

HUMBER ET CETERA[•]

Humber's Student Newspaper

October 8, 2021

Vol.63, No3



THE EQUITY ISSUE

Et Cetera looks at racism, homophobia, sexism and more

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UNIVERSAL
INCOME P.4**



**WOMAN
JOURNALISTS
SEEK JUSTICE
FOR HATE,
THREATS P.6**



EQUITY



SANTIAGO ARIAS-OROZCO

Muna Osman, a Muslim general arts and science student, sits in front of North's Campus bookstore in her span between classes on Sept. 27, 2021.

'Heavier than a backpack filled with bricks'

Students and faculty share their daily experiences with Islamophobia and finding a path to understanding

Santiago Arias Orozco
News Reporter

Nilufer Gulfem, a Humber College student, says she finds being a Muslim difficult in North America.

The Humber student said being a Muslim in North America is hard, describing it as "heavier than a backpack filled with bricks."

"You feel the urge to prove that you are more than your religion," Gulfem told the Humber Et Cetera.

Her concerns were part of a Humber webinar on Islamophobia, hosted by York University Professor Sayema Chowdhury, a member of the Peel District School Board, and York University Professor Sultan Rana, an advocate for the representation of minorities from York Region.

Chowdhury and Rana went over misconceptions that can cause Islamophobia within Canada. Both panelists exchanged thoughts with the 92 webinar participants on current expressions of Islamophobia in political, post-secondary and social settings. The webinar wrapped up with resources to extend awareness on the issue, equipping its attendees to act

against Islamophobia.

Gulfem, an advertising and graphic design student from Kazakhstan, is among more than one million Canadian residents who identify as Muslim. For Gulfem, this goes beyond her religious practices and beliefs, and is expressed in daily acts of kindness, help and service.

"Islam is something beautiful that would never hurt anyone," Gulfem said.

Research provided by the Noor Cultural Centre suggests more than half of Canadians have an unfavourable view of Islam than other religions, believing it oppresses women and promotes violence.

Statistics Canada data on police-reported hate crimes shows that since 2009 there has been an overall steady increase in anti-Muslim attacks. The 52 cases reported in 2010 were nearly doubled to 99 victims by 2014, reaching even a larger number in 2017 with 349 cases.

Last year, one in five victims of religiously motivated hate crimes was Muslim.

An anti-Muslim crime shocked Canada during the summer of 2021 when four members of a Muslim family in London, Ont.,

were killed, and a 9-year old boy was injured, by a pickup truck driven by a man police say targeted them.

A national summit on Islamophobia took place afterward, where the government committed to education and outreach aimed at improving understanding.

But violence, verbal assault and vandalism aren't the only expressions of Islamophobia directed at the Muslim community.

"Discrimination, prejudices, and biases [are happening in] our schools, in our family gatherings and our places of worship," Rana said.

Tackling these daily forms of Islamophobia is for Chowdhury the path towards counteracting this issue.

"We need to listen to the narratives people want to tell, not the one we have been taught or want to hear," he said. "Look closer, listen harder."

Chowdhury said Western countries had used Muslim communities as scapegoats, and individuals misunderstand elements such a wearing hijab.

"When I wear hijab, I feel like I am protecting a diamond that only the people that I allow can

see, and that makes me feel special," Gulfem said.

Quebec's Bill 21, restricting the wearing of religious symbols by public-sector workers, invites prejudice against Muslims and other minorities. The webinar also classifies the bill to deter Muslim women's rights by forcing them to undress.

On the matter, Osama Rkieh, a Humber College film and media production student, said, "liberation is achieved when women are free to wear a hijab just like Christians are free to wear their cross."

Too often, Muslims are portrayed in media and popular culture as being "uneducated, terrorists and close-minded," Rkieh said.

Gulfem said non-Muslims often treat Muslims with suspicion and distrust, and "sometimes people are timid to talk to me or get close to me, which is sad."

She said the path to understanding leads through conversations such as the Islamophobia webinar.

"I am glad it is discussed openly in Humber because the problems won't go away without talking about them and creating awareness."

ETC •

Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program laboratory newspaper. It is created by second and third year journalism students. 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 Et Cetera is a publication of the Faculty of Media and Creative Arts at Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning
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EQUITY

Colombia is a 'bubbling volcano of hate' amid Venezuelan diaspora

Santiago Arias Orozco
International Reporter

Javier Gonzales said his decision was as simple as it was desperate.

"Venezuela was tearing apart, and so was I," Gonzales said. "So I took my chances, fled home, hoping for a new beginning"

Gonzales, a college professor of mathematics, bought a no-return ticket to cross the Colombo-Venezuelan land border on May 9, 2016. Five and a half years later, he is working as a hairdresser in Bogotá, Colombia.

More than three million Venezuelans have left their country since 2015. According to the United Nations refugees' agency statistics, Bogota is Latin America's largest hot spot of Venezuelan immigrants, with 37 per cent of those who have left emigrated.

Venezuela's ongoing political and socio-economic crisis is flowing into neighbouring countries. Tens of thousands have arrived in Ecuador, Peru, and Chile since 2018. For Prof. Andrés Felipe Barreiro, it's a growing trend.

Barreiro, political studies professor at Los Andes University, linked Venezuela's oil-dependent economy to the humanitarian crisis that has forced immigrants, such as Gonzales to abandon their home country.

When crude oil price decreases on the international

market, Venezuela's economy falls into crisis, with hyperinflation and shortages of essential services.

"Shelves were empty, we were running out of gas, unemployment and poverty were eating us alive, it was apocalyptic," said Venezuelan immigrant Paola Neira.

Wandering almost 600 kilometres in a month, Neira reached her "new home" in Medellín.

"Back in 2018, Colombia gave me a second chance," she said. "But those open doors and arms I once saw now are progressively disappearing."

The United Nations is growing increasingly concerned with the xenophobia and violence directed at migrants, particularly after a police eviction, mattresses, clothes, dampers, and toys were burned in a Venezuelan immigrant camp at Iquique, Chile, last month. The UNHRC condemned the violence and called governments to address discriminatory demonstrations that are scaling up.

"Colombia has also witnessed xenophobic practices as well," Barreiro said. "Now, this issue rests in society as a slept volcano. Ready to explode."

According to Xenophobia Barometer, a social media and public conversations analyzer, hate speech has increased in Colombia since August.

Immigrants have become

scapegoats for Colombian political figures, who blame Venezuelans for increased unemployment and health-care shortages, Barreiro said.

Neira said she's been singled out as responsible for "stealing" workplace positions from Colombians.

"Colombians have said to me that I should go back to my 'broke country' instead of being here to steal their dreams and break their economy," Neira said. "But I don't see it in that way."

According to Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics, DANE, the immigration overflow has increased the unemployment rate by 0.1 per cent.

Venezuelan immigrants are also blamed for increases in crime, and Bogota's mayor has announced the creation of special anti-migrant police units.

For Gonzales, the opportunities in Colombia have made it worth the challenges.

"This country has offered me a lifestyle I won't change, and every Venezuelan should have the chance as well," Gonzales said.

But sometimes the cost of emigration can be heart-wrenching. At a reconciliation workshop in Bogotá, a six-year-old was asked to write down his experience in his new country.

"Sometimes no one wants to play with me because I am Venezuelan," he said.



MEGAN RAMPERSAUD

A student at Humber North Campus messages his family in China.

International students risk censorship, reprisal by authoritarian governments

Megan Rampersaud
International Reporter

Roksana Mirzae has known the anxiety international students face about how their words and social-media activities could put their loved ones back home at risk.

The York University student from Iran said the Iranian government would reach out to her family members because of her social media posts shared in Canada.

"I'll sometimes use WhatsApp to message my friends and family living back in Iran," said Mirzae. "I often forget I could get into trouble with Iran's authority if I am not careful."

Mirzae has been enrolled in a master's program at York University. Yet living in Canada has not relieved her concerns about free speech. The Iranian government wants its citizens to obey state rules even if they reside abroad. Typically, overseas students — even those holding dual citizenship — are expected to comply with the policies of Tehran.

"I would have assumed that if you go to a different country to study, you'd be under the laws of said country," said Margaret Papel, an international student at the University of Toronto. "I don't think it's fair, for example, if my government were to keep tabs on me with what I am doing and saying."

Papel said that international students deal with the stress of abiding by both countries' laws.

Recently, a Chinese university student who studies law

in Canada got into trouble in his own country because of retweeting a chart about the alleged corruption of the Chinese government.

International students in Canada interact with their friends abroad, often using message applications. They might forget that the freedom and human rights in Canada do not always apply elsewhere.

Andrew Ness, Humber's Dean of International Students, said the pressures of self-censoring is among the stress international students face.

"We have no direct knowledge of Humber students being censored," he said.

"There is a lot of stuff that happens in students' lives that impacts their ability to express and to study. Our international team prioritizes the lives of students every day."

Ness said Humber strives to offer diverse resources regarding wellness, education, and culture.

Humber College also provides an accessible system called keep.meSAFE. The platform offers multi-language services and representatives to help support students culturally and within their country's political circumstances.

The college purchased a VPN system allowing international students to access the internet and learning resources all around the world.

Ness said Humber will keep providing diverse and accessible resources to its students abroad whose top concerns are wellness, education, and culture.



JAVIER GONZALEZ

Venezuelan immigrants walk more than 500 kilometres hoping to reach Ecuador in the next few months.

EQUITY

Scrapping universal income a lost opportunity

Jess Munday
News Reporter

For most people, making ends meet is an ongoing challenge, while for others, it's a constant anxiety that consumes most of their waking thoughts.

The Liberal government of former Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne thought in 2017 it could take on that challenge with a universal basic income (UBI) pilot project. But the Ford government scrapped the program after taking office, despite promises to maintain it.

To some anti-poverty activists, the idea is still seen as a lost opportunity.

Tom Cooper, with the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, wasn't a believer at first that a universal basic income was the right program for Ontario.

When the pilot project started in Hamilton, Thunder Bay and Lindsay, "I wasn't sold on the idea," he said.

But, Cooper changed his position after seeing how people's lives could be improved.

"As we got into the pilot project, I saw a sneak peek at what a better life could be for so many people experiencing poverty," he said.

Universal basic income is a program where all qualifying adults

receive a set amount of money throughout the year. It is used to alleviate poverty and relieve the strain on other social programs.

"Those who'd experienced poverty for a long time were able to stabilize their housing, they were feeling better because both their physical and mental health improved, and they were participating in society again," Cooper said.

He said UBI would not negatively impact the economy because it would lift people out of poverty and back into the workforce, and in turn back to spending money into their local economies.

"Basic income can keep the economy humming because when people have more money to spend they spend it locally in their communities and that helps drive economic growth and create jobs," he said.

"I think that's where basic income comes in and can really mobilize people on both the left and the right of the political spectrum," Cooper said.

Wynne told *Et Cetera* that a universal basic income "could help you through a transition in your career, it's going to help you to bridge into a job by giving you enough support that you'd be able to find the clothes that you need to find in order to apply for a job."

Under the Ontario program, single people from 18 to 64

living on a low income — under \$34,000 a year for singles and under \$48,000 a year for couples — would receive \$16,989 a year for a single person or \$24,027 a year for a couple.

"A lot of people who have been living on social assistance for a long time, or have been living marginalized for a long time, have a whole lot of issues that have developed that are not just about not having money," Wynne said.

Deirdre Pike, a justice and outreach program consultant, is among those who believe UBI would be beneficial across the country.

"If you want to make any real change in the lives of people who are languishing in poverty in Canada and particularly where I am in Ontario, raising social assistance rates is not the simple answer," Pike said.

Though Canada has many forms of social assistance, not all Canadians have the same access to it. Depending on where one lives and the means they already have, social-assistance programs don't always fit the needs of everyone who receives it.

"I think there's lots of work to be done," Wynne said. "That doesn't have to do with administering a demeaning Social Assistance Program."

Currently, Ontarians receiving welfare from Ontario Works



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Kathleen Wynne, MPP for Don Valley West and former Premier of Ontario, started the province's Basic Income Pilot program in 2017.

who have no children receive \$343 a month. That doesn't even cover rent, for most people.

Blanketed social-assistance programs based on a uniform single-family model don't help in all the ways some families require, critics say. For instance, a family with a car and a nearby grocery store are affected differently than a family that doesn't have a vehicle and lives an hour

or more away from their closest food market.

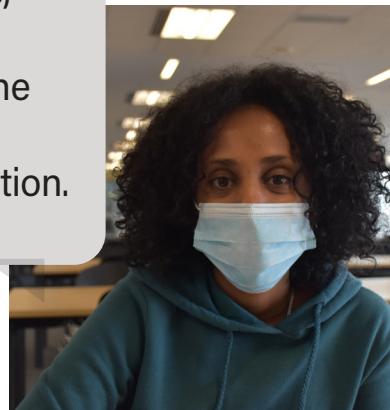
Universal basic income isn't the only step needed to deliver greater economic fairness in Canada. But proponents say it could be a large step in the right direction.

"It's time to end the police state of the old-fashioned welfare system and give people the freedom to be able to dream again," Cooper said.

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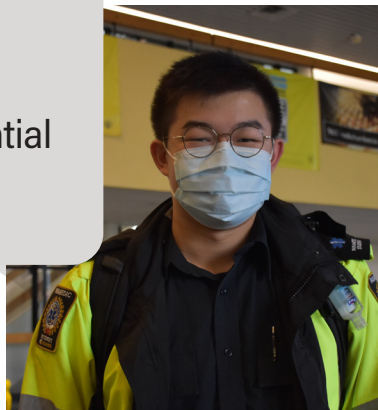
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE?

Equal decision. Fair enough for both sides, instead of going from one direction to another direction.



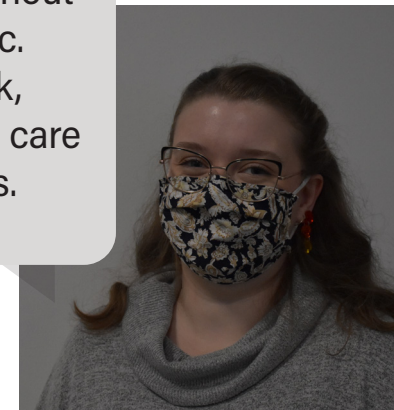
Rodas Weldehaymanot
Nursing, 2nd year

It will be Indigenous people, with all the new information about residential schools.



Spencer Choi
Paramedics, 2nd year

The challenges women have faced throughout the pandemic. Loosing work, loosing child care opportunities.



Lindsey Van Dekerkhove
CSS Placement Coordinator at GHU

EQUITY

Lil Nas X highlights music industry's homophobia with latest awards outfit

Ashima Agnihotri
Arts Reporter

Lil Nas X was seen on the Video Music Awards red carpet last month rocking Atelier Versace, but some people didn't look pleased with the artist's star-studded outfit and homophobic slurs soon followed.

Montero Lamar Hill, a 22-year-old American artist with the stage name Lil Nas X, rose to fame through his country rap single Old Town Road. That tune ensured he became the first openly LGBTQ+ Black artist to win a Country Music Association award.

Nas X has been infamous for his explicit ways of dressing, his overtly sexual music videos and his never-ending controversial photos. And it causes a backlash towards his sexuality and race.

Three weeks before the this year's release of Montero, the star posted pregnancy photos for his debut album. People denounced him for making fun of expectant mothers while being a male artist incapable of carrying children.

And at the VMAs, he sparked reaction by wearing a lavender dress-suit hybrid with square-toed boots on the red carpet.

"I don't get why people feel the need to tell others how they should dress, behave, speak or even breathe," said Andres Dominguez, member of Orgullo Colombia, a local LGBTQ+ group in Bogota. "If he wants, he should dress like Barbie, kiss Ken and be as gay as he can be."

Internet trolls were quick to criticize the artist, writing racial and homophobic slurs under his multiple Instagram posts. His fans and the LGBTQ+ community were disappointed to see the artist, expressing himself, receive hate.

Mackenzie Taylor, a Humber College photography grad who identifies as asexual who has yet to come out to their parents, applauds Lil Nas X for what he's doing and being unashamed about it.

"A lot of members of the LGBTQ+ community were raised by heterosexual parents. Children need positive LGBTQ+ role models to help discover who they are," said Taelor Bent, a University of Guelph-Humber media student. The third year student said she revealed her bisexuality to friends and family this past summer.

Bent talked about the importance of teaching both homosexual and heterosexual youth about LGBTQ+ so they can learn to be inclusive of everyone throughout their lives.

"I feel the entertainment industry is still very hesitant to embrace LGBTQ+ to its full capacity," she said. Bent suggests the solution is to have LGBTQ+ members play the queer roles, instead of having heterosexual actors play the part in movies.

While there are multiple television artists that have come out and multiple shows that empower queer, very few movie and music stars have embraced their homosexuality. This limits youth from having a good role model to look up to.

Sex and the City star Cynthia Nixon came out as bisexual in 2012 and now identifies herself as queer. Canadian actor and producer Elliott Page revealed he is transgender at the end of 2020.

Rap and hip-hop artists tend to maintain a masculine demeanour, with lyrics often surrounding women, money and fame. Hip-hop rapper DaBaby was removed from Lollapalooza and other festival lineups after making onstage homophobic and misogynistic remarks.

"I know that some older hip-hop and rap songs have used the f-slur," Bent said.

The Human Rights Campaign, a LGBTQ+ advocacy organization in the United States, tracked the number of deaths within the community. The Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community in 2020 notes at least 44 transgender or nonconforming people were murdered last year and 28 are dead so far this year.



LIL NAS X/INSTAGRAM

Lil Nas X wore a lavender suit-dress hybrid with silver butterfly earrings, bedazzled with gemstones and sequins.

The majority of people, Black and Latinx transgender women, were killed and found dead inside their own houses. These victims were killed by "their own people" like acquaintances, friends or family.

These statistics further scare people from being true to themselves and others.

"The only way to normalize LGBTQ+ is to accept it," Bent said. "So I encourage everyone who is unaccepting to sit down and educate themselves because the LGBTQ+ community isn't going anywhere."

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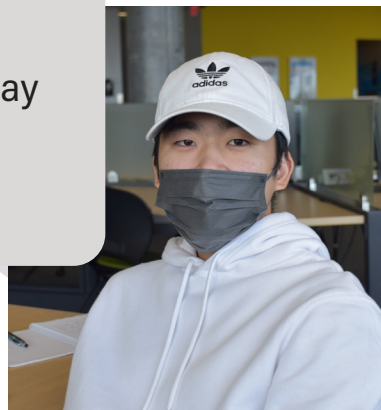
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE?

People are splitting. And although we have virtual connection, that real connection disappears.



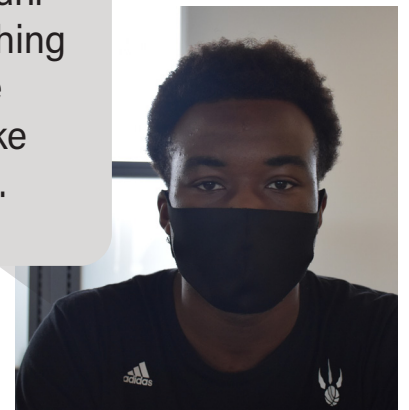
Leila Rajaie
Professional Accounting, 1st year

Gender. Because I am from Japan, I think North America is way faster about these issues.



Jun Funakawa
Ux Design, 1st year

A lot of women are not treated equally as man. That's something that could be worked on like income gaps.



Prosper Ubah
Electrical Engineering, 2nd year

EQUITY

Toronto asks Health Canada for decriminalization of drug possession

Barbara Patrocino
News Reporter

Toronto took a step toward decriminalizing drug possession by asking Health Canada last week for exemptions to allow for the possession of drugs for personal use.

The wave of drug-related deaths since the opiate crisis began prompted the initiative, which hopes to transform the issue from one of criminality to one of public health. Trafficking and other drug-related offences would remain illegal.

Lazar Markovic, a spokesperson with Addiction Rehab Toronto, said the Developing an Alternative Model to Drug Criminalization in Toronto plan would only be a good idea if accompanied by educational measures.

"The public needs to be educated on the risks of taking these substances," he said. "Most people have no idea what is happening in their bodies when they use drugs."

Any changes in the city's laws

around drugs wouldn't impact students on Humber College. The college has maintained a strict smoke-free policy since 2019.

Toronto Public Health reported that last year 521 overdose-related deaths were recorded, up 78 per cent from 2019.

Over the first three months of this year, paramedics have responded to 93 overdose calls involving death compared to 46 in the same period of 2020.

More than 5,000 people responded to a recent Toronto Public Health survey asking for opinions on decriminalization, with staff analyzing the results.

The decriminalization movement has been based on the awareness that current drug policies disproportionately affect vulnerable and racialized communities.

The damage addiction does ripples beyond the individual to their family and community.

When Gabriel Guerra was a

child, he and his twin brother, Terso, witnessed their mother's first crisis when she started using cocaine shortly after moving with her children to Lisbon.

On Rua Maria Pia in Casal Ventoso, a neighbourhood in which one of the largest drug markets in the Portugal, Guerra witnessed conflict, violence, and human decline.

"It was rare for me to cross the street to go to school and not see anyone fallen to the ground, under the influence of any substance," he said.

About four years later, and back in Brazil, the boys' mother began treatment at a rehabilitation clinic in São Paulo.

Terso shared with his brother a mixed sense of relief and anguish as he recalled the process his mother had to go through.

"It was a very painful situation for everyone," he said. "Personally, I believe that drug addiction goes far beyond the criminal issue. She was clearly a sick

person who needed help."

For Guerra Gabriel, who saw his mother transform after recovery treatment, decriminalization initiatives are heartening.

"A drug user is first and foremost a person who needs help," he said. "Focusing on providing

that help seems like the right way to go."

Toronto Public Health encourages anyone with thoughts about an alternative model to drug criminalization in the city to submit comments to TPHconsult@toronto.ca.



BARBARA PATROCINIO

Toronto Public Health building on 277 Victoria St. The city requested the federal government consider granting drug decriminalization status for personal use as Toronto deals with spiking drug overdose deaths.

OPINION

Targeted journalists need justice for death threats, hate mail



Ana Todorovic
News Reporter

Journalists are being targeted online by trolls in the form of hate mail, many of which target race, gender, and sexuality.

In April, I talked to three Toronto Star reporters about their experiences with harassment and misogyny they received online. They all received some form of online hate, whether angry emails, tweets, or death threats.

"In the industry, most of my

experiences with these things have been virtual, crude hateful emails and handwritten notes sent in the mail to my office that target my gender or religion," said Emma Teitel, a Toronto Star columnist.

The Canadian Association of Journalists recently addressed the rise in the number of hate emails targeting female, LGBTQ+, and POC journalists recently. It's a step in the right direction.

The only problem is, the issue has existed for far longer than mentioned.

The CAJ addressed the harassment in a statement posted to their site blog on Sept. 21, this year. In their statement, they mention an incident regarding Maxime Bernier, leader of the People's Party of Canada.

He shared the email addresses of three Canadian journalists on Twitter, which earned him a 12-hour ban on Twitter. After this event, there was a notice-

able increase in the number of emails and online hate being sent to journalists.

This statement comes after the trend of targeted harassment towards journalists became apparent, as a high number of screenshots of these emails circulated online.

Many of the journalists who received these threatening emails have posted them on Twitter.

A great number of these emails are phrased as requests for interviews, at least in the beginning. Then, inevitably, they launch into slurs and threats.

What is so vile about these emails is that many of them are misleading from the beginning. The emails are written in such a way that it isn't far-fetched to assume at least one journalist opened the email with the belief it might in any way be valuable or important.

But the emails don't have to be

misleading in order to be hurtful.

One of the worst ones I came across was an email sent to Ashleigh-Rae Thomas, a young journalist and a Radio Room intern at the Star.

The email, which was graphic and full of threats, is horrific from start to finish.

I was able to hear from Ashleigh a few days after they received the hate email. Several reporters from the Star reached out to them, to make sure they were okay. Ashleigh is also pursuing legal action.

It shouldn't have to be the responsibility of journalists to beg employers and organizations to pay attention to an issue affecting them.

As a journalism student, I feel the pressure of an issue like reporters being targeted and attacked online. I both empathize with the individuals who are being targeted, and I worry about my own future as a reporter.

I also don't believe this issue will solve itself by the time the next incoming generation of journalists arrives. Online trolls who are behind these emails likely won't face consequences for their actions.

Talking to Toronto Star reporters Emma Teitel and Jenna Moon as a student studying journalism was a learning experience because what I heard was easy for me to accept.

Journalists, especially those who are female, POC, or a part of the LGBTQ+ community, are more targeted than their white male counterparts.

This is why it's the responsibility of organizations like the CAJ to protect journalists who are more likely to be harassed online.

Individuals who are sending these emails have to face legal consequences for their actions. Without consequences, these journalists are not getting the justice they deserve.

Vaccine passports offer 'golden ticket' to safer businesses

Khiana Gutierrez
News Reporter

The vaccine passport is a golden ticket to restaurants, gyms, and much more.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 22, restaurant staff — and other institutions — are required to check certificates of full vaccination with government-issued ID when admitting diners to restaurants.

Cactus Club Cafe, a restaurant chain based in Vancouver, followed the protocols that align with the mandate and the process went smoothly. However, other restaurants have run into difficulties.

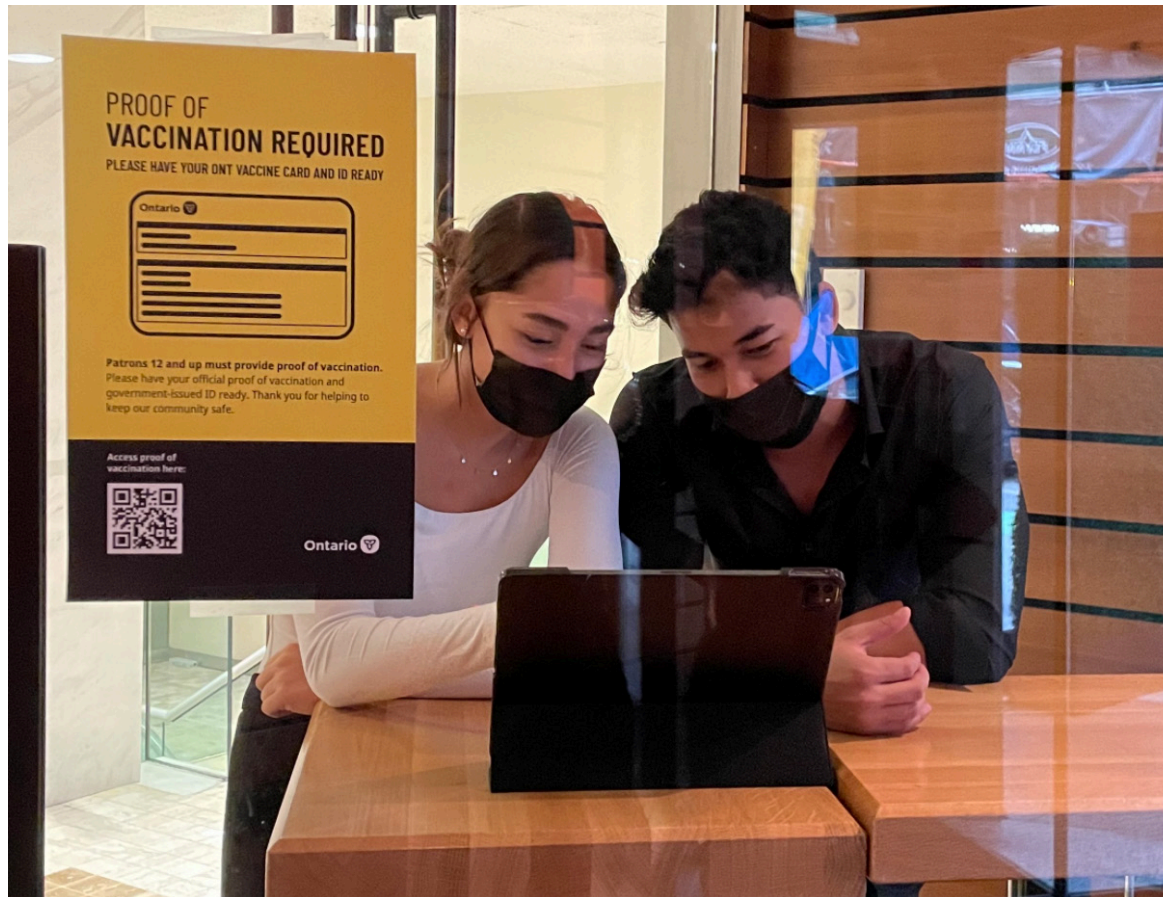
Maria Lavelle, a cashier at Burger King, says guests show their vaccine passports but fail to wear their masks upon entry.

"Sometimes I'm kind of hesitant [to ask], but it's part of the rules," Lavelle said.

As managers confront unmasked guests, those unmasked individuals still get serviced. This worries workers like Lavelle who must work in an environment that does not comply strictly with mask mandates.

Restaurant Brands International, the parent company of Burger King, Tim Hortons and Popeyes, said it worked with restaurant owners "to implement proactive and comprehensive measures" to protect food, employees and customers.

Cactus Club Cafe on Adelaide Street doubled down on their staff to be aware and enforce



KHIANA GUTIERREZ

William Thomas Yong and Jessica Xavier-Rahim at the front desk at Cactus Club Cafe in downtown Toronto.

their protocols.

Patrick Allen, a security guard at the restaurant, said the past week went smoothly. The restaurant took appropriate action to ensure staff and guests remain safe while dining inside the restaurant or street-side patio.

"In terms of any other workday, it was honestly a bit better. I didn't have any issues nor push back," Allen said.

Fully vaccinated guests are

those who have a full series of COVID-19 vaccines authorized by Health Canada, three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, and those who received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before providing proof of full vaccination.

Cactus Club Cafe welcomes individuals with a single dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or unvaccinated guests to dine only at

their outdoor patio.

Paris Finn, a front desk host for Cactus Club Cafe, approves of the proof of vaccination program since it protects those in the restaurant, ensures her safety while at work, and encourages those who needed to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

"It's the push that they needed, for the people who were putting it off until the last moment," Finn said.

While proof of vaccination is required when dining inside the restaurant, guests and staff are still required to follow all guidelines set prior to Sept. 22, which includes social distancing, the mandatory mask mandate, and contact tracing.

If a medical exemption arises, guests must provide a written document, completed and provided by a registered nurse or nurse practitioner.

Some people had been wary of visiting restaurants since lockdowns were lifted, but the new protocols have helped ease anxiety.

Anshul Jain, front-of-house manager for Cactus Club Cafe, focused on the importance of the proof of vaccination in the restaurant and the prosperity these vaccine passports will hold.

"It's good for protecting everybody, and I think it's going in the right direction," Jain said.

He explained that the process the front desk team undergoes is time-consuming but ensures that all guidelines are met to prevent any commotion or trace of the COVID-19 virus in the restaurant.

"There is no loophole now," Jain said.

The Ontario government is in the process of developing a vaccine certificate that translates into a QR code. The certification and verification app will be available on Oct. 22.

"It should not be a burden," Jain said. "It's a good thing because it will protect everyone."

Most Canadians support vaccine passports, survey finds

Alex Muzychko
News Reporter

Support for vaccine passports in Canada has been high and growing for months, according to most published surveys.

Anahita Fallahi is among those who believe the passports will not only keep her and others safe but that it's the key to getting back to normal life.

"I am all for the vaccine passports if it helps us get back to how we were before COVID-19," Fallahi said.

Ontario mandated the new COVID-19 vaccine passport system for entry to places such

as arenas, restaurants and gyms, drawing angry objections from a loud minority of citizens as of Sept. 22.

From among the loud minority opposed to vaccination and the vaccination passport, Dana Etingen, a 20-year-old Western University student, said she feels discriminated against because of her beliefs.

"My vaccine status should not be what defines me," she said.

"Lately I've noticed that when I openly mention that I am not vaccinated and don't plan on getting vaccinated, I get very strange looks from people and I really do not appreciate that," Etingen said.

A Leger survey of 1,515 Canadians conducted between Aug. 13 and 15 found most Canadians are pro-vaccine and pro-passport, with up to eight in 10 supporting new regulations.

The survey, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.51 per cent, reported 63 per cent of Quebecers strongly supported it with 19 per cent somewhat supporting it. The rest of Canada reported 53 per cent strongly support the passport and 24 per cent somewhat supported it.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau upped the ante in favour of vaccinations,

announcing that by Oct. 30 Canadians will need to prove they have been fully vaccinated to board planes, trains, and marine travel in the country.

There will be only narrow grounds on which exemptions will be granted, the prime minister said.

"Simply having a personal conviction that vaccines are bad will not be nearly enough to qualify," Trudeau said.

Besides safeguarding her own health and keeping her own family safe, a reason for getting vaccinated and supporting the passport is "because I wanted to travel," Fallahi said.

"I had a trip planned right before COVID-19 and I couldn't go," she said. "That made me want to get the vaccine as soon as possible."

Sherry Arabpour agreed with the importance and necessity of vaccination and a vaccination passport, although she acknowledged some people might object.

"I understand that it might not be ideal for everyone," she said. "But we are in a pandemic and no one is satisfied with what is going on."

"I want the best for my family, and that is doing everything I possibly can to help get back to normal life," she said.

Humber president announces retirement

Eli Ridder
News Editor

Ontario's highest-paid college president announced his retirement date on Thursday, bringing an end to a career that spanned over 34 years.

Humber College President Chris Whitaker, the college's fourth president since it opened in 1967, will bring an end to his career at the completion of his second term in June 2022, said a message sent Thursday from the Board of Governors to college faculty.

During Whitaker's tenure, Humber launched its first major fundraising campaign, implemented its first institutional and digital campus plans, reorganized departments into faculties and grew enrolment to 38,000 full-time students.

Board of governors chair Ana Fernandes hailed Whitaker as a "true champion of polytechnic education."

"[Whitaker] has made an indelible mark on Humber through his leadership, strategic vision, and prioritization of people and partnerships," she said.

The search for Whitaker's replacement is already underway. Fernandes, who also serves as the search committee chair, said the college will be working with a consulting firm to find the next president.



HUMBER COLLEGE

Chris Whitaker who is retiring as head of Humber College, seen here speaking on a Humber Today video released on Nov. 3, 2020.

Canada lifts ban on direct flights from India

Ashima Agnihotri
News Reporter

Indians like Priyanka Pandita have finally been able to fly direct to Toronto starting Sept. 27 after the Canadian government rescinded its months-long ban on non-stop flights.

Pandita, an engineering student, had booked a ticket to Toronto and was heartbroken when Canada announced the ban on commercial and private passenger flights from India in late April.

"COVID-19 delayed my education," she said. "It delayed my future."

The ban, intended to last for a month, kept getting extended and lasted for more than five months. It was implemented due to the surge of Delta variant cases in South Asian countries.

Although the ban was lifted on Sept. 27, Transport Canada did allow three direct flights on Sept. 22, where all passengers were tested for COVID-19 to determine if the new measures worked.

With the ban lifted, economy tickets for Air Canada from New Delhi to Toronto are available from Nov. 3. Tickets cost at least \$1,600. The airline is also planning to start a non-stop flight from Montreal to Delhi and Mumbai.

"We continue to focus on the growing visiting friends and relatives market, and together with the long-standing cultural and business ties between Canada and India which are expected to grow over the coming years," said Mark Galardo, a senior vice-president at Air Canada.

Transport Canada laid out security measures that all travelers from India must go through before boarding a flight.

Travelers must have proof of a negative COVID-19 test conducted within 18 hours of the scheduled departure. The testing needs to be provided from an approved laboratory at Delhi airport and is mandatory for fully, partially, and non-vaccinated individuals.

Fully vaccinated travelers must upload their information on the ArriveCan app and show it to the airport officials upon arrival in Canada. They will be exempt from on-arrival testing

and quarantine measures.

"Travelers who are unable to meet these requirements will be denied boarding," Transport Canada said in a statement.

During the ban, Indian students wanted to come to Canada and opted for multiple indirect flights with many layovers.

Daksh Sehdev, a student at Seneca College, boarded his first flight from New Delhi to the Maldives, then had two layovers in Qatar and Germany before landing in Toronto. He described his journey as tiring and expensive, having spent almost \$3,100 on tickets and spending two days in the air.

Sehdev wanted to come to Toronto to "get familiar with the Canadian environment as soon as possible." Since he has a co-op term in his program, he did not want to miss any job opportunities. But the process of traveling from country to country was anxiety-filled for him.

"I was not sure what document they might ask for at any point in time," Sehdev said. "I could not stop being paranoid about the travel restrictions, anything could change at any time, and I didn't want to be stranded in an unknown country."

Unvaccinated people will be required to follow the previously introduced COVID-19 measures that include taking an on-arrival test, being quarantined for 14 days, taking another COVID-19 test on the eighth day, and updating their health status regularly on ArriveCan.



DAKSH SEHDEV

Daksh Sehdev arrived at Toronto Pearson Airport after spending nearly \$3,100 on tickets and two days in the air, including three layovers.



PRIYANKA PANDITA

Priyanka Pandita, an engineering student, is rebooking her tickets to Toronto after Transport Canada lifted the flight ban on Sept. 27.



ASHIMA AGNIHOTRI

A plane arrives at Pearson Airport from Delhi on Sept. 27 after Ottawa ended the ban on direct flights.

Comedy is important treatment for the grim world of COVID-19

Nathan Abraha
Arts Reporter

There's been very little funny about COVID-19, even in the world of comedy.

Darcia Armstrong, co-founder of Black Sheep Comedy Club on Eastern Avenue, said everything about the business of making people laugh has changed and it might never be the same.

"When the pandemic hit, we had to cancel all our shows. We decided that we were going to pay all of the comedians for their spots," Armstrong said. "Most of them told us not to bother, they know we'll catch up with them after this is over."

Black Sheep Comedy Club made the switch online a few months after the pandemic settled in, a move that provided a boost after their initial struggles. Zoom calls were used as substitutes for shows.

"We'd get up to 50 people a show, sometimes more," Armstrong said.

"And they were coming from Canada and the States, which was amazing.

"There can't be anymore shoulder-to-shoulder, no more sharing tables, but hopefully the people that we're losing in that way, will come hop on Zoom and watch the show from there," Armstrong said.

COVID-19 gave birth to a stumbling improvisation, said Andrew Clark, coordinator of Humber College's comedy program.

"The pandemic was a new flavor of ice cream at Baskin Robbins and I won't tell you what the flavor was, it wasn't very tasty," Clark said.

His students spent the pandemic fighting through the difficulties of a time like no other.

"I was really encouraged and

inspired by just how resilient, energetic and mature the students were," Clark said.

In modern times, social media is the new SNL. Humber's comedy program grads like Kurtis Conner, whose YouTube channel has more than 3.3 million subscribers, are clear examples of the new-age comedian.

"He's like a company on YouTube with a clothing line," Clark said. "This is a new major entertainment force."

Adrienne Fish reached the comedy stage in her mid-20s after a chance revelation.

"I was telling a story to a friend on a roof at a party, she was laughing and suddenly she's like you should do stand-up,"

she said. "It was kind of a eureka moment where I realized the perfect outlet."

Fish had initial struggles finding her feet, going through the rites of passage most comedians face. But

her career was progressing. Pre-pandemic she was doing

three shows a night, was nominated for breakout artist of the year for Canadian Comedy Awards, and appeared on Comedy Central.

"There's an anxiety that you'll be forgotten if you ever stop," Fish said. "The pandemic was an opportunity for everyone to sit down, everyone had to stop, which was a weird relief."

The enforced break provided time for taking stock, of both the good and bad in the profession, she said.

"I was a dancing monkey and made people laugh, and it doesn't actually feel good," Fish said. "What's important is that I'm staying true to my voice, which I'm just starting to find now."



COURTESY ADRIENNE FISH

Adrienne Fish started in comedy through telling a joke to her friend at a party who then convinced her to go into stand-up comedy.



JESSE GLAZER

According to a survey conducted by GAME in April, 2021, Spider-Man became the most popular superhero of all time and has spawned three film franchises with Tobey Maguire, Andrew Garfield and Tom Holland.

Disney battles copyright claim in court to hoard superheroes

Jesse Glazer
Arts Reporter

Disney has taken on comics artist Larry Lieber and estates of Steve Ditko, Stan (Lee) Lieber, Gene Colan, Don Rico and Donald L. Heck in a copyright and ownership battle over numerous Marvel characters.

The suit is in retaliation to a copyright termination notice filed by the estates to reclaim ownership of the Marvel comics intellectual properties which have gone on to be part of the world's biggest film franchise.

On the table is control over powerful money makers like Iron Man, Thor, Black Widow, Dr. Strange and Spider-Man.

The lawsuits were filed "to confirm that the termination notices (issued by the lawyers of the estates of (Stan) Lieber, Ditko and Heck) are invalid and of no legal effect," Disney lawyer Dan Petrocelli said in a statement released to media on Friday, Sept. 24.

The characters under litigation have been featured at the forefront of Disney's theatrical model since 2008 in what is now known as the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).

In the complaint, Disney's argument is it retains ownership of all contributions made by Marvel comic book artists and creators, as they were paid on a per-page rate for their contributions.

"As a result, any contributions

Lieber (Stan Lee) made were at Marvel's instance and expense, rendering his contributions work made for hire, to which the Copyright Act's termination provisions do not apply," the complaint said.

Jesse Tepperman, a Toronto-based entertainment lawyer, said Marvel is suing on the basis that it's the author of the works created by these individuals and the first owner of the copyright in the work.

"In theory, this would negate copyright termination," Tepperman said.

Tepperman said the Copyright Act allows authors or their heirs, under certain circumstances, to terminate parts of their agreements with other entities or individuals in regards to a specific copyrighted work.

In this case, Lieber and the estates of Lee, Ditko, Rico, Colan and Heck are attempting to terminate elements that would consider Marvel the sole author of the works. This would have the effect of recognizing the creators' estates as the owners of their respective works.

The term "work for hire," as outlined in the complaint, is standard in entertainment agreements, Tepperman said.

"Studios (especially large studios with lots of leverage) generally include language in both their employment and independent contractor agreements that all of the work is considered 'work made for hire' for the pur-

poses of U.S. copyright law," Tepperman wrote in an email.

Jessica Bay, an expert in film and media production, explained Disney and the "Mickey Mouse" brand have grown so massive both politically and economically in the last little while, that they've been effective in changing intellectual property laws in the United States.

Therefore, this lawsuit is just another step toward them owning more intellectual property.

"Their [Disney] business practice is to control IP — every IP. They bought Lucasfilm, they bought Marvel, that was the point of purchasing these properties," Bay said. "It wasn't to purchase the film making, it was to purchase the IP. So, it obviously doesn't help them if someone tries to claim that IP."

Bay said it's almost inevitable for this kind of suit to be settled before it reaches court.

"The big thing people are looking for is financial compensation, and as long as Disney can offer the right amount of financial compensation this will be settled out of court," Bay said.

Disney settled out of court in 2014 with the estate of Jack Kirby, who was Marvel's most prolific artist and creator. His list of creations include Thor, Iron Man, Black Panther, The Eternals, SHIELD, Nick Fury and with Joe Simon, Captain America. The financial details were not disclosed.

EDITORIAL

Keep promises on electoral reform

In the fall election, 52 per cent of voters elected no one.

Despite winning only 32 per cent of the vote with 5,500,000 ballots, the Liberals were given the mandate to govern. The Conservatives received more than 200,000 more ballots than the Grits with 33 per cent of the share. This is the reality of the first-past-the-post system.

Yet, the Liberals won 159 seats while the Tories racked up 119. That's only the top two parties, with the others left behind despite the millions of ballots the New Democrats, Bloc Quebecois and Greens received.

There has been talk for years of changing up the system. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

ran on the issue when he won a sweeping majority in 2015.

He failed to capitalize on his powerful mandate to pass voting reform because Liberals are consistent beneficiaries of FPTP, critics have pointed out.

Proponents of the centuries-old first-past-the-post system say it often allows for a clear-cut choice for voters between two main parties. It also determines a winner through frequent majority government scenarios where voters can hand one party all the power with 51 per cent of the seats.

The only problem is the antiquated FPTP option ignores the wishes of so many voters.

But there is hope. A parliamen-

tary committee in 2021 voted in favour of studying a national citizens' assembly on electoral reform. The effort was stalled by the election, but Et Cetera believes the work should continue.

Trudeau should follow through on his 2015 promise of electoral reform and those in parliament should listen to the people that make up the future of this country.

It's time to kill first-past-the-post, and put in place an alternative that allows for more seats at the table and for more votes to actually count.

From the Mixed Member Plurality system recommended by the Law Commission of Canada in 2004 — where citizens vote

for a local candidate and a party — or direct proportional representation, voting for just a candidate, there remain many options that have seen success in other countries.

A variation of a proportional representation system, like what is used in Germany, New Zealand and the Netherlands, all but brings a complete end to majority governments and forces parties to work together. All a party has to do in Canada is win about 38 per cent of the votes to clinch a majority — meaning that 62 per cent of the voters can be ignored.

What a proportional system does is force the parties to work together in a perpetual coalition

scenario, which both changes the nature of campaigns and works towards breaking down regional divides.

Come election season, if political parties view their opponents as future collaborators instead of opponents, that would provide space for more healthy discourse.

There are hundreds of thousands of voters in Canadian urban areas that vote Conservative. There are more that vote Liberal in the Prairies. Proportional representation would reveal there is support for a variety of parties from coast to coast to coast.

It's time to leave the old standard behind, and mold our democracy after the diverse mosaic that we claim to be.

OPINION

Journalists are learning to deal with PTSD, trauma, managing mental health



Ayesha Raizada
Life Editor

Unlike other professionals, journalists and reporters have to remain neutral in covering traumatic events to report the truth.

However, becoming emotionally invested in the stories they're reporting on isn't an option for them, which is why they often end up suppressing the emotions that can later become a problem, leading to PTSD if not managed properly.

A 2002 study from The American Journal of Psychiatry found war journalists have a drastically higher chance of facing psychiatric difficulties than journalists who work on lighter beats.

Multiple studies from the NCBI (National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) between 2012 and 2018, found

conflict journalists experience ongoing PTSD symptoms, where the severity of symptoms are mostly mild but can eventually become more severe.

Randy Boswell, an associate professor in the Department of Journalism and Communications at Carleton University and a former reporter with the Ottawa Citizen and Postmedia News, said repeated exposure to tragedy and violence is a part of the job, and journalists should be aware of the potential impact and need to take steps to take care of themselves.

"Conflict zone reporters are certainly experiencing a lot of those kinds of traumatic episodes regularly, and so it only stands to reason that there would be impacts on their lives," Boswell said.

"Not everybody reacts the same way, but the reality is that anybody over time would start to accumulate a lot of baggage if that is part of your daily life," he said.

Graeme Frisque, a reporter with The Mississauga News and The Brampton Guardian, agrees, noting there is a devastating mental impact of reporting violence and crime.

"Unless you're a sociopath, when you see these sort of traumatic things, you can't help, but you know you sort of feel and you have feelings about that,"

Frisque said.

He said while journalists eventually get trained enough and begin to compartmentalize, when the story is done and published, they get the chance to reflect on it.

"That's when it kind of hits you have to figure out coping mechanisms," Frisque said. "Those are different for everyone. It's not one size fits all solution."

Joanna Lavoie, a breaking news reporter with Torstar Corporation Community Brands who has been a journalist for around 20 years, said she still remembers cases from years ago that have impacted her.

"I feel emotional to this day about people who have died or terrible things, like a child who died, or something bad that had happened," she said. "It stays with you because you're a part of that journey of pain that somebody went through."

A 2015 study by Sunnybrook Health Centre's Anthony Feinstein, Justus Wanga of the Nation in Kenya, and John Owen with the City University in London found many journalists end up consuming alcohol to deal with their psychological trauma.

Tamara Cherry, a former crime reporter, with CTV News Toronto, The Toronto Sun and The Toronto Star newspapers

and founder of Pickup Communications, a trauma-informed public relations firm, believes the profession can take a drastic toll on journalists, leading to unhealthy coping mechanisms.

"I know from my personal experience of 15 years of crime reporting and have worked with a therapist," Cherry said. "There's a lot of stuff that I have to work through, and through conversations with colleagues over the years I know how they suffered."

Cherry, whose research project was published in September 2021 by the Journal of Community Safety and Well-Being, spoke up about the effects of reporting on trauma on radio, TV, newspaper, and social media.

"Some of them suffered post-traumatic stress, some of them experienced burnout, and there were a lot of moral injuries involved where they were reaching out to trauma survivors," Cherry said.

Boswell emphasizes journalists should be taking periodic breaks, go for counselling or therapy, and take active measures of self-care.

Lavoie said she manages her psychological health by taking a break and working on lighter-hearted stories after a distressing one. She also highlighted the need for more health



TAMARA CHERRY/CTVNEWS

Tamara Cherry, a former CTV News crime reporter conducted an analysis of how covering trauma can be traumatic.

benefits and support for journalists covering wars, destruction, and violence.

"I don't have a counsellor because it's pricey and not really available, and that would be something that I would appreciate," she said.

According to Frisque, most news organizations provide certain resources to their reporters, especially in big stories that include violence and destruction.

"This is something that most companies are aware of, especially in this day and age and they do a fairly good job of making these resources available to reporters," Frisque said.

My odyssey from Colombia to Canada framed by past events beyond my control



Santiago Arias-Orozco
News Reporter

words on my passport's cover — República de Colombia — will be enough to raise questions about my “real” intentions for entering any country.

Research by Saint Tomas University in Bogotá suggests Colombians will pay for the country's reputation and will routinely be suspected as drug dealers, mobsters or terrorists.

Once, an immigration officer in Ecuador repeatedly asked me if I would work during my two-week trip, the assumption being I would find more unsavoury ways to fund my travels.

At Lima's airport in Peru, police made Colombian passengers go through full-body drug scans while travelers from other countries sailed through.

Colombia's past is painful, covered in blood and fear. Over four decades, the country was oppressed. First, terrorist armed groups, including the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), hid in the dense Colombian Amazon jungle

and took control of the country's rural areas. Meanwhile, in the cities, drug cartels were spreading cocaine nationwide.

A corrupt government was incapable of controlling the problem, until the 1990s. Since then, one by one, the drug cartels were taken on, insurgent groups were cornered until the biggest one was dismantled in 2016 following a peace deal.

But the stigma remains.

Colombians are still profiled and judged by our country's past, in which we had little or no responsibility. It almost feels that, for the rest of the world, Colombia is stuck in the 1980s.

How can I persuade people Colombians have the same values, vices and virtues as any other nation when the entertainment industry portrays my country as a socially backward land of drug cartels and mobster violence.

Narcos, The Mafia Dolls, and Wild District, were among Netflix's titles when searching “Colombian Movies & TV.” All



SANTIAGO ARIAS-OROZCO

Et Cetera reporter Santiago Arias Orozco holds his Colombian passport and boarding pass in Bogota's El Dorado International Airport.

of these showcase a version of Colombia to which I cannot relate.

In them, it's as easy to buy cocaine as it is food. Exaggerating Colombia's problems enriches the story, enhances the climax.

These misrepresentations have turned one of my greatest pleasures — travel — into a challenging, sometimes humiliating odyssey.

For all of us hoping to move beyond our difficult past and see Colombia's reputation improved to match its modern reality, the release of the Disney movie, Encanto, is good news.

Its two released trailers showcase a more accurate take on

Colombia by including scenes of our country's long-lasting customs, typical attires and dishes, cultural emblems and lavish native beauty.

Despite being a cartoon animated with fictitious events, this movie is a much more realistic reflection of Colombia. And while a single movie may not cleanse Colombia's reputation, it might help set the standard for more accurate representation.

Colombia is a culturally diverse, naturally rich, and socially resilient country. Its citizens shouldn't be made to feel ashamed when carrying their beautiful wine-red passports.

OHL Soo Greyhounds draft pick looks for new beginning



Cassandra Spurrell
Biz-Tech Editor

Justin had time to focus on what needed to be done.

“I feel like I trained a lot this past summer to get myself ready for this year's training camp,” he said.

After arriving at the Holiday Inn Express hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, Justin knew it was going to be a difficult and tiring week ahead of him. He called me every day through FaceTime to tell me about the day he had, and what was to come.

“The first day we did basic training, and physical tests,” he said. “The next day was on-ice training with the guys who got drafted the same year as me, some who didn't make it the year before, and people who were already on the team.”

Throughout the week, Justin spent hours on the ice getting ready for the games. Coaches and managers watched to see who would be moving on to the next day of training camp. “It was a game-by-game pro-

cess, after practicing on the ice in the mornings we would have lunch with the team, go back to the hotel and get ready for the game,” he said.

It was nerve-racking not to be there to watch my brother play. Instead, I got updates from my parents — who were there — letting me know how Justin was doing and whether he got a point for his team that game.

Justin made it to the last round of cuts and had to play one final game against the players who were already on the Greyhounds, some who had already been drafted to the NHL.

Watching the game on the Soo Greyhounds' YouTube channel, it was surreal to hear my brother's name being called by the announcers any time he had the puck. I knew this was what he had always dreamed about.

Although Justin had a great first training camp with the team, the Greyhounds didn't pick him for this year's roster.



SOO GREYHOUND OHL

Justin Spurrell, in red, at training camp with the 2021 Soo Greyhounds.

“I was pretty upset about it, that's where I wanted to play this year and hoped to get drafted to the NHL from this team eventually,” he said.

We were all pretty disappointed about the news. But we knew there would be other opportunities to improve his skills for next year's training camp.

After the training camp, Justin decided to take his talents elsewhere and play for the Powassan Voodoos of the Northern Ontario

Junior Hockey League in North Bay, Ont.

“I thought the Voodoos would be a great fit for me, they're a great organization and have had a lot of success in the past,” he said.

With the season just getting started, Justin already has one goal and three assists in his last seven games with Powassan. My brother and the rest of my family are excited to see where this year takes him, and what his future holds.