl dads, especially around Father's Day, and the theme of grilling and viewing parties.

The Tempo did a collaboration with Lego when they put out their schedule, communicating the teams and dates via an animated Lego video.

Fans at Friday's inaugural game might have seen the Tempo's own Sprite can – the iconic green soda can emblazoned with the team's Bordeaux-coloured logo.

They may also have noticed the presence of another founding partner, CIBC. The deal has many facets, including a Day 1 campaign. It focuses on fans from the inaugural season, and on the Canadians who blazed trails in women's basketball, like Sylvia Sweeney and Tamara Sutton-Brown, who attended the first game.

Intuit TurboTax Canada and FanDuel are also partners. Instacart is the title sponsor of the Canadian broadcasts.

GoodLife Fitness is the team's official gym partner, another Canadian brand making its entry into women's sports. As part of the deal, it helped create the team's weight room inside Coca-Cola Coliseum.

While 17 partners seems like a lot, Ferkul says the philosophy actually has been "fewer, bigger, better."

"A lot of sports properties have many more partners, but we don't want to dilute value or put our partners in a sea of logos," she said.

She has to balance revenue targets with moral clarity, making sure a partner's values align with the Tempo's.

Exclusivity is huge – being the team's official bank or beauty partner. But Ferkul said partners also find it appealing to capitalize on this being "Canada's team," so can step outside the traditional marketing radius and engage customers from across the country.

Research done by Canadian Women in Sport in 2024 showed that when fans of women's sports see a brand sponsoring their favourite team, they're more likely to take notice of that brand, to consider them for their next purchase, and to feel more favourably about that brand. Ferkul says that tidbit goes a long way with sponsors.

"Outside of the cultural relevance that basketball brings, the rocket ship that this league is on, the bespoke opportunity to be part of an inaugural team and build something from scratch, it's also that fan," said Ferkul. "Because at the end of the day, they are also accountable to driving business for their brands."

WORLD CUP DEBUTANT CURAÇAO PARTS WITH COACH AMID REPORTS OF ADVOCAAT'S RETURN

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO World Cup debutant Curaçao parted company with coach Fred Rutten on Monday amid reports Dutch veteran Dick Advocaat is returning to the team he led through qualifying.

The uncertainty around the smallest nation by population ever to qualify for a men's World Cup comes less than five weeks before a testing opening game against Germany in Houston.

Rutten took the job in February after the 78-year-old Advocaat stepped down citing his daughter's health issues.

Under Rutten, the team lost two warm-up games in March – against Australia and China, both in Australia – with players reportedly wanting Advocaat back.

"I regret how things unfolded but I wish everyone the best," Rutten said in a statement posted by the Curaçao soccer federation. He previously coached Dutch clubs Twente, PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord, and Schalke in Germany.

The federation is expected to hold a news conference on Tuesday.

Curaçao is joined by Ghana, Morocco and Saudi Arabia in changing coaches since the World Cup draw in December.

Curaçao is an autonomous territory of about 156,000 people in the Caribbean within the Netherlands kingdom. The team relies almost entirely on players born and raised in the Netherlands.

The team also will play Ecuador in Kansas City and Ivory Coast in Philadelphia at the first 48-team World Cup. The expanded format gave three extra guaranteed entries to CONCACAF.

Advocaat took his native Netherlands to the quarterfinals at the previous World Cup in the United States, in 1994, and coached South Korea at the 2006 edition in Germany.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

TO PLACE AN AD CALL: 1-866-999-9237
EMAIL: ADVERTISING@GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

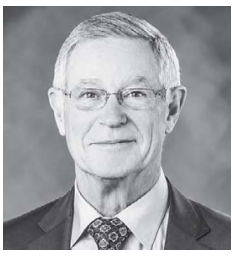
TO ADVERTISE 1-866-999-9237
ADVERTISING@GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

BUSINESS HOURS (EST)
MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:30AM – 5:30PM
SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS 1:00PM – 5:00PM

DEADLINES (EST)
NEXT DAYS' PAPER – SUBMISSION 2:00PM DAY PRIOR
PAYMENT/APPROVAL 3:00 PM DAY PRIOR

AUTOMOTIVE

DEATHS



DR. JONATHAN "JONNY" CHARLES GINSBURG

It is with profound sadness that the family of Dr. Jonathan "Jonny" Charles Ginsburg announces his passing on May 10, 2026, with his loving wife and son by his side. Jonny was a highly respected physician specializing in Internal Medicine and Cardiology and served the community through West Lincoln Memorial Hospital for many years. He was admired for his medical expertise, compassion, humility, and exceptional bedside manner, touching the lives of countless patients, colleagues, and friends throughout his career. He will be remembered for his kindness, intelligence, generosity, gentle spirit, and wonderful sense of humour. Jonny was the devoted husband of Karen Ginsburg for 50 wonderful years; and a loving father to Michael (Cat), Jason (Kay), Antony (Michelle), and Matthew, who predeceased him, and is survived by Lauren. He was also a proud grandfather to Eden, Jordan, Maeve, and Leia. He will also be lovingly remembered by his siblings and their spouses, David and Lynne Ginsburg, and Margie and Monty Grunebaum, along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, colleagues, and dear friends. Visitation and funeral services will be held Tuesday, May 12, 2026, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at George Darte Funeral Chapel in St. Catharines. A private Shiva will be held Wednesday, May 13, 2026. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health for The Matthew Ginsburg Scholarship Fund (foundation@theroyal.ca) or WLMH Foundation Memorial Giving.

JESSICA WILLIAMS

On Sunday, May 10, 2026. Beloved daughter of Susan and the late David Applebaum. Loving mother of Dara and Matt, Ivy, Shelby, and David (D.J), Sister and sister- in-law of Jason Applebaum, Dale Applebaum and Lauren Woods, and Laura Hamilton. Dear aunt of Saige, Cassie, Paige, Orly, Aidan, and Erin. At Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, 2401 Steeles Avenue West (3 lights west of Dufferin) for service on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Shiva at 662 Sheppard Avenue East, suite #1402, Toronto. Memorial donations may be made to Gilda's Club Greater Toronto, 416-214-9898 or https://bit.ly/42wCikG or Nankind, 416-730- 0025 or www.nankind.com

FUNERAL SERVICES

Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel
100 YEARS
Through the generations... a sacred trust

MONDAY
MANDELL, Edith - 10:30 Chapel.
BROWN, Beverley - 11:00 Mount Sinai Memorial Park.
STREICHER, Sydney - 12:30 Chapel.
SIEGER, Harvey - 2:00 Mount Sinai Memorial Park.
SCHWARTZ, Muriel - 2:30 Chapel.

WEDNESDAY
WILLIAMS, Jessica - 4:00 Chapel.

UPCOMING SERVICES
FRONENBERG, Rena - See www.benjamins.ca for updates.

SHIVA
GHERT, Bernie - 394 Morrison Road, Oakville, Ontario.
RODNEY, Rochelle - 222 Arnold Avenue, Thornhill, Ontario.
HOLLANDER, Rosemary - 1 Ames Circle.
STREICHER, Sydney - 62 MacArthur Drive, Thornhill, Ontario.
SIEGER, Harvey - 67 Carl Tennen Street, Thornhill, Ontario.

BENJAMIN'S LANDMARK MONUMENTS
YAD VASHEM AT LANDMARK
3429 Bathurst St. (416) 780-0635

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
TRADITIONAL SERVICE
3429 Bathurst Street 416-780-0596

CLASSIFIED

TO PLACE AN AD: 1-866-999-9237
ADVERTISING@GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

MERCHANDISE

WANTED TO BUY

I MAKE HOUSE CALLS!
I BUY:
Estates, Antiques, Silver Plate & Sterling, Gold & Costume Jewelry, Watches, Coins, Stamps, and World Paper Money
WANTED:
Diamonds, Rolex, Cartier, Faberge, Tiffany, Georg Jensen, etc.
Call Bob 416-605-1640

Report on Business
TO SUBSCRIBE 1-866-999-9237
TGAM.CA/SUBSCRIBE

Your newspaper subscription includes full access to globeandmail.com

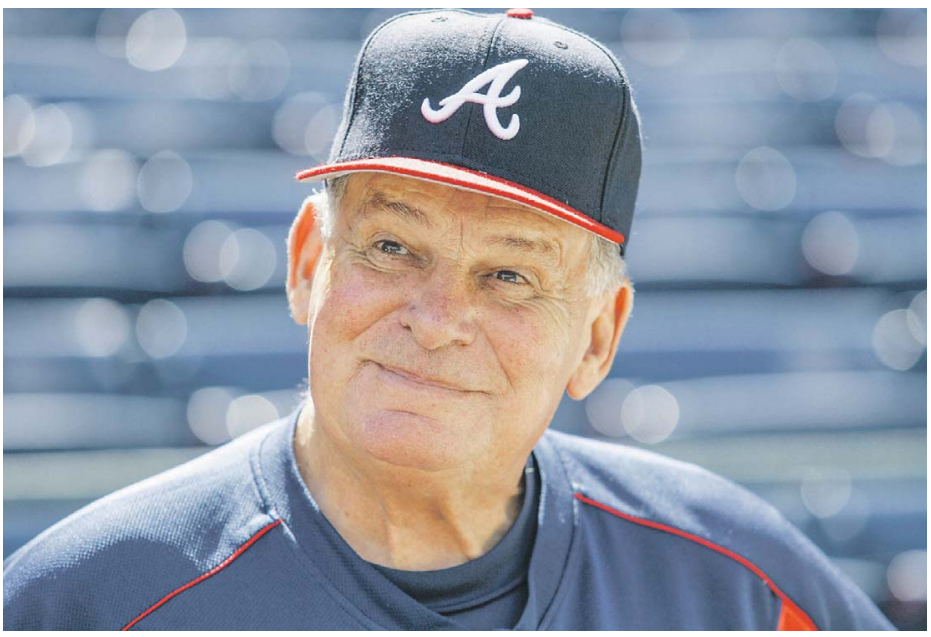
Activate it today

Visit tgam.ca/activate to create an account and activate your digital access

BOBBY COX

BASEBALL COACH, 84

BRAVES MANAGER'S TEAMS RULED NATIONAL LEAGUE, WON 1995 WORLD SERIES



Bobby Cox managed the Atlanta Braves for 25 years, led the team to its first World Series title in 1995, retired after the 2010 season and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2014. ED REINKE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Through his managing career he led both Atlanta and the Toronto Blue Jays, and he sits fourth all-time with 2,504 wins, fifth with 4,508 games, and first with 15 division titles, including a record 14 in a row

CHARLES ODUM ATLANTA

Bobby Cox, the folksy manager of the Atlanta Braves whose teams ruled the National League during the 1990s and gave the city its first major title as well as World Series trips that fell short, died Saturday. He was 84.

Mr. Cox died in Marietta, Ga., according to the Atlanta Braves. He had a stroke in 2019 and heart issues that complicated his recovery.

"Bobby was the best manager to ever wear a Braves uniform. He led our team to 14 straight division titles, five National League pennants, and the unforgettable World Series title in 1995. His Braves managerial legacy will never be matched," the Braves said in a statement.

Mr. Cox took over a last-place team in June, 1990, and led the Braves to a worst-to-first finish in 1991, losing the World Series to the Minnesota Twins in seven games. That was the start of what was to become a record 14 consecutive division titles, a feat no professional team in any sport had accomplished.

He managed the Braves for 25 years and led Atlanta to its first World Series title in 1995, retired after the 2010 season and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2014.

Mr. Cox ranks fourth all-time with 2,504 wins, fifth with 4,508 games, first with 15 division titles including a record 14 in a row, first with 16 playoff appearances and fourth with 67 playoff victories. Only Connie Mack, John McGraw and Tony La Russa had more regular-season wins than Mr. Cox.

"He was the first one to the park every day," Atlanta manager Walt Weiss said of Mr. Cox. "He'd have his spikes on at 12 o'clock. I never saw a manager wear spikes, but that was one of Bobby's trademarks. He just loved the game. He loved the game, and he loved leading a group of men trying to win a championship."

Mr. Cox also was first in being ejected from 158 regular-season games. Mr. Weiss, who called Mr. Cox instrumental in bringing him back to the Braves as a bench coach, was asked if he might get tossed in Mr. Cox's honour.

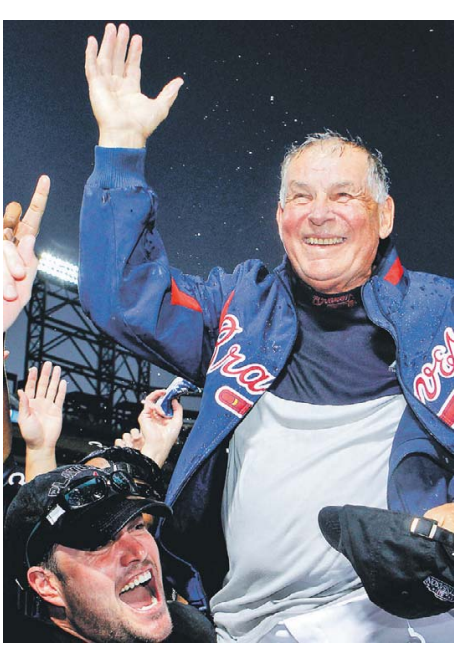
"It's a different game now, you know, a very different era," Mr. Weiss said. "Nobody can do it like Bobby, believe me."

Mr. Cox's death came four days after that of fellow Atlanta icon Ted Turner, who as owner of the Braves lured Mr. Cox back to the team in 1990.

The Braves retired Mr. Cox's No. 6 jersey in 2011, when he joined the team's Hall of Fame.

"RIP my second father," Andruw Jones wrote on social media. The 10-time Gold Glove winner with Atlanta in July will become the sixth who played for Mr. Cox with the Braves to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Mr. Cox spent 29 seasons as a major-league manager, including four with the Toronto Blue Jays. He managed 16 postseason teams. He brought an old-school approach to the dugout. He always wore spikes and stirrups, and his fatherly demeanour inspired loyalty from his players.



Mr. Cox is carried by Atlanta's Matt Diaz during an on-field celebration after an October, 2010, playoff victory against the Philadelphia Phillies at Turner Field in Atlanta, Ga. MIKE ZARRILLI/GETTY IMAGES

Hall of Fame pitcher Greg Maddux said players around the league always wanted to know what it was like playing for Bobby Cox: "The first word that comes to mind is respect. He had that from players. When Bobby talked, we listened. We wanted to play for him."

Mr. Cox was the first NL manager to win at least 100 games in a season five times. He was Manager of the Year four times and the only one to win in consecutive years (2004, 2005). He also had close ties with his successors, Fredi González and Brian Snitker.

He regularly attended games and spring training before a stroke in 2019 that affected his speech and movement. Mr. Cox recovered enough to visit the Braves later that season, watching a game from the press box level. His wife, Pam, said in 2020 that heart trouble slowed his recovery from the stroke.

His long marriage survived a 1995 confrontation in which he was accused of hitting his wife in the face. He was charged with simple battery and in custody for an hour. The following day, Bobby and Pam appeared at a news conference and each denied he hit her in the face.

Mr. Cox said the couple would seek counselling. The charge was eventually dropped.

Despite all his regular-season success, Mr. Cox won only the one World Series title in five tries. He led the Braves to Atlanta's first major professional sports championship in 1995, beating Cleveland in six games to win the World Series. Mr. Cox said critics usually focused on the World Series losses instead.

The Braves lost in 1992 to Toronto in six games and in 1996 in six to the New York Yankees before being swept by the Yankees in 1999.

"It's a game of breaks when you get down to a four-game, must-win series," Mr. Cox said. "We've played well. We're proud of what we've done."

Born in Tulsa, Okla., on May 21, 1941, Mr. Cox graduated from Selma High School in California in 1959 and attended nearby Reedley Junior College before signing with the Dodgers for a US$40,000 bonus.

He spent seven years in the Dodgers' farm system before being traded to the Braves' organization, playing one year at Richmond (1967). He was traded to the Yankees for Bob Tillman and Dale Roberts and played third base for his only two seasons in the majors (1968-69) before bad knees forced him to retire at age 30.

Mr. Cox began the first of six years as a minor-league manager in 1971. He returned to the majors in 1977 as a first base coach for the Yankees, who went on to win the World Series.

His first major-league managerial job came with the Braves in 1978. The best season of his first stint in Atlanta was an 81-80 finish in 1980, and he went 266-323 in four seasons.

The Blue Jays hired Mr. Cox in 1982, and he led them to their first American League East championship in 1985, in his fourth and final year there. He was lured back to the Braves as general manager by Mr. Turner, their outrageous owner and visionary media mogul, in 1986.

As GM, his Atlanta teams never had a winning season, but Mr. Cox did develop players key to the Braves' success in the nineties: Tom Glavine, John Smoltz, Jeff Blauser and others. He returned as field manager on June 22, 1990, after Russ Nixon was fired.

Mr. Cox usually shied away from the limelight and was uncomfortable when talking about himself.

"Honestly, I'm just doing my job. I let everything else fall where it may," he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIVES LIVED

CORINNE LANGSTON SCOTT

Writer. Actor. Musician. Mother.

Born Aug. 25, 1929, in Winnipeg; died Jan. 15, 2026, in Toronto, of pancreatic cancer; aged 96.

Two traumatic events in Corinne's early years would leave an indelible imprint on her life. At age 7, she was caught in the polio epidemic. Forced to stay in bed for a year, she wrote stories and put on plays for visiting friends, the characters made of dolls she cut out of paper. Corinne would go on write to over 100 short stories, theatrical plays and documentaries which were produced by CBC, BBC, TVO and a variety of North American publications. At 94, she published her last article, a piece about the benefits of climbing stairs, in The Globe and Mail.

The other seminal event was the death of her mother when Corinne was 15. To cope with the loss, she found her way to the Maclean Mission church in Winnipeg, where she played piano and led choirs. She also directed plays and made a point of including children with disabilities as actors despite the disapproval of the pastor. But that was typical of Corinne, following her mother's example and spreading love as widely as she could, while standing up for the underdog.

In her 20s she worked multiple jobs to become the first in her family to attend university. Her time at United College (now University of Winnipeg) opened her to a world of arts and literature. Upon graduation, she headed to England where she landed a small role in a musical in London's West End, sold her first play to the BBC and spent a summer singing six days a week at the seaside town of Margate. More adventures in Europe (including illicit gun-runners and a businessman who sent her love-letters in Italian) became material for Corinne's stories.

Despite growing success in the U.K., in 1959, Corinne was homesick and returned to Canada, where she met English actor, director and sculptor Desmond Scott. Desmond acted in a radio show she wrote – Corinne thought he was dashing and aloof – but he refused to cast her for the lead role in a play he was directing. Despite this snub, she eventually agreed to marry him in 1961. In search of more theatrical work, they set off for Toronto where they first stayed with an actor friend. Their first child was conceived in his flea-infested apartment, the walls papered with unpaid parking tickets.

In Toronto, Corinne juggled her professional work while looking after two small children. As a mother, she was devoted to Amanta and Dominic. Friends teased her that the children were raised on asparagus, artichokes, avocados and anchovies, but Corinne was determined to provide nourishing but also interesting foods. Dinners were always spiced with stories, conversation and laughter. A born storyteller, Corinne couldn't go to the corner store without returning with a story to share. Like the time Corinne and Desmond flew home from a work trip to Mexico. Their airline wanted to bump them from the oversold flight but Corinne staged a full theatrical meltdown. "I have to get back to my babies!" she wailed. Two seats magically materialized.

In Toronto, Corinne continued to lead choirs and played the organ at both Manor Road United Church and Leaside Presbyterian Church. Music was her vehicle to finding spiritual meaning, bringing joy and fun to all who sang with her or who listened to her choirs.

When she and Desmond bought an old three-storey house on Belcourt Road in 1970, Corinne thought it was average and declared they would not stay long. It would be the family home for the next 55 years. The annual Christmas party led to caroling around the neighbourhood full of festive spirit if rarely tuneful singing. Corinne's hospitality was legendary – one year she entertained 57 times.

For Corinne, the real jewel of the house was her garden, which in springtime bloomed with more than 1,000 tulips. To protect her garden, she chased squirrels (plus the odd rabbit) around the yard. In contrast, the birds and the raccoons she adored.

"Old" was not a word in her lexicon. In later years she continued to be fiercely, indeed stubbornly, independent. It particularly annoyed her when she would get on a city bus and, as she put it, "everyone would leap up to give me their seat, as if I am a little old lady."

After Desmond died in 2019, Corinne was not content to fritter away time watching TV. She turned again to writing, exploring themes of aging and grief. Corinne made all people feel special and worried about everyone's safety. In her 90s, while still refusing to use a cane herself, she routinely offered it to people 30 years her junior. She died in her home at age 96. But even on her deathbed, she expressed concern for how her care workers would get home on a cold winter night.

She leaves a legacy of love.

Dominic Scott and Amanta Scott are Corinne's son and daughter.



Corinne Langston Scott

To submit a Lives Lived:
lives@globeandmail.com

Lives Lived celebrates the everyday, extraordinary, unheralded lives of Canadians who have recently passed. To learn how to share the story of a family member or friend, go online to tgam.ca/livesguide*