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Humber's Student Newspaper

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'FACTS NOT FEAR'

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Misinformation, Tension at Queen's Park anti-queer education protest



ASHER KLAVER

David Mitges (left) holding up a counter-protest flag with a partner at the Queen's Park Anti-Queer Education demonstration.

Asher Klaver Politics Reporter

It's been two weeks since Bill 137 became law in Saskatchewan, making parental consent necessary for LGBTQ+ children to change their name or utilize their preferred gender identity at school.

This is the latest decision in a growing anti-LGBTQ+ movement in Canada partially fueled by the grassroots uprising, 1 Million March 4 Children.

1 Million March 4 Children had its second protest rally on Oct. 20 against sex education and the ability for children to identify as genderqueer within schools. Just over two dozen people were present at the event outside Queen's Park, about half of which were journalists covering the event and five of which were speakers.

In contrast, around 200 to 300 counter-protesters were present.

A speech outside Queen's Park was led by Scott Newgent, the CEO of SCREAMLouder.

Newgent, who wrote an article stating that gender-affirming care is more harmful than conversion therapy, is an American transgender man from Texas who associates himself with American right-wing political commentator and anti-LGBTQ+ activist American commentator Matt Walsh.

Walsh also describes himself as a theocratic fascist on his X bio.

Newgent opened his speech by describing the queer community as "perverts." One sign in the small crowd stated, "Education Not Deviation!"

A 2022 study showed gender-affirming care reduced depression by 60 per cent and suicidality by 73 per cent among transgender youth.

1 Million March 4 Children protesters used language described as aggressive and offensive to discuss gender-affirming education and the LGBTQ+ community.

Cristina Bairos-Fernandes, a mother of two who identifies as Christian, said that gender-affirming education is a tool of spiritual warfare.

"This is bigger than the schools, this is greater than parental duty," Bairos-Fernandes said. "This is a force moving to our world that I truly can't see as being anything other than psychological and spiritual warfare."

Fernandes ran to be a school board trustee in Waterloo, Ont., in 2022 but lost.

Maureen Sullivan, a member of Our Duty Canada, said educators are planting specific gender-affirming books in libraries to indoctrinate children.

"The time for assuming that educators are putting our children's education first is over," Sullivan said. "Clearly, their primary focus is to indoctrinate, not educate."

Sullivan said pronoun policies and transgender women are signs that society is heading towards a plan to break down the boundaries of what is acceptable behaviour regarding adults and children interacting.

Counter-protesters came out in full force, surrounding the handful of anti-LGBTQ+ protesters until they left Queen's Park.

Much of the counter-protests

were organized by Students for Queer Liberation Toronto, a student-run anarchist group, who engaged in a shouting match with religious protesters.

The counter-protesters shouted several slogans such as "facts not fear," "we're here, we're queer, we will not disappear," and "protect trans youth" for hours before marching down to Queen's Park.

At one point, a woman who did not identify herself, was pushed out of the counter-protester's circle. She then attempted to shove her way in and ripped a sign, leading police to intervene.

She then went to talk to multiple journalists at the scene, stating that there were cat litter boxes in schools and that it was part of the indoctrination of children while complaining that the media doesn't cover people like her.

Counter-protester David Mitges, a queer rights advocate who's been active in the community since 1993, said it's important people in the

community advocate since gay kids can't stand up for themselves.

"It's nice to see a lot of counter-protesters show up," Mitges said. "It's reassuring because a lot of gay kids in school in Canada can't stand up for themselves. It's the same with trans youth."

Mitges said the movement was sparked by far-right rhetoric in the United States.

"It's a catchy phrase, parental rights. Everyone wants parental rights," Mitges said. "But children are people, and they have rights, too. They have the right to be educated to things that are important to them."

Mitges reacted to Newgent's claim that being gay or lesbian is only about sex.

"It has as much to do as being as straight has to do with sex," Mitges said.

"We're all humans, we all like to interact, we all have jobs, we read, we sleep, we brush our teeth. It's a silly, prodigious comment."



ASHER KLAVER

A sign by counter-protesters reading children are not property.

ETC •

Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program laboratory newspaper. It is created 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 to push new tech with new program

Oleksandra Chorna
Skedline Reporter

Humber College is running a new graduate certificate program, aiming to help students practically use technologies.

Dubbed “Interactive Media Management — Creative Technologies,” the program is expected to run for three semesters — including the current one and is based at North campus. Most classes are held at the Barrett Centre.

David Neumann, a professor for the Faculty of Media and Creative Arts at North, said the idea for this initiative came from faculty members.

“They identified the need for better understanding and more immersion into emerging technologies that wasn’t possible at the undergrad level,” he said.

Neumann said the program is looking at technologies such as Virtual Reality (VR), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), Internet of Things (IOT) and 3D printing, helping students navigate those innovations and learn how to apply them in the field.

Neumann said the diversity in students’ backgrounds, which range from architects to lawyers, helps further the development of the program since people learn how to use new technologies across several different industries.

“They’re thinking about how an



The Barrett Centre at the North campus of Humber College, where the new tech-oriented Creative Technologies program will be taught.

OLEKSANDRA CHORNA

architect for example can incorporate drones in his work, he said. “Or how a designer can use prototyping for his advertisements. So they’re not just learning about all these software, but acquire practical skills like prototyping, designing, flying drones and coding.”

His colleague, Ahmed Raza Sagarwala, the associate dean of Interactive Design, said the program will also help students to come up with creative solutions for industry problems in their future careers.

“Let’s just say we have a problem in healthcare. Maybe it has to do with tracking rooms that need to be cleaned and prepped for the next patient, which is actually one of the

challenges we have in our health-care system today. We could look at how the room has been operated, and how the cleaning staff and the nurses and the doctors used that room,” Sagarwala said.

“And then we can find ways of tracking when the cleaning crew comes in and comes out of the room by using active or passive tracking. That’s how we can assume when the room is ready for use. And that’s a creative solution using technologies,” he said.

He said in order to encourage students to solve diverse types of issues through technology, the program works with other programs both at North and at Lakeshore.

“We work with a culinary arts

program, forensic sciences, funeral services, law program. So what we do is identify a need they have and search for a creative technological solution for it,” Sagarwala said.

He said it can range from helping criminologists to virtually create a crime scene, to help them learn how to behave there to building a relaxing space for students on campus to get some rest.

Structurally, each semester of the program is 14 weeks long. Every two or three weeks students learn a new technology and get to practice with it.

Students themselves are excited for the initiative.

“We live in a digital age, new technologies are everywhere right

now,” said Ayantika Chatterjee, a first-year Business Analytics student at Humber.

“Even when you’re applying for a job, they’re sometimes looking for digital projects on your portfolio. So I’d like to take a program like this in the future.”

Her friend Swathi Ganesan, who’s also in Business Analytics, said she is interested in further learning about technologies as well.

“During my previous education, I had workshops based on VR and IOT, so I’m interested in in-depth learning of it,” Ganesan said.

The program will be evaluated this year and next year. If it’s successful, it could be added to the college course list permanently.

Humber students say religion often ignored in food options

Abhisha Nanda
News Reporter

Sukhman Pandher, a Humber student, said she forcefully had to eat chicken when she was hungry as no other option was available.

A Hindu vegetarian in her home country in India, Pandher ate chicken to ensure she had something to fill her stomach.

“There is no food in Canada without chicken,” Pandher said.

She said all the quality food options contain chicken and those that don’t are unappealing.

Humber Hindu and Sikh international students from India struggle to find satisfying food options as almost every food item available is irreligious for them to eat.

They abstain from eating beef because cows are considered sacred and worshiped in their religion.

Many Muslims also need to ensure that the chicken they consume is Halal.

A study by Sutama Ghosh and

published by The Canadian Geographer mentions many Indian students skip meals due to limited options from the absence of religious constraints in the country.

Harmeet Kaur, a Business Management student at Humber, said she is a pure vegetarian and finds it very difficult to accommodate food items suitable to her diet.

Kaur, a Sikh by religion, said she often doesn’t have the time or capacity to cook and ends up skipping meals.

“Many times I just go an entire



ABHISHA NANDA

Harmeet Kaur, Humber student.

day drinking coffee from Tim Hortons, those are my meals,” she said.

“We need to find specific Indian restaurants if we want to eat the food that we left behind in our country,” Kaur said.

The study also mentioned food availability on campuses varies from geographical location.

Ayan Abdullah, a Muslim student at Humber, talked about her experience with food on campus.

“At Humber, the variety of food is not that great, it’s just pizza and bread, stuff that you can’t have a full meal from,” Abdullah said.

She said that the “good stuff” has beef or pepperoni on it, which she is forbidden from eating as part of her religious practice.

Humber College’s South Asian Association was contacted for comment but did not respond.

Where Abdullah said that Toronto in itself has improved in terms of food inclusivity, Pawneet feels there is still “a lot of work required.”



ISABELLE FERRANTE

A Halal Hot Dogs & Sausages stand stationed near Gourmet Express.

EDITORIAL

Death of Johnson should lead to increased safety

The tragic death of Nottingham Panthers forward Adam Johnson has already heightened awareness and conversation regarding players and neck guards.

It shouldn't take the death of a hockey player to spark the long-needed change surrounding the use of neck protectors at all levels of the game.

Johnson, the 29-year-old Minnesota native who played 13 NHL games with the Pittsburgh Penguins, was playing with the Nottingham Panthers of the U.K.'s Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL) when he had his neck cut by a skate blade after a collision with Sheffield Steelers player Matt Petgrave during the second period. Although Johnson briefly got his pulse back in the ambulance, he later died at Sheffield's Northern General Hospital due to massive blood loss.

The skate blade carries the greatest risk of catastrophic injury in ice hockey. It also introduces a unique danger that does not exist in other contact sports, like American football or rugby.

Although similar injuries on the ice are not common, it is also not the first time it has happened.

At the NHL level, Buffalo goaltender Clint Malarchuk's neck was sliced open by a skate during a 1989 game, and in 2008, Richard



PITTSBURGH PENGUINS/X

Pittsburgh Penguins and the Anaheim Ducks celebrated the life of Adam Johnson who was a former Penguin.

Zednick, of the Florida Panthers, also suffered a similar life-threatening cut. Both survived but only some leagues saw an impact.

Some of those injuries triggered calls for hockey leagues like the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and the Quebec Major Hockey League (QMJHL) to make neck guards mandatory for protection during games, to minimize the risk of being cut in 2010.

Since the death of Johnson, the WHL, and the Canadian Junior Hockey League (CJHL) mandated neck guards to be worn. The

English Ice Hockey Association strongly recommends players at all levels use a neck guard or protector during all on-ice activities. As of Jan. 1, 2024, it will become mandatory in the league.

But these guards, whether cut-resistant socks and sleeves are not required by many other leagues, including the NHL, and they probably won't be for a long time even though needed.

Cut-resistant socks and sleeves are gaining popularity and they are replacing pieces of equipment already worn by players. Neck

guards can be seen as extra bulk that might slow a player down.

NHL star Connor McDavid isn't calling for laceration protectors, whether it be the neck, wrists, or ankles, to become a league-wide mandate in the NHL just yet.

"Obviously, comfort is important," McDavid said. "But it's also comfortable to know that you're protected. That can bring a big comfort to guys.

"I think it's personal preference for everybody," he said. "I see lots of guys have cut-proof stuff, I see

some guys who don't wear much at all. It's all choice."

For many longtime NHL fans, the lack of change may not be surprising because they know that change in hockey tends to be slow if it comes at all.

It took several decades for the league to mandate visors, but through education and gradual encouragement, players increasingly began to wear them voluntarily.

The younger generation entering the game was already accustomed to wearing visors, which helped change the culture. Eventually, the NHL made visors mandatory for all players except for players grandfathered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

"It's always tough to change," player-turned-Philadelphia general manager Danny Briere said Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, you're always waiting for something tragic to happen for change to come. Hopefully, we don't have to wait for another one."

It is unlikely to bring immediate change to a sport stubbornly resistant to it but it needs to happen soon.

One should not hope that it happens again before changes are made. It's time for the NHL to grow a backbone because mandating it is a matter of life and death.

OPINION

OPINION: Carbon Tax does more harm to Canadians than good



Shayonna Cole
Opinion Editor

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that there would be a three-year pause on all carbon taxes including heating oil.

"There will absolutely not be any other carve-outs or suspensions of the price on pollution," Trudeau said.

"This is designed to phase out home heating oil, the way we made a decision to phase out coal. This is specifically about ending the use of home heating oil, which is more polluting, more expensive, and impacts low-income Canadians to a greater degree," he said.

A carbon tax, also known as a price on carbon, is a price levied on emissions from fossil fuel sources, be it from coal, oil, natural gas, or gasoline.

The prime minister admitted it's not worth the cost by announcing that he would pause his carbon tax for some people, on some fuels, for



ISTOCK IMAGES/SEIYA TABUCHI

some period of time. It should be paused for everyone.

The government started the carbon tax initiative as a way to push companies and people to use energy that can be produced using a method, and from a source, that causes no harm to the natural environment, such as wind power, hydroelectricity, and solar panels,

but many people and companies can't afford the equipment that produces green energy.

The carbon tax initiative has taken a toll on everyone from homeowners to consumers. There are businesses, corporations, and homeowners who are having a hard time affording to pay this tax as well as consumers.

And not to mention gas prices

are very high right now across the country.

I think it's time for the government to axe this carbon tax initiative since all taxes make it harder for Canadians to pay their bills.

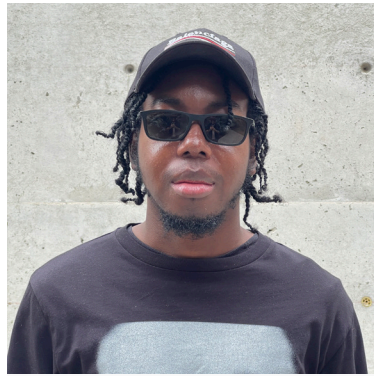
Canadians are feeling the crunch as carbon taxes along with other taxes placed on their groceries, gas, and household items.

A carbon tax is a useless initiative that the federal government keeps pushing so they can get more tax dollars out of Canadians.

Canadians are crying for fair play as a result of the federal government's decision to only suspend carbon tax in Atlantic Canada.

OPINION

Climate services are vital for global well-being



Drew Chambers
News Editor

weren't a luxury, but a fundamental necessity for our well-being.

I was stunned when I read that 50 per cent of future excess mortality from climate change is projected to occur in Africa and parts of Central America between 2030 and 2050, with the primary causes being heat stress, malaria, diarrhea, and hunger.

These figures don't just reflect numbers. They stand for individual lives, families, and communities dealing with the effects of global warming.

"According to the IPCC, they've 'high confidence' that by 2100, climate change will most significantly impact heat-related mortality in Central and South America, southern Europe, southern and southeast Asia, and Africa due to rising global temperatures," the report read.

Doesn't this dire prognosis force us to acknowledge that climate services are a lifeline for communities facing health problems brought on by climate change and not a side issue?

While North America isn't in such dire straits, who's to say this fate won't befall us if we fail to con-



PEXELS/KAROLINA GRABOWSKA

The grim fact that our planet's changing climate is closely linked to human well-being became clear as I read through the pages of the WMO report on climate services and their impact on health.

The new report on Climate Services for Health by the World Meteorological Organization highlights the critical role that precise climate data plays in preserving our health.

The analysis identified a rise in health risks linked to climate change, particularly impacting vulnerable communities.

As I delved into the statistics, it was evident that climate services

sider the transformative potential of climate services and equip ourselves with the tools to thrive in the face of climate challenges?

The report also highlights how crucial early warning systems are to reducing the effects of catastrophic weather occurrences. Climate services can help communities plan and adapt by giving them fast and reliable information.

The Early Warnings For All initiative states that "giving just 24 hours' notice of an impending haz-

ardous event can reduce damage by 30 per cent."

If we have access to reliable climate data we can be proactive in creating resilient healthcare systems thanks to climate services.

Healthcare facilities can be outfitted to manage the spike in patients during extreme weather events, and hospitals can be positioned strategically to reduce exposure to flood-prone areas.

Additionally, climate services play a role in preventing disease.

We can forecast the spread of vector-borne illnesses like dengue fever and malaria by examining climatic patterns.

The WMO study is a potent call to action, imploring us to acknowledge the mutually beneficial relationship between health and the climate.

I believe the utilization of climate services gives us the means to protect our communities and forge a path toward a healthier, more resilient future.

OPINION

Smoking is a killer, but the individual must decide for themselves



Julia Vellucci
Social-Justice Reporter

was warned about the dangers of smoking.

This young age was more normalized at the time.

Vaping and e-cigarettes — which Health Canada linked the metals and chemicals in them to cancer — have become more common and at an increasingly young age.

Humber College is a smoke-free campus including vaping and e-cigarettes on all campuses, buildings, or any grounds leased by the college.

However, as encouraging as it is to not promote such a harmful habit, I remember students at my high school vaping in the washrooms. I worked with one individual who vaped in the walk-in fridge to hide that he was smoking during work hours.

Nothing is stopping college students from getting creative with this as outdoor spaces or more secluded areas in the school are not consistently monitored.

My grandfather's son, my father Domenic Vellucci explained how highly addictive smoking is through my grandfather's experience.

"He was rolling his cigarettes,



PIXABAY/RALF KUNZE

Lung cancer is not completely preventable but managing some controllable risk factors such as smoking can lower one's chances of developing cancer.

According to the Canadian Psychological Association, people have trouble quitting due to how highly addictive nicotine is, causing smoking to become a part of a daily routine or a response to daily triggers.

My grandfather had been smoking since he was eight and died of lung cancer although he

basically buying the tobacco fresh and smoking it without a filter," Vellucci said.

"When he started having some breathing problems, he went to filtered cigarettes which to him was an improvement," he said.

There are however methods to quit smoking such as prescription medicine, including Varenicline which blocks nicotine's effects in the brain that make you desire to smoke.

Nicotine gum can also help people quit smoking as it can be used every two hours to control withdrawal symptoms.

Some may vape with the intent

of eventually quitting altogether or they may have the idea that it is a healthier alternative.

Health Canada notes although vaping is less harmful than smoking cigarettes, the best way to improve your health is to quit all forms of nicotine.

Health Canada announced last year that Canada will be the first country in the world where warning labels will be on individual cigarettes with king-size cigarettes being the first to have these warnings and be available in stores by the end of July 2024.

A study reported in the Harm Reduction Journal in April 2021

stated that Graphic Health Warnings (GHWs) did not have a significant impact on cigarette sales in Canada.

It is hard to say if putting warnings on individual cigarettes will change anything as many have ignored the warnings on the cigarette boxes.

November is lung cancer awareness month where lung health and cancer awareness are promoted through social media or certain organizations, but people still continue to smoke.

If people do not want to quit, no matter what is shown or said to them, they will not.



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**WE ARE
FUTURE FOCUSED**

Higher hopes for the women's basketball

Antoni Canyameras Rojas
Senior Reporter

After becoming provincial champions and finishing among the top four teams in Canada by reaching the semifinals at Nationals last season, the Humber Hawks women's basketball looks to build on their success this season.

While most students were on reading week, the basketball team started its campaign to reach the top spot in the country.

Kia Watt, shooting guard for the Hawks, has been on the team for four years, the player who has been on the team the longest, and knows she has a role in upholding the team philosophy.

"I have the responsibility of bringing the new players the culture of Humber. It's just trying to be the number one (team) at the end of the day, trying to be the number one every year," Watt said.

The team has won the CCAA championship twice, in 2016 and 2018. Ceejay Nofuente, the all-time top scorer of the team and the current assistant coach was part of both winning rosters.

She said winning a national title is the end goal and the feeling is something extraordinary.



HUMBER HAWKS/DIEGO GUILLEN

The women's basketball team has seen big changes ahead of this season, five new faces and new identity.

"The goal is nothing less than winning at Provincials and Nationals. I've done it two times at the national level and I want them to experience that," Nofuente said. "It's just a different feeling that is very hard to accomplish, and not many people can say they have done it."

Humber won the first two games of this new campaign, the opener against Niagara by 66-54 and then against Sheridan by 88-56.

The new season welcomed five

new faces to the roster.

Kat Khorovets, a shooting guard from Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), and Brooklyn Johnson, a forward from Laurier University, transferred to Humber. Beverley Omere, a small forward from Saint John Henry Newman Catholic High School in Toronto, power forward Peyton Moore, from Mooresville, N.C., and Hope Manglal-Lan, a point guard from Hearsh Sacred High School in Walkerton, Ont., are

rookies.

With the new faces, the team will rely on the leadership of the current players. Khorovets, the most veteran player in the locker room at 23, talked about what she brings to the team.

"I feel I can help with my experience, when it comes to speaking to everyone and young players I consider myself a vocal leader," the shooting guard said. "I have to adjust myself because the way the Hawks play is different than

I'm used to. I'm learning, but it's coming."

Many Hawks fans will notice some changes this year in game style. Ajay Sharma, the head coach of Humber, said the team is more guard-oriented.

"We are going to play fast, we are going to play a spread-out offence, driving, kicking, and creating shot opportunities. And we want to have that nastiness, being physical and disrupting teams on the defensive side," said Sharma, who is entering his 12th season with the Hawks.

"We are going to play with the most freedom we have ever played," he said.

"We were a very set play-oriented team before and we are going to play with a modern offence. We are even going to have three point guards on the floor sometimes," Sharma said. However, there is something that is never going to change and that's the team's character on the court, Watt said.

"Our identity is playing hard, not giving up," she said.

The Hawks travel to Hamilton to face off against the Mohawk Mountaineers on Nov. 9 for a 6 p.m. tip-off.

OPINION

It's time for NHL to adopt NFL-style draft format



Luca Tersigni
Sports Reporter

Some fans might argue that the NHL should stick with the format in place, but for a league that wants to appeal to younger-aged fans, the outdated style of the draft should be changed.

Friedman, on his 32 Thoughts podcast alluded to most teams accepting the new format as 30 out of 32 teams were in favor of the change as they cast their votes on Oct. 24.

As a big fan of the sport that the NHL draft will resemble, this will not only benefit the teams but most importantly, it will benefit the fan experience.

NHL reporter Chris Johnston with *The Athletic* discussed all the potential changes for the draft with a model that would include 5,000- to 10,000-seat venues depending on the draft location with only one or two representatives from each team attending the event instead of most of the organization.

These will be two of the biggest changes as more fans will be able to be present at the event leading to a better atmosphere.

From my experiences watching the NFL draft, I have always liked the way that fans can get up as



AP PHOTO/GEORGE WALKER IV

The 2025 NHL draft could look different and look more similar to the NFL style depending if teams agree.

close to the stage as possible which gives the event a more fan-friendly setting.

The NFL allows fans to be up close in the action and if close enough, they might be lucky enough to catch a high five from the player as he walks out to meet the Commissioner.

With the teams no longer being present at the event, this will give the NHL the option to let the fan experience get upgraded as more room will be available.

This will also benefit the NHL

as more tickets to the event will be available and teams making draft choices from home will be able to help the league financially.

Johnston suggested a prospect would be welcomed by Commissioner Gary Bettman and one of the team representatives with a brief photo being taken.

This change will be important to the player being drafted as he will be able to be given his own freedom being the centre of attention on the stage instead of being surrounded by an organization's

staff.

When a player is drafted, the person introducing the player to the stage should be the league's commissioner. It's an opening of the door for the players' new chapter and the commissioner should be the one to start that new journey.

Johnston said this format will take place starting in 2025. I believe with all these new features, the traditional looks of the NHL yet again get modernized and that's a big plus for the average viewer.

Recent Hockey Night in Canada coverage has hinted at the idea of the NHL transforming to an NFL-style draft.

HNIC insider Elliott Friedman reported on Oct. 14 the NHL has been talking about a change to the draft format.

Prospects will attend the event but instead of teams being present, the organizations will stay in their home locations. There will be other changes as well.

I believe this is the right move for the NHL and will modernize the traditional style format that was used for decades.

NEW SEASON, NEW IDENTITY



Humber women's basketball team outline their goals of winning both the provincial and national championship and the biggest changes ahead of this new season.

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