



INDIGENOUS LEADERS DEMAND CLIMATE ACTION

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RECOMMENDED
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Experts call for climate solutions

Carlo Cantisani
Environmental Reporter

Deborah McGregor knows perfectly from her experience what is missing from the Canadian climate strategies. McGregor, as an Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation, said a sole focus on carbon doesn't leave room for Indigenous knowledge in climate solutions.

"I find that these strategies focus a lot on carbon, it's an important approach, but climate change has also to deal with equity, justice, and health issues," McGregor said. "From an Indigenous perspective, those are paramount because Indigenous peoples [fare] not as well in terms of health indicators and well-being indicators."

According to the Indigenous Climate Hub, climate change has numerous severe effects on Indigenous communities who rely on the environment for their survival and culture, including having an altered diet, accessing essential services like clean drinking water, changing pathways and transportation, and transferring Indigenous Knowledge (IK) from one generation to the other.

McGregor, who is also an associate professor and Canada research chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University, said carbon emissions are going to increase for some time even if the net zero goal is reached due to the high amount of GHG emissions already produced in the atmosphere.

"It's kind of like being in a boat, you're moving along, and even if you stop paddling, the boat is still going to be moving forward. You actually have to go lower than net zero. You have to have degrowth," McGregor said.

Samantha Whiteye is a First Nation from the Eelunapéewi Lahkéewiit community northeast of Chatham, Ont., and the Indigenous Leadership Director at the Carolinian Canada Coalition. She said cutting carbon emissions is just a small part of climate solutions and more efforts are needed to support biodiversity and natural resources.

"Without green infrastructure, life-supporting the soils, the waters protecting our air and all of our natural resources that have [been there] since the Earth was created, net zero is not going to be the only be-all-answer," Whiteye said.

"You equally have to look at what is the life around you supporting, and how are you building that landscape up to rapidly accelerate and build resilience for climate change," she said.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/GRAHAM HUGHES

Steven Guilbeault, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, speaks at COP15 in Montreal.

The pace at which the climate crisis has been worsening in the last few years has led some Indigenous communities to declare states of emergency.

The first was the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Old Crow, Yukon, in May 2019, followed by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) declaring a global climate crisis just two months later. The AFN called for a First Nations-led climate strategy and a national gathering to advance climate advocacy, which happened in March 2020 in Whitehorse.

McGregor said climate change exacerbates a lot of the vulnerabilities that Indigenous communities deal with, and climate plans should include decolonization since some strategies deemed as solutions can be problematic for more vulnerable communities.

"Canada, the province, and the city don't like to talk about colonization as being part of climate change because that's hard work and would require different kinds of structures and processes to be in

place," McGregor said. "That's what Indigenous people want to see."

Capitalism goes together with colonization and contributes to accelerating the climate crisis, McGregor said.

For Whiteye, climate strategies should be planned out with neighbouring communities from day one of the process.

"Unless you're including Indigenous voices in all the decision-making process from the beginning, that to me is not going to work for First Nations communities," Whiteye said.

Creating ethical spaces is a deep commitment for Whiteye as they are crucial in finding a common ground for both Indigenous Knowledge and Western science.

"Ethical space is a space where you co-create it together," she said. "It's where two knowledge systems can come together to not only thrive in parallel to each other but to also adopt the strengths of each."

But even if there are some efforts to bring Indigenous Peoples to the table, there is still resistance along

the way, Whiteye said.

"When you talk about ethical space with leading experts in the sector, they don't understand it and they don't understand what it looks like because it's never been emulated as well in a settler society," she said. "Whereas in Indigenous cultures, we've always understood, rooted around our values as people, our protocols when we gather. Ethical space has always been embedded in that."

McGregor highlighted how Indigenous Knowledge can play a key role in bringing more awareness to people in their everyday lives.

"There's no checklist for that. It's the way that you see the world and how you want to be in the world," McGregor said.

"How do you try to take only what you need? How do you try to be in a world that isn't based on consumption? How can you be resilient? A lot of Indigenous Knowledge is those values and I think Indigenous peoples have that to offer," she said.

ETC •

Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program's laboratory newspaper.

It is created by journalism students in the Advanced Diploma and Post Graduate Certificate programs. Et Cetera serves to inform the Humber community and give its readers well-rounded coverage on the things that matter to them.

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Humber students rally for Palestine

Mikulas Horvath
Business Reporter

Echoes from protesters' megaphones bounced off the walls in the IGNITE Backyard on Tuesday.

About 40 protesters chanted "Free! Free! Palestine!" as Humber students protested the invasion of Palestine at Humber's North campus on Tuesday.

The student club from the University of Guelph-Humber, Voices for Justice, arranged the protest in support for Palestinian freedom. It was held in The Backyard, an outdoor venue located at the south-west portion of the campus.

Isa, one of the protest organizers, said their community is growing rapidly.

Milah, a Voices for Justice organizer, said they want to keep growing and spreading the word about Palestinian freedom through social media and beyond. She said the organization is considering in-person workshops.

Milah and Isa did not reveal their last name for privacy reasons.

"It's to get to know people around the school and hopefully get to know students here who are Palestinian who don't really have a



SANTIAGO HELOU QUINTERO

Members of Voices for Justice, a Guelph-Humber student club, covered their face to protect their identity because of fear of doxing.

voice," Isa said.

Milah said the group would like to try and organize a similar protest.

"We'd like to try another protest again or some kind of gathering like this," she said. "It was good, everybody had a platform to talk, so we're going to try having more initiatives around the school."

There were also post-graduates,

professors and the public at the protest.

Cries of "Shame!" punctuated the cold air as speakers criticized Israel for its violent actions against Palestinian civilians.

"Shame falls upon those who cannot utter the words occupation, apartheid and genocide," one speaker said.

Blades, an attendee at the protest,

said this is her first time supporting Palestinian freedom in-person after seeing support online.

"I think it's extremely important to have in-person connections because a lot of our activism is mainly online," Blades said.

Blades said it is important to feel positive when protesting and being around people fighting for the same movement makes her more

comfortable.

"It tends to feel like you're in your own world online," she said. "It might feel like you're alone and it's very easy to feel like all of the weight is on you, but there's people around you that are feeling the same things as you."

"The protest does not conclude here, it thrives in every act of solidarity," another speaker said.

Remembering the victims of Polytechnique

Samuel Belton
News Editor

On Dec. 6, 1989, a gunman attacked Polytechnique Montreal with an anti-woman motive.

According to a statement from the university, issued in remembrance of the attack, 14 young women lost their lives ranging from 20 to 31 years old. In addition, 13 other people were injured.

The lives cut short included a dozen engineering students, one nursing student, and a young employee in the finance department.

The federal government also named Dec. 6 "The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women" because of the attack.

"This event also serves as an occasion to reaffirm our enduring hope for and belief in the future. While time cannot fully heal so great a wound, life is sacred and it is important that we honour it, even with our pain," the statement said.

The university's statement said it emphasize courage, solidarity, and "dedication to equity" in the Poly-



THE CANADIAN PRESS/RYAN REMIORZ

Flowers are left Dec. 6 at the memorial for the 14 victims of the Polytechnique attack in Montreal.

technique community by remembering the devastating event.

The lives lost were: Geneviève Bergeron, 21, Héléne Colgan, 23, Nathalie Croteau, 23, Barbara Daigneault, 22, Anne-Marie Edward, 21, Maud Haviernick, 29, Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz, 31, Maryse Laganière, 25, Maryse Leclair, 23, Anne-Marie Lemay, 22, Sonia Pelletier, 28, Michèle

Richard, 21, Annie St-Arneault, 23, and the youngest, Annie Turcotte, 20.

"The triumphs and successes of our community are the most sincere way to honour the 14 women whose lives and dreams were dramatically and unjustly cut short," the statement said.

In the week before the anniversary, there have been several com-

memorative activities.

This included "Week of the White Rose", an event introduced by Polytechnique in 2014, the 25th anniversary of the attack.

It is an annual fundraiser that gives all proceeds to Folie Technique, whose goal is to give young girls from disadvantaged communities a chance to participate in science camps, aimed at sparking

their love for engineering and science. This is done by selling virtual white roses.

Members of the Polytechnique community and the general public are invited to donate.

The ninth "Order of the White Rose" scholarship ceremony was held on Dec. 4. This is a \$50,000 scholarship given to a Canadian engineering student seeking graduate studies.

Between Dec. 4 and Dec. 6, Polytechnique also gave out white ribbons to be worn in remembrance and solidarity, and to raise awareness of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

On Dec. 6, white ribbons were also handed out at the Université de Montreal's Roger-Gaudry building, which was also illuminated in remembrance.

Flags at Polytechnique, as they are every year, were also flown at half-mast all day on Dec. 6.

Humber College observed the day in a message to staff and faculty.

Last year on Dec. 6, Humber flew flags at half-mast in observance of this day.

LRT construction closes pathways near Humber

Sam Belton
News Editor

Humber Communique announced sidewalk and pathway closures, and the opening of a new road, near the Finch West LRT station.

On Dec. 18, a new connecting road going east from President's Way to Highway 27 will open. This is a connection between parking and a main road in this area.

Rob Kilfoyle, Humber's director of public safety and emergency management, said the new road will take some pressure off Humber College Boulevard for students leaving campus to go south.

"I think that's probably one of the key benefits," Kilfoyle said.

Also, the pedestrian walkway through Lot 5, connecting Arboretum Boulevard to the new LRT station, is blocked at the station until it is open. It is advised pedestrians only use that walkway to go towards campus.

The sidewalk on the south side of Humber College Boulevard, adjacent to Lot 5 and the new station will stay closed. Humber pedestrians must walk across to the north side of the street, at the intersection of Silver Bell Lane and Humber College Boulevard, to get to Highway 27.

Kilfoyle said the sidewalk closures are temporary, only lasting until the station opens.

"We were hoping that people will take advantage of the new walkway along the new road going out to 27 if they're going in that direction," Kilfoyle said.



SANTIAGO HELOU QUINTERO

Sidewalk, pathway closures were recently announced. The Humber College station of the Finch LRT has caused lane closures for years.

People should not walk on the closed sidewalks, he added.

Kilfoyle believes the benefits outweigh the inconvenience, saying the LRT will benefit the campus, students, faculty, and staff.

"I would say that it's worth it," he said, speaking on the inconvenience caused by construction.

"It provides a more direct transit link to campus, particularly coming across the city," Kilfoyle said.

He said it is easier than riding a bus to Kipling station to get downtown.

Kilfoyle also hopes the LRT will reduce the bus traffic coming to campus.

"We're never gonna get rid of the buses. That's not the intention, but if we can even reduce the number of buses, that would be great," he said.

Students will be able to board the LRT right on campus and ride to another subway line, making locations easier to reach.

"This will provide students, I think, with more opportunity. It'll lessen the need for parking on campus as well, with any luck," Kilfoyle said.

Angelo Presta, associate vice-president of Facilities Management and Development at Humber College, said it adds options for students, who could decide whether to leave a car at home or not own one at all.

Presta said the LRT is an environmentally sustainable way to travel. He said if everyone drives, fossil fuels are being burned and there are challenges from climate change and increased carbon.

"By having mass transit, the whole system runs on electricity.

Ontario has a very clean electrical grid. So, it is environmentally sustainable," he said. "It fits into Humber's long-term goal of reducing its carbon footprint."

Presta said the inconvenience of road closures was short-lived. "That has predominantly ended and we just have some minor clean-up in construction to move forward in the springtime," Presta said.

This makes him proud, along with other achievements made by Facilities Management. "Like any project, there is a pride of completion and it's the success of getting involved and making certain that the needs of Humber and the needs of the constituents of Humber, staff, students are met through the project," Presta added.

Presta is proud of working for his department because of the opportunities they provide their

staff.

"It's excellent to be part of a team that is a leader in the college industry and the post-secondary industry in sustainability and energy management and providing leading edge, new construction and development," he said.

He said they have invested in facilities and spaces to provide a good experience for students. Being a part of that is fabulous, he said.

"Coming to Humber has been one of the thrills and the best decisions I've made in my career," Presta said. Metrolinx said on their website that getting from Humber College to Finch West subway station will take about 33-34 minutes.

Vehicles will arrive every five to seven minutes at peak hours, and seven to 10 minutes at off-peak hours.

Students demand change in degree program

Claudia Ovejero Pham
Skedline Reporter

Students in Humber's Bachelor of Journalism degree program must complete 420 hours of internship to graduate, but students increasingly say they are struggling with finding a placement and ensuring they are able to continue paying the bills as they complete their hours.

Internships happen during the summer between the third and fourth year at Humber. The required hours must be completed before the beginning of the fall semester in order for students to be able to complete their degrees. The internship requirement is set by the Ministry of Education.

In addition to students having to find internships on their own, many internships in the industry

are unpaid, including the prestigious CBC internship. According to the Living Wage Network, the living wage rate for the Greater Toronto Area is \$25.05 per hour this year.

Cheryl Vallendar, a journalism professor and program coordinator at Sheridan College and a member of J-Schools Canada executive committee, believes students should get paid for their work.

"I don't think a lot of people can afford to work for six weeks and not get paid, especially with the prices the way they are right now," Vallendar said.

"People have to pay rent for groceries, transportation and sometimes students have to pay for transportation to get to work where they're working for free. So you're paying to go to work,

which I think is just really unfair."

In October of last year, J-Schools Canada released a statement on their commitment to ensuring paid placements, recognizing the impact this has on students and that action is needed in the current internship system.

Along with pay issues, many students have expressed frustration at the internship search system and the state of intern options in the journalism industry.

Kyle Drinnan, a Humber Journalism Degree student, said, "I've never received any personalized help. This program at Humber doesn't really take into consideration how to help get your foot in the door."

For Drinnan, the struggle was in the lack of guidance and support. He was in the dark regarding the options available.

"There needs to be communication and someone who actually cares about the student getting a job instead of just filling in a requirement. It feels like a checkmark instead of a pathway to our career," he said.

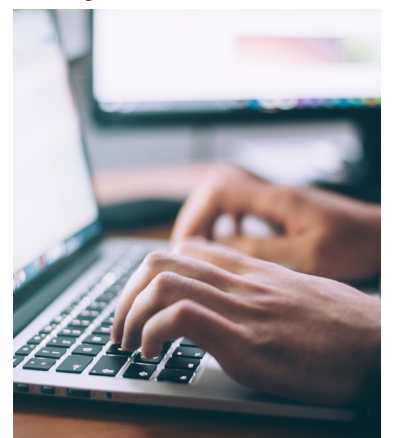
Humber was not available for comment at press time.

According to Vallendar, to help open up access to opportunities and combat some of these student struggles, J-Schools Canada has created a database of media employers in the country that member schools have access to. Internship coordinators are able to download it and share it with students to aid their search.

She thinks that in addition to sharing opportunities with students and empowering them to advocate for themselves in the internship search, colleges should

consider ways they can create opportunities for students.

More entrepreneurial Initiatives such as allowing students to earn placement hours for working on a passion project or pitching stories independently could be an option for J-Schools to consider moving forward.



UNSPASH / GLENN CARSTENS PETERS

Students against Ont. 5 per cent tuition hike

Krishna Bhagnathsingh
Campus Life Reporter

Paras Ralhan, a Humber international student, believes the suggested five per cent tuition hike recommended by Ontario's advisory committee on colleges and universities would hurt students.

"The college should help the students. They should do something for them," Ralhan said. "Is there any program where international students can fill out a survey or do something else to get [a decrease] in their studies?"

The Blue Ribbon Panel, Ontario's advisory committee on colleges and universities, recommended in November that tuition for post-secondary students rise by five per cent, effective September 2024.

This was partly due to inflation, according to its report. They also suggested a two per cent hike in each following year or an increase in the consumer price index percentage.

CEO of Colleges Ontario Marketa Evans said in a Nov. 20 Colleges Ontario press release that the tuition hike was about ensuring students' access to high-quality education.

"These investments in students' success will help ensure Ontario's



KRISHNA BHAGNATHSINGH

Humber College International students believe the five per cent tuition hike will hurt them financially.

future workforce has the expertise to succeed in a rapidly evolving labour market," Evans said.

For students like Harinder Rishi, an international student in the Wireless Telecommunications program at Humber, this is not the reality.

"[Tuition] matters most to the international students because now the expenditures they have to spend on their journey to Canada, like spending [money] in the colleges in Canada will be more expensive than it was before," Rishi

said.

Rishi said the hike will also affect him despite being in a one-year program at Humber. He will have to work more to handle his fees and to afford his education.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is "outraged" by these recommendations, according to their Nov. 20 press release.

The CFS represents over 530,000 students across Canada.

"The justification that students must share the financial burden of already chronically underfunded

post-secondary institutions by increasing tuition fees is not only preposterous but also shows a lack of insight and care for students by the government," the statement said. As such, students "vehemently reject" the recommendation.

Jill Dunlop, minister of colleges and universities, said in a statement that the report is a major milestone for supporting post-secondary education.

"Our government is carefully reviewing the panel's recommendations to create a path forward

that will continue to strengthen the post-secondary sector," the statement said.

"Before agreeing to any tuition increases, however, we need to ensure that colleges and universities are taking the necessary steps to ensure that they are operating as efficiently as possible," it added.

"It's tough," Ralhan said. "Five per cent is more. Like you can raise it by one per cent or two [per cent]. It would still be high, but students will think it's just like one per cent and not five per cent."

Aniruddha Ghosh, an international student, said he is disappointed by the tuition hike and worried about his future.

"I'm not in favour of this five per cent hike, and after hearing this, I'm really disappointed," Ghosh said. "Now, I'm wondering if I have to work more to get more [money]."

Ghosh said he has been in Canada for three months and has yet to find a job, which poses a problem for him.

"I believe the government should work towards creating more jobs if they are hiking the tuition fees," Ghosh said.

The government expects to work with post-secondary institutions in the coming weeks regarding these recommendations.

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EDITORIAL

Audiobooks are replacing physical books for many

The pandemic saw a significant rise in readers but many are turning away from physical books and embracing audio as their medium of choice.

A survey by BookNet reports 60 per cent of people who participated in the survey said they read at least one book in the past month.

BookNet Canada is an organization that conducts market research and develops technology and analysis for the book industry.

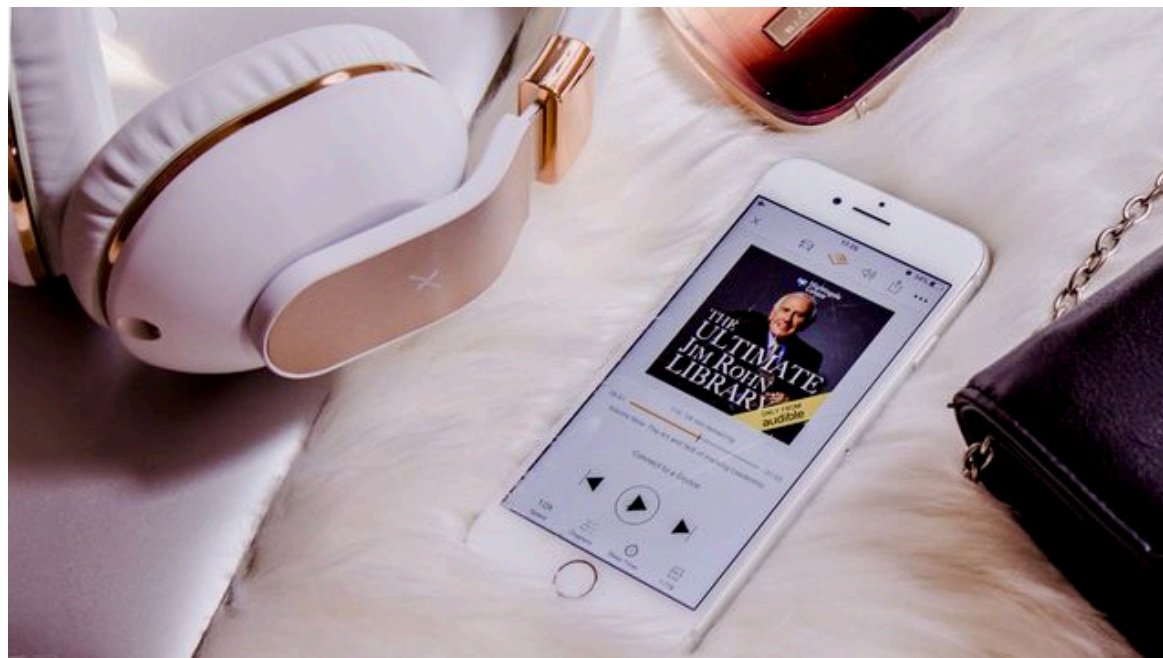
In our fast-paced world, where everyone is always connected online, storytelling has taken on a new form that people like — audiobooks.

More and more people are getting into audiobooks. It's changing the way we enjoy stories. Unlike regular books, audiobooks give a special and immersive experience.

The number of people who listen to audiobooks has increased in the last few years.

A Pew Research Report found one in five Americans listen to audiobooks.

While there has been a certain decline in the readership of printed



UNSPASH/LENA KUDRYAVTSEVA

books, there has been an increase in the audiobook listeners.

The trend is not limited to the United States alone. The Publishers Association reported that one out of five British book buyers have shifted to audiobooks.

The primary audience has been the adults between the ages of 18

and 44.

The reason behind the surge in the number of audiobook listeners can be associated with the convenience it provides.

People can listen to audiobooks while doing their daily chores or while driving. It helps while multitasking, which is what everyone in

this busy world is doing.

The pandemic saw a rise in non-fiction readers as self-help books sold more than fiction books.

All the self-help book readers are switching to the audio format, thus increasing the number of audiobook users.

Beyond the convenience of multitasking, wireless earbuds and Bluetooth headphones make it even more enjoyable to dive into audiobooks, whether at a cafe or working out.

Reading from screens can be tiring, and there are so many distractions, so audiobooks offer a different way for people to enjoy stories without straining their eyes.

It's like having someone tell you a story while you go about your day.

In a survey by Wordsrated, 23 per cent of Americans listened to at least one audiobook in 2021, which was 15 per cent more than in 2020.

The growing trend of audiobooks is not just a temporary thing. It is changing how we enjoy stories.

Audiobooks might not become as popular as regular books or ebooks in the near future, but their growing popularity is a big change in how we consume literature.

We will have to wait and see how this new way of storytelling continues to shape our reading habits.

OPINION

AI can benefit newsrooms but the ends may not justify the means



Luca Furlano
Esports Reporter



ISTOCK IMAGES/VERTIGO3D

In newsrooms across the globe, AI technology has become an essential part of the story-creation process. It is commonly used in newsrooms to help make news a faster process.

While AI technology can be informative when creating stories, it lacks the awareness and thinking skills to avoid bias or adding wrong information while writing.

According to a report published by JournalismAI, a survey suggests 90 per cent of newsrooms are using AI in news production, 80 per cent in news distribution, and 75 per cent in news gathering.

That's almost the majority of the

important tasks in a newsroom being processed and completed by AI technology alone. These are all tasks that must be done with care and consideration since one wrong move could lead to misinterpretation of important information or even unintentional bias towards serious topics.

Humans of course can decipher between right and wrong, and as journalists, know what to add to a story to make a very truthful, fair, and informative report, but AI is just programmed to add in whatever information falls under what

is told to be used under a preset category, without ever thinking twice.

A perfect example of AI technology incorrectly producing stories is CNET's attempt to use AI technology. The goal was for AI technology to take the wheel, and only be given the information needed, to then produce the stories from the ground up all on its own.

According to a CNN report from January 2023, the technology was secretly being used for around two months since November 2022, and while this may have seemed like an

excellent idea at first, it eventually led to editors and readers finding multiple errors, such as incorrect information, or not crediting sources inside of multiple stories, which were generated by the AI technology.

CNET's editor-in-chief Connie Guglielmo said they used their own internally designed AI engine, and not ChatGPT, which most assumed was being used since it's well-known for being a quick and easy tool on stories and essays.

Even though it was confirmed they developed their own AI

system, this was only a test project. It still harmed their credibility as a reliable news source, since many of the stories readers found that day possibly had some false facts and lacked credit to other sources.

However, this does not mean newsrooms should completely disregard AI technology. There are benefits that it can bring to help with story creation.

It can help with data searching and fact-checking, which are both great examples of essential tasks that could take a while for a human journalist to complete.

CNET also sees this hidden potential as well, according to their AI policy. CNET plans to continue testing AI technology, to see how it can help benefit newsrooms with important tasks such as organizing large amounts of information and generating images and videos. With these tasks also being heavily moderated by editors before publishing, to have a fast and reliable process for creating news stories.

AI technology can still be used as an extra tool for human journalists, but it should never fully take over any newsrooms since there will be too much at stake.

OPINION

We need more women, equity in skilled trades



Zainab Raza
News Reporter



PEXELS/CHEVANON PHOTOGRAPHY

I believe that women are smart, powerful, strong and independent, and can do anything if they work hard. I also believe this is why we need more women in skilled trades.

Research from the Institute for Research on Public Policy finds that women, make less in skilled trades, even in female-dominated fields. Women with trade certificates earn an average of less than half, (46 per cent) of what men earn after eight years in the field. About 80 per cent of women in trades are certified as hairstylists, cooks and bakers where they earn an average between \$27,000 and \$41,000 and men earn between \$36,000 and \$51,000.

Even though the Skilled Trades

College of Canada says more women are considering careers in the trades, they are often the target of stereotypes and bias in the workplace.

Data also shows that women in trades may be assigned lower-skilled roles and get fewer opportunities because men have a specific stereotype surrounding what a trade worker looks like. The

fact that the majority of women are the primary caregivers for young children adds another barrier.

When it comes to high school students, I believe that colleges should show more advertisements or commercials of girls being in skilled trades so that high school girls can know that girls can work there, too.

Fanshawe College has hosted

workshops where young women interested in first-hand experience with skilled trades can get exposure. Ninety girls from Grades 9 to 12 explored their interest in electric, carpentry, plumbing and automotive work in a recent workshop.

Another possible solution is sensitivity training. It teaches men and women about life expe-

riences and perspectives in the workplace. It also explores the impact of words and actions and how some of them can be hurtful. Sensitivity training can help co-workers communicate better and work positively and appropriately.

Working in skilled trades is an economic prospect, and there should be economic benefits for women working in skilled trades. To attract women to skilled trades, they should get above-average pay and affordable training.

The highlights of The Gender Wage Gap report from the Labour Force Survey reveal that female employees in Ontario earned \$0.87 on average for every dollar made by a man. The gender wage gap is larger for racialized women, women who are newcomers, women who have disabilities and trans women.

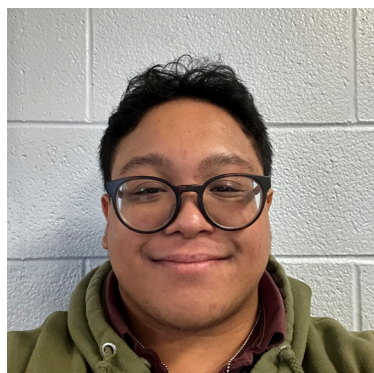
Part of the solution for closing this wage gap is to get women into careers where men have traditionally dominated, like skilled trades.

Every woman deserves to do what they want and to be treated as an equal human being in the workplace.

We should let women do what they want, and we should all support each other.

OPINION

Asian characters can, should be more than just their heritage



Gabriel Noda
Arts Reporter

Tell me if you've heard any version of this story before. An Asian person who lives in North America has a somewhat normal life and eventually finds out that because of their own or their family's past, they have to deal with the consequences of their ancestors and have to figure out what is happening to them to either set themselves free or eventually accept who they are.

If you have heard any version of

this story before, then great, you have learned the basics, and I do mean the basics, of what it is like to be an Asian character in the media.

Many of these characters are written to explain why the character is Asian even though they can exist without their heritage used as a plot point.

Filipino author Loridee De Villa says more conversations are needed surrounding these harmful stereotypes.

"I think there is just a lot of [media] out there that take cultural identities and they want to focus on negative aspects of it, being non-white I think in general is just harder and there are so many struggles that we definitely need to talk about," De Villa said.

Growing up as an Asian immigrant in Canada, it was hard to find any representation when I was watching movies or TV shows. There was Jackie Chan to go off of, but that was pretty much it.

"What about books?" you might ask. To my knowledge and memory of being a 2000s kid, there was probably Sunfire from the Marvel Comics series X-Men, but even the most loyal comics fans wouldn't have known or remembered who that is.

The most I got were characters who relied heavily on Asian stereotypes or Asian creatures to even seem the least bit interesting, like The Supah Ninjas, a Nickelodeon show that happened to have only one Japanese person in a trio ninja squad that lasted about two seasons and ended on a cliff hanger, or American Dragon: Jake Long by Disney which also lasted two seasons.

Probably the closest thing I got to feeling represented was Brenda Song, who played London Tipton on the Disney Channel show The Suite Life of Zack and Cody, because growing up, she seemed like a normal teenager who wanted to do good while also wanting to

make her father happy.

Now, don't get me wrong, there are so many Asian characters who don't rely on Asian stereotypes to feel interesting, like Mike Chang and Tina Cohen-Chang from Glee or Nini from High School Musical: The Musical Series.

One of the most common places Asians found representation during the 2000s and 2010s was through YouTube, with people like Ryan Higa, Wasabi Productions, and the first-ever all-Asian-American production studio Wong Fu Productions.

Wong Fu became a prominent staple in the Asian community, and as I got older, I watched stories that I could relate to on a more personal note. It felt like I could relate to these characters without my heritage being the thing to make me feel powerful and to make these characters feel cool.

I grew up watching stories like Yappie, a comedy series about the modern Asian American experi-

ence with Simu Liu, or Single By 30, about two high school best friends reuniting a decade after making a promise to get married if they are still single by 30.

I found myself watching these shows again as they became even more relatable as I got older, especially since they were stories that anyone could relate to even if they were not Asian. That is lacking in the entertainment industry right now.

Asians aren't just grand one-off heroes. We can be normal. We don't need a story about our ancestors and heritage being the reason why these Asian characters are interesting.

These characters can be interesting without our cultural identity and heritage being the driving factors.

If you don't believe me, ask London Tipton, Minho, Cristina Yang, and many other Asian characters who weren't created because of their heritage or cultural identity.



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**WE ARE
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Charles Officer Canadian filmmaker dead at 48

Leshae Barrett

Culture Reporter

Charles Officer, an acclaimed Canadian filmmaker, has died at the age of 48.

He is most known for being the director of CBC's critically acclaimed series *The Porter*, which depicted the lesser-known Canadian history of Black men who served as train porters in the 1920s.

Officer's work in the film industry has touched many souls during his time and has left an impact on those who have been reached.

Friend and Canadian director Sarah Polley shared some words in memory of Officer in a Instagram post following his death.

"My acting class partner, my film school classmate," Polly said. "The most pure and uncorrupted heart. More capable of sympathetic joy than anyone I've ever known in this industry and beyond. He revelled in other people's joys. Made you know he was watching and cheering you on. He made masterpieces. Loved so deeply and well. God, this is a big loss. For all of us."

Officer was born on Oct. 28,

1975, and died Dec. 1, 2023, after spending most of his life in film.

In his early life, Officer had played professional hockey in the U.K. but left the sport due to injury, and that is when he moved to film.

His first film, *When the Morning Comes* appeared at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2000 and his filmography grew from there.

Condolences have been made by many, with some even coming from social media posts made by the Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) and the Toronto Black Film Festival (TBFF).

"He left his lasting imprint on the Canadian film & television landscape, gliding seamlessly from acting, writing and producing to directing in feature films, documentaries and series television," DGC President Warren P. Sonoda said in an Instagram post.

He spoke of Officer's versatility and work ethic as well as his passion for creation before closing out his word.

"His loss will be felt and his presence missed. Thank you, Charles Officer, for everything you brought

to our community," Sonoda said.

Tonya Williams, an actress, producer and founder of Reel World Screen Institute shared some kind words as well.

"A beautiful soul, a creative genius. I loved this human being," Williams said on an X post.

"What a blessing that we got to know him even for this short time, what a blessing his impactful work will be around forever. #CharlesOfficer"

The Porter was the most nominated TV series at the 11th Canadian Screen Awards with 19 nominations over several categories and the biggest win for Best Drama Series.

The Canadian Academy shared on a social media post a few final words of their own for Officer in memory of his life.

"We are saddened to hear about the passing of Charles Officer." They said on an Instagram post.

"His creative spirit will continue to inspire those in our industry, and we will always recognize and celebrate the extraordinary stories he brought to life on our screens. Our hearts are with those who knew him and loved him."



CHARLES OFFICER/ COURTESY IMDB PHOTO
Renowned Canadian filmmaker Charles Officer at TIFF 2023.


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Humber hosts Unified Basketball tournament

Fernando Bossoes
Skedline Reporter

A unified basketball tournament where people with and without intellectual disabilities play together was held on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the North Campus gymnasium.

“When I’m watching a unified basketball game, I’m watching smiles, I’m watching camaraderie, I’m watching friendships develop – the focus is so different. You are watching basketball, but you also notice all those other little things that you may not get when the teams are so highly competitive,” North Campus Recreation Coordinator Jennifer O’Reilly said.

The tournament was held in collaboration with Special Olympics Ontario and followed the model of the Special Olympics Unified Sports.

That model encourages people with and without intellectual disabilities in team sports to build meaningful social engagement. Athletes of similar ages and skills are grouped and are equal contribu-



HUMBER HAWKS/KYLE GILMOR

Humber College hosts Unified Basketball tournament at North Campus gym to foster social inclusion.

utors to the game.

O’Reilly says hosting unified tournaments is important for inclusivity in sports.

“It’s so important because everybody plays together, everybody’s

contributions matter. It is meaningful competition on every shift, not just overall game. It’s a really inclusive sport,” she said.

Program Developer for Athlete Leadership & Unified Initiatives

with the Special Olympics Ontario Ryan Colpitts says it is an amazing opportunity for Special Olympic athletes to be paired up with varsity and athletic students.

He says this opportunity not

only grows and develops the special athletes’ abilities on the court, but also builds friendships.

“Playing unified sports is a great attribute to the athletes’ skill set and development as individuals,” he said.

“Making friends is a key aspect of any Special Olympic athlete, being able to make friends on and off the court is huge. They feel like they belong on a team and they are made for something,” Colpitts said.

Garnet Peters has been a Brampton Special Olympics coach for the past 16 years, and for him, this is the best example of what sport is supposed to be.

Peters says players in unified sports do not have any ego and engage in the sport purely out of their love for playing.

The coach says witnessing the athletes in action is the best satisfaction he could have.

“These guys think that they are at the NBA All-Star game, there is nothing better than that. That’s what keeps you coming back,” Peters says.

Humber yoga instructor builds community

Claudia Ovejero Pham
Skedline Reporter

Elaine Cerro is a yoga and Pilates instructor at Humber North and Lakeshore campus. She has been teaching in the community for over 18 years. Her classes range from Pilates on a ball to different yoga styles like Hatha and Vinyasa.

Cerro started teaching yoga in 2005 and has been deeply committed and involved in the Humber community for many years. She knows the college inside and out through her time working in administration, media studies and continuing education.

“It’d be 19 years this January that I taught at the gym. I would go there on my lunch hour and teach yoga,” she said, explaining how she started.

Cerro always loved practicing yoga and shares that she even recalls her practice goes way back to going to classes in a church

basement with her mother.

She later decided to get her 200-hour yoga teacher training certification in 2003 at Yoga Space in Downtown Toronto.

Cerro has observed through her many years of teaching that building community is essential. Students come back to classes when they find that they can resonate with their instructor or teacher in some way. That’s why she always does her best to encourage students and tries to create a safe space for them.

“My big thing is, don’t try to do what that person next to you is doing or don’t try to do. I just say, do what you can, or do more. And if you don’t want to do something, maybe some days you could do the splits, but you don’t feel like it, so don’t do it.”

Lisa Glotova is a Humber Lakeshore student who frequents Cerro’s classes twice a week. She thinks Cerro’s classes are always soothing

and a great way to unwind from long, tiring days.

“She always reminds her clients to listen to themselves and their bodies, always going back to your inner self through breath,” Glotova said.

As finals season approaches for students, Cerro wants to remind students, “they can master their thoughts, their actions, their words.”

From her expertise and many years of experience, she suggests students try to smile more often, watch some comedy, go for a nature bath, and being mindful of the way they speak to themselves to help cope with stress during this time.

If students are looking for some extra motivation or inspiration, Cerro recommends they watch one of her favorite movies, called “After Death.”

“Just get your feet off the concrete, out of the buildings and onto

the earth,” Cerro said.

She encourages students to make use of the nature around campus and free resources like the Humber Athletics Center, where students

can use the gym or attend classes like the ones she teaches for free.

Cerro offers classes at Lakeshore on Thursdays and Fridays, and Monday and Tuesday at North.



HUMBER ATHLETICS

Elaine Cerro has spent two decades building Yoga community at Humber.

Skedline



Hawks volleyball reaches 11-0 streak

Nicholas Prencipe
Sports Reporter

The Humber Hawks women's volleyball team maintain a perfect record of 11-0 going into the 2023 winter break.

They took on the Niagara Knights and St. Clair Saints in their final two games of the fall semester, and were dominant as they came away with three sets to zero victories in both.

The game against St. Clair was extremely important as the teams were separated by one win going in, and a loss would have seen both sitting in first in OCAA standings.

They didn't let that thought linger, and although St. Clair made each set close, Humber stayed grounded to secure their eleventh win.

Second year Libero Reese Cholette was named as a Humber athlete of the week for her outstanding play in games 10 and 11.

She had eight successful digs in the win against Niagara and a phenomenal game against St. Clair where she tallied a career-high 24



ISABELLE FERRANTE

Humber Hawks women's volleyball team is undefeated through the fall semester after going 11-0.

digs to go along with six assists.

Cholette said receiving the award means a great deal to her and the team.

"We all put in a lot of work on and off the court," Cholette said.

"Just to get some recognition now and then, it feels pretty good to know your work is going somewhere."

Recognition for the play of this team is continuously rising as they keep working their way up the national rankings. Humber's defence is what stands out the

most.

The team has become accustomed to shutting down opposition teams.

They have only dropped two sets throughout the entire season, both coming in November wins against Cambrian and Redeemer.

Cholette said the team's record speaks for itself.

"We have a really good team that works really well together," Cholette said.

"We have in mind the same goal so we hold each other accountable

to show up every day," she said.

The team is playing at an incredible pace, and another trip to the OCAA playoffs is looking more than certain.

The team currently sits first in the OCAA standings, and now are ranked third amongst all CCAA teams, only behind Lakeland and VIU.

A deep OCAA playoff run is nothing out of the ordinary for the team.

The team has won gold in back-to-back seasons, and in turn have

won 13 gold medals in the last 15 years. As well, Humber women's volleyball has claimed at least OCAA bronze in 19 of the last 20 seasons.

What has eluded this great team, however, is national glory.

Humber has claimed only two CCAA medals in women's volleyball since it began in 1978, those coming in bronze medal games in the 2015-16 and 2022-23 seasons.

Head coach Chris Wilkins said the team gained experience from last year's bronze medal win and are ready for whatever challenges lie ahead.

"I think we are better than last year," Wilkins said.

"I think we're deeper, I think we're stronger...but we gotta really hold ourselves to a high standard, so that if we do get to nationals, we'll be prepared," he said.

The team will use the holiday break to rest up and refuel before returning in the new year to battle for another chance at an OCAA playoff title.

The first game after the break is against the fifth place Niagara Knights on Jan. 10 at 6 p.m.

Canadian soccer stars retire from International play

Isabelle Ferrante
Sports Editor

There was not a dry eye in the BC Place on Dec. 5 as they witnessed Christine Sinclair's last game in a Canadian uniform.

After more than two decades in the sport, women's soccer superstar Sinclair has hung up her cleats and retired from international play.

She announced her retirement on Oct. 28 in an Instagram post, and since then the soccer world has been anticipating the final game.

Sinclair told reporters two days before the game that it was just hitting her.

"It's kind of sinking in now that this is it ... (I'm) just trying to enjoy every minute," Sinclair said. "There's no secret. It's a lot of work. But man, it's the best job in the world."

Vancouver's BC Place, renamed Christine Sinclair Place for the night, was rocking with 48,112 supporters, the most for a women's soccer friendly in Canadian history.

All of them were there to witness a Canadian soccer legend lace up her cleats one last time for the national team.

In the 40-year-old star's more

than two-decade-long career, she has collected a gold and two bronze medals at the Olympic Games.

She's also been named Canada Soccer Player of the Year 14 times and has scored 190 goals in international play, the most for both men and women.

Before the game was filled with tears, hugs, speeches, and pyrotechnics but when the whistle went, it was just like any game.

In the 58th minute against Australia, Sinclair took her final steps in the Canadian jersey after getting the call to substitute out – and the person to accept her captain's armband and spot on the field was Abbotsford's Sophie Schmidt.

The pair hugged and the final 32-plus minutes were also the last moments of Schmidt's career in Canadian colours.

Although Canada earned the 1-0 win, it was a celebration of the careers of two of the all-time greats in Canadian women's soccer.

Midfielder Quinn, who had the opportunity to share the field with Sinclair and Schmidt, said it was an emotional week.

"I think it's been a roller coaster of emotions all week," said Quinn, who goes by one name. "And I think people were kind of wondering how that was gonna go for them. I know people were getting

teary-eyed even in our walkout today.

"And in the locker room there's been so many moments that we've had today that have been quite emotional," Quinn said. "But I think, you know, we wanted to get the job done for Sinc and Soph tonight."

Forward Cloe Lacasse, who also plays for Arsenal, talked about the special night and what it meant to her and the team.

"Tonight was incredible. This is exactly how we wanted to send off those two legends, of course, it was so emotional just going out there, the starting 11 having Sinclair lead

us out," she said.

"I think everyone had tears in their eyes, but being able to end their careers in this incredible place — Christine Sinclair Place — with a victory, I mean, I think it's a dream for those two and they honestly deserve it more than anyone else," Lacasse said.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/DARRYL DYK

Christine Sinclair and Sophie Schmidt have laced up their cleats for the last time after retiring from international play.



After going 11-0 in the fall semester, the Hawks women's volleyball team has become accustomed to dominating opposition teams, and they hope to continue in 2024.

**HUMBER
HOSTS UNIFIED
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P.10**



**CANADIAN
WOMEN SOCCER
STARS SAY
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