



SCARBOROUGH RT DECOMMISSIONED

The Scarborough RT arriving at Kennedy Station. The cuts to the SRT will be leaving Scarborough without many options for public transit. Advocates say many residents feel stranded.



**ONTARIO INVESTS
\$25 MILLION TO
ADDRESS LABOUR
SHORTAGE
P.3**



**POLICE SEEK
SUSPECT IN
TWO ASSAULTS
NEAR LAKESHORE
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THE WEST END/FICKR

A Scarborough RT train at Kennedy Station. Also called Line 3, the six-stop train line which opened in 1985, is being decommissioned this year.

Improving Scarborough's transit should be a top TTC priority

Tyreike Reid
Senior Reporter

Later this year, the Scarborough SRT will be decommissioned, as a result residents in Toronto's east end community continue to feel like they don't matter.

The six-stop train line, also known as Line 3 in Toronto's subway system, is Scarborough's only form of rapid transit, carrying thousands of passengers each day from McCowan station to Kennedy station.

The line will be decommissioned due to the Line 2 subway extension project currently underway, which will add three additional stops in Scarborough from Kennedy Station to Sheppard, with an expected opening date of 2030.

As a result, this will leave Scarborough residents with only the option of riding buses to commute around the community, and other parts of the city for at least seven years.

Transit advocate and TTCriders volunteer, Vincent Puhakka, said these changes make an already marginalized community such as

Scarborough much worse.

"Now you're waiting at traffic lights in mixed traffic where you used to have a train that went 80 kilometres an hour and skipped traffic," he said. "So, your commute gets worse, not just your commute, your trip to do anything gets worse."

While the city and TTC prepares to decommission the line, many Scarborough residents have been

"YOUR COMMUTE GETS WORSE, NOT JUST YOUR COMMUTE, YOUR TRIP TO DO ANYTHING GETS WORSE."

Vincent Puhakka

Transit advocate and TTCriders volunteer

unable to prepare for the change due to not knowing about the upcoming closure.

Toronto city councillor, Jamaal Myers (Ward 23 Scarborough-North), said he has been pushing for more awareness surrounding the decommission.

"This is something I've been pushing the TTC for, almost since

I got into office, is at least letting people know that the SRT is going to be shutting down, giving people the information," he said. "And the TTC unfortunately has been dragging their feet on this."

While traffic is a major concern for residents who will soon need to rely on buses, longer wait times will also be impacting Scarborough commuters.

As part of its 2023 service adjustment, the TTC has made schedule changes to more than 30 routes, 10 of these routes operate in Scarborough and will experience longer wait times as of March 26, 2023.

Bus routes such as the 905 and 86, which run along Eglinton East in priority bus lanes as part of the RapidTO project, will now arrive

minutes later.

Myers said lack of funding is the main cause for the current state of transit in Toronto communities.

"We've underfunded our system to such an extent that it's no longer able to properly serve the community, all parts of the community, not just those that happen to be near rapid transit or near a stop," Meyers said.

Funding transit in Scarborough is needed to keep up with its growing demand and properly serve some of the city's most vulnerable populations. For Puhakka, this starts with shifting the focus to building Scarborough a rapid transit network of its own to serve the east end community.

"We were long calling for an LRT network that would link together all of Scarborough, even if we build the subway, we can still do these things by putting, for example, the red bus lanes on more routes in Scarborough," he said.

"So, these are investments we can make to make Scarborough transit better right now," Puhakka said.

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 Et Cetera is a publication of the Faculty of Media and Creative Arts at Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning
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TTC service cuts, rising fares upsets students

Andrew Raghunandan
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The daily commute for some TTC riders is about to become longer starting this week and more expensive starting next week.

Cuts in the 2023 city budget that went into effect Monday will impact the service of 37 bus, streetcar, and subway routes.

Riders on Line 2 Bloor-Danforth will be waiting eight minutes, representing what the group TTCriders calls a 67 per cent increase in wait times for riders.

Riders on 24 routes will see shorter wait times during the day, while two routes will have shorter wait times permanently.

Advocates are speaking out against these impletened service cuts, as most of the cuts are on already crowded routes.

“Service cuts mean being late for work and school,” Shelagh Pizey-Allen, TTCriders executive director, told Humber News.

“Without federal and provincial transit operations funding, the TTC could make even deeper

cuts. Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford must invest now in transit funding,” she said.

The service cuts come a week before next Monday when the TTC will increase fares by 10 cents for youth and adults.

Students that Humber News spoke to on Monday were unaware of the new service cuts however had some questions.

“I usually take the 996 to commute to campus, but today I am on a different route. What services will be cut?” said Sam Constanio.

“I take one trip here and then I have an additional way of getting home,” said John Yan.

Some students at the transit hub at Humber’s North Campus on Monday expressed disappointment with the service overall.

“I was not aware but I was pretty sure that these would be coming, because the TTC always lets me down,” said Misha Tomilian while waiting with a group.

Debbie Taylor said she would be concerned about any potential cuts to her trip to campus. “I use the TTC to commute to campus everyday.”

Students can find a full list of



UNPLASH / ZAIN AHMED

Cuts in the 2023 city budget will impact the service of 37 bus, streetcar, and subway routes for students.

the routes that are impacted on the TTC website.

A new study by Toronto Metropolitan University found that the service cuts will have a larger impact on the city’s marginalised communities who depend on public transit to get around the city.

The research group used data from the 2016 Ontario Marginalisation Index to find locations across the city with a high number of marginalised populations. The study found that while some of the impacted routes are in high transit use neighbourhoods, while most

are in less travelled areas where riders are more dependant on the transit system.

Pizey-Allen said the situation is serious for many disenfranchised communities

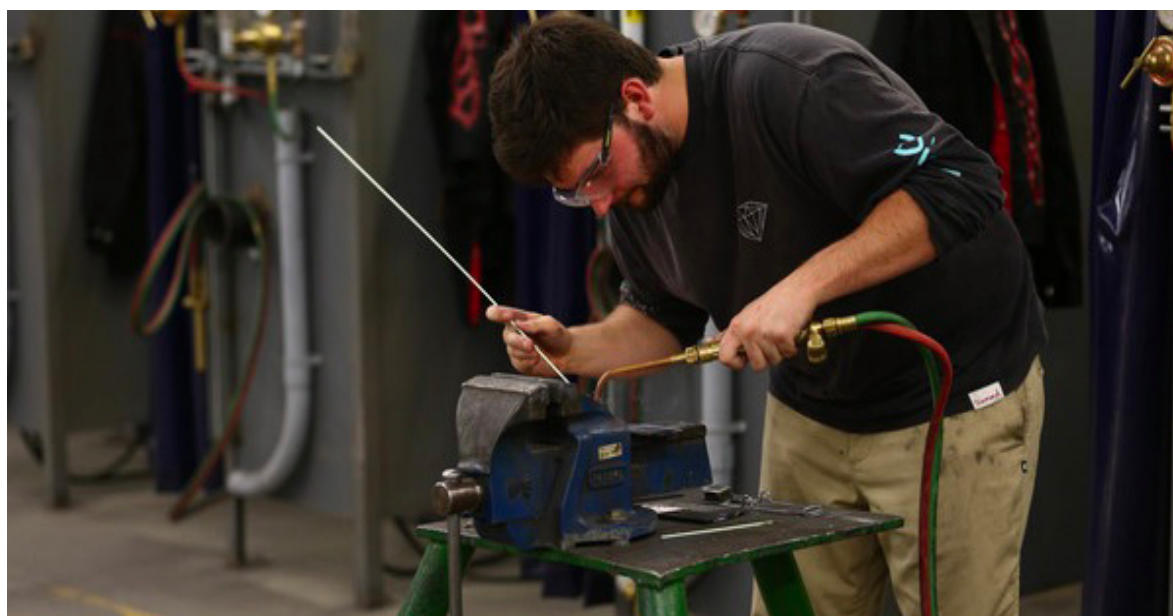
“The majority of these route changes are happening in neighbourhoods where lower income people and new immigrants live,” she said.

Shift workers, women, and racialized people rely heavily on the transit system in the city and for these changes to happen is totally unfair,” Pizey-Allen said.

“We have been doing a call to action where at 18 of the stops where the changes are going to happen, we’re handing out flyers to inform transit users to take action and send the provincial and federal governments a message to stop the cuts,” she said.

A total of 39 routes which includes one street car, two subway trains, and 36 bus routes will be impacted by the service changes. This is as result due to the lower pandemic ridership and it represents 20 per cent of all TTC services across the city.

Immigrant workers could solve Ont. labour shortage



HUMBER COLLEGE

The Ontario government is spending \$25 million over three years to bring more skilled immigrants to the province.

Carter Roy
Senior Reporter

Reaction continued Wednesday to news the Ontario government is investing in a program to bring more skilled immigrants to the province.

“Immigrants are keen to come to Canada, and Canada needs immigrants,” Usha George of Toronto Metropolitan University Centre

told Humber News.

The province’s plan announced on Tuesday is to invest \$25 million over three years in its flagship immigration program to increase the number of skilled immigrants arriving in the province

“Our government is ready to welcome more skilled newcomers to Ontario to help build the highways, transit, schools, homes and

hospitals our growing population needs,” said Premier Doug Ford.

“As we continue to tackle historic labour shortages, we’re doing everything we can to ensure we have the workforce to help build Ontario. It’s all hands on deck,” said Premier Doug Ford at the investment announcement which was held at Pearson Airport.

The flagship immigration pro-

gram, known as the “Ontario Immigration Nominee Program,” allows the province to nominate individuals for permanent residence who can contribute to Ontario’s economy in the skilled trades and health care industry.

This plan builds on the province’s recent Working for Workers Act 3, which brings forward further measures to remove barriers facing internationally trained professionals who wish to work in regulated professions.

George agreed that the market is in need of people.

“The labour market needs workers, and fast” said George, the Academic Director of TMU’s Centre for Immigration and Settlement.

George told Humber News the new government money could also be used to expand apprenticeship opportunities, or expand opportunities for people to even learn new skills in the industry.

“This can enhance the immigration process because the province can use their own discretion to bring in the kind of workers they need,” said George.

George also applauded an act passed in 2021 that is now going to

help this new investment plan.

“In 2021 the province passed the “Building Opportunities in The Skilled Trades Act,” which basically organizes the practice of trades in Ontario, which can now enhance the skilled trades immigration process,” she said.

In 2022, Canada reached its goal of 431,645 new permanent residents. The number of immigrants was due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the creation of many new and open jobs, as according to the Government of Canada.

“Every year, more immigrants come to Ontario than any other province,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development at the investment announcement on Tuesday.

In 2016, only one-quarter of internationally-trained immigrants in Ontario were working in the profession they trained or studied for, regardless of having high levels of education.

“It is critical to ensure we have the resources to select and welcome those best placed to succeed, and building stronger communities for everyone,” McNaughton said.



HAN DONG TWITTER

Han Dong appeared before the media to talk about Canada's economy and affordability on Oct. 14, 2022. Dong has denied accusations of his role in alleged foreign interference from China.

Security expert highlights limits for intel disclosure

Philip Lau
Politics Editor

A former director general of Canada's foreign affairs department says the recent leak of intelligence involving alleged Chinese tampering reminded him of tactics used by the Soviet Union's KGB.

Artur Wilczynski, who served as a director general for the Foreign Affairs Department from 2010 to 2014 working on international security, said Soviet agents would leak information to media and other countries to shape public perception of individuals and institutions that they did not like.

Leakers working in the Canadian government behaved in the same anti-democratic way just because they were unhappy about how national security policies are being implemented, Wilczynski said.

"That is narcissistic. That is dangerous," he told Humber News. "That runs specifically counter to their role in the government,

and is not in my opinion whistleblowing."

Leaked intelligence has been central to media reports about alleged foreign interference from China. The most recent allegations came from a Global News report on March 22 against MP Han Dong.

Dong resigned from the Liberal caucus after the report was published, but said in a statement on March 27 he is suing Global News and its owner Corus Entertainment.

"I can look at myself in the mirror and know, with full certainty, that I have the truth on my side," he said. "My anonymous false accusers and their enablers cannot say the same."

Wilczynski said while there is nothing wrong with journalists seeking maximum transparency, caution has been missing from public discussion about the leaked intelligence.

"They think that just because there's intelligence, it's 100 per cent true," he said.

Wilczynski said taking intelligence at face value, without realizing such information needs to be assessed, analyzed, critiqued and put into context, can paint a distorted picture.

It risks reaching a verdict on an accused individual too early and without due process, he said.

Wilczynski said the leak of intelligence also puts sources at risk, particularly those from immigrant communities.

Some sources now need to worry about harassment and intimidation from hostile foreign actors, and even their families still living in their home countries, he said.

Wilczynski said this broke the trust between the sources and the intelligence community.

"Why would they talk to members of the national security community who aren't able to keep that information secret," he said.

Wilczynski also said he is worried about ongoing discussion becoming targeted at specific indi-

viduals or communities, but not the actions of foreign interference.

"Just because I happen to be from one community or another, that doesn't necessarily oblige me to have one particular point of view or another," he said. "Being a member of the Chinese community and supporting the PRC [People's Republic of China], it's freedom of expression."

But Wilczynski said the Canadian government can do more to foster public understanding about the threat of foreign interference and the nature of intelligence.

He said in the U.S., the Director of National Intelligence will testify before Congress and issue an annual national threat assessment.

This public assessment, although not containing classified information, outlines the challenges the U.S. intelligence community is responding to, he said.

Wilczynski said such transparency and regular engagement do not exist in Canada.

He said a non-partisan public inquiry will be an important first step towards more regular engagement.

Such inquiry can address key questions as the role of security and intelligence communities in building resilience in Canadian democracy, Wilczynski said.

It could also examine the effects of foreign interference beyond the federal level, he said.

He also said individuals with security clearance in the inquiry can assess sensitive information, arrive at conclusions about the 2019 and 2021 federal elections, and announce their broad findings to the public.

But Wilczynski said Canadians need to be satisfied with an inquiry that does not disclose exciting details about specific individuals or institutions, because of the harm such disclosure could bring.

"And if they're not, oh well, you can't get everything you want for Christmas," he said.

Han Dong may sue Global News over foreign interference report

Andrew Raghunandan
Senior Reporter

Toronto Independent MP Hon Dong who represents the Don Valley North Riding is fighting to clear his name and save his reputation.

The once-Liberal caucus member left the party after Global News published a story last week alleging that he had advised a Chinese diplomat to delay the release of two Canadian diplomats in detention in China so it would damage the Conservative's reputation.

Dong strongly denied the allegations and now says he has retained a lawyer and is taking legal action

against Global News and Corus Entertainment for publishing that story, according to a statement he posted on Twitter on March 27.

"It is inconceivable that I would ever suggest a falsely accused individual should spend an extra minute in jail," Dong wrote.

In the statement, he goes on to explain the hardships his father faced back in China and why his family ended up in Canada.

"In 1970, my father was sent to the May Seventh Cadre School (re-education camp) during the Cultural Revolution and subjected to forced labour and 24-hour surveillance for almost an entire year.

From that experience, my father knew there was no future left for him in China. As a result, in 1990 my father brought me, my sister, and my mother to Canada to begin a new life," he said.

"The trauma left on my father is one of the compelling reasons why, as co-chair of the Canada-China Legislative Association and a member of Parliament, I took every available opportunity to advocate on behalf of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor and to call for their immediate release," Dong wrote.

A different report in The Globe and Mail said the Prime Minister's Office has examined a transcript of

Dong's call with the diplomat and found no "actionable evidence."

University of Toronto political science professor Nelson Wiseman understands why Dong put out the statement.

"The best defence is a good offence," Wiseman said. "How good will it be? I am pretty sure it will not go to a trial. This story deals with national security, where a whistleblower is risking going to jail for a long time."

Wiseman noted that Dong was noticeably absent for a recent House of Commons motion condemning the Chinese government's treatment of its Uyghur population.

Meanwhile, Global News editor-in-chief Sonia Verma is standing by the network's reporting in a statement issued on March 27.

"Global News is governed by a rigorous set of journalistic principles and practices, and we are very mindful of the public interest and legal responsibility of this important accountability reporting," she wrote.

"There are pretty strong protections for freedom of the press," University of Toronto political scientist Christopher Cochrane said. "If he is not at all involved, I see a reason that his reputation has been damaged."

IGNITE's year-end events are 'a great way to de-stress'

Karl Lewis
Senior Reporter

Mark your calendars, Humber students—the student union IGNITE is planning to end the school year on a high with an official student social event they are calling “Hype Hall,” on April 5.

“It is an opportunity for everyone to attend the event if you are graduating, or even in first year—just to have a chance to do something fun,” said Marlon Peters, IGNITE's manager of student engagement.

Hype Hall is Humber College's official free student social that celebrates the end of the school term and is expected to host all full time students next Wednesday at the Universal Event Space in Vaughan.

“You made it! Welcome to a well-deserved end-of-year celebration,” reads the official statement on the IGNITE official website.

“Prepare yourself for this all-out paradise that'll be the sprinkles on your sundae.”

With the end of the school year approaching, to ease student tensions, IGNITE is among other student engagement departments that

uses an array of events to alleviate stress and concerns among students.

“Hype all is an end of year event for all full-time Humber & Guelph Humber students to celebrate the end of the school year—and is all funded by Ignite,” said Peters.

“We did this last year and this is our second year around and we expect to have it for years to come given the demand.”

With the sound of pop-music blaring in the air; a long line up can be seen coming from the Ignite student union set up.

Both students and staff stars as the event coordinator hands out snacks to every student with bright red tickets which would indicate their participation.

Ivana Lood, a final year Psychology student at Guelph Humber said she was excited to play the arcade games than to accept her snack. Smiling from ear to ear Lood said she was very excited for this event as this is her first time attending.

“It's a great way to destress from all school work — IGNITE has worked well with students and with everyone, even during the



KARL LEWIS

IGNITE manager for student engagement Marlon Peters (left) gave a snack to final year psychology student from the University of Guelph-Humber Ivana Lood (right) at an Ask Me Anything counter on March 29, 2023.

pandemic they made an effort to connect with students in various way,” said Lood.

“I am very excited to be attending with friends. People who I met while studying at Guelph-Humber.”

Lood wasn't the only student excited for the break. For second-year international student Smriti Sharma, this year's staging of Hype Hall would be her first time attending and that she's ready to relax.

“It's very good to see that we can relax and take a break from studies

and work—we sometimes forget that there are activities like these happening on campus because we are so focused on school and our studies,” Sharma said.

“This will be a great opportunity for us to experience such an event.” IGNITE spokesperson, Rein Roxas can be seen riding on a what appears to be pink motorized pony said she's excited for students as they are in for a treat.

“I am so excited for the semester to be over— I am in first year and I am really glad I got the opportunity to be apart of this years

staging,” Roxas said.

Dubbed as ‘Treat Yo Self’, students attending the event can expect a list of games and activities that they can partake. From free ‘carnival worthy’ food to haircuts, makeup, and even a musical selection, students will have the time to end their school year with the ultimate hype.

Students will need their ID's, a copy of their Eventbrite tickets, and must show their Humber Guardian App Covid- 19 Self Assessment and Vaccine Passport.

Masks are mandatory for entry and for the duration of the event.

Mississauga team wins bronze at FIRST robotics competition

Muhammad Hamza
Senior Reporter

Leon Zhang, the electric and programming controller of Absolute Robotics from Woodlands Secondary School, said he was heartbroken after his team missed gold at a recent competition at Humber College.

For the four weeks before the March 17 weekend competition, his Mississauga high school team toiled every day from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. to build and fix their robot, Zhang said.

“We finished in the very nick of time, and that left almost zero time for testing, and everything that could go wrong went wrong,” he said.

Humber College hosted a round of FIRST Robotics Competition at its Athletics Centre from March 17 to March 19, with 28 teams signed up to compete. Each team played in an alliance of three teams in each round, pitted at times against their previous allies.

Absolute Robotics won bronze in this round of competition, after winning four but losing six and tying one round throughout the competition.

Zhang said his team could have performed better in the competition.



MUHAMMAD HAMZA

Absolute Robotics from Woodlands Secondary School prepare for the FIRST robotics competition on March 19..

“Unfortunately, things didn't pan out as we expected,” he said. “But hey, that's how life works.”

Zhang said he learned a lot of technical skills through the competition.

“Coming in, I didn't know that much about how electrical systems worked in automotive or robotics,” he said. “Now I think I've gained a significant understanding.

“Also, my soldering skills have improved. I can design circuit boards with much better preci-

sion,” Zhang said.

William Neal, program coordinator of First Robotics, said he observed a quick advance in students' understanding of various technical skills.

“I saw rapid advancement in the understanding of how to do technological design,” Neal said. “Computer-aided design, how to manufacture, how to do coding, how to run a business, how to do advanced planning, sustainability, and succession planning.”

Zhang also said the competition has promoted communication and the idea that everyone can and should compete.

“But everyone should try to help each other and make each other the best possible,” he said. “And I think it shows that winning is not all.”

Zhang said his team are hopeful and confident about the upcoming competition in Windsor.

“We are maybe a little bit heartbroken, but I feel like everyone is optimistic that we will be able

to achieve success, at least at Windsor,” he said.

Eiliyah Siddiqi, captain of Absolute Robotics, said that her team's strategy was weak initially and led to the defeat.

“I'd say our primary weakness for the first day was not strategizing enough, but by the first few matches I got the hang of what we needed to do,” Siddiqi said.

“Another thing was that we were not using all the sensors that our bot was equipped with,” she said. “I feel like if we had a better understanding of that and how we could use it, it would have worked out a little bit smoother.”

But she said she is proud of the team's overall performance.

Godofredo Balcita, coach of the Absolute Robotics team, said if his team used sensors properly, the result might be better.

“Our weak points were because we did not utilize all of the sensors that we had planned on using and the camera, sensors and cameras,” he said.

Balcita said his team should be persistent.

“I think never lose faith,” he said. “Always be professional and work with whatever you have and work with the team that you have.”



AP PHOTO/OREN ZIV

Israeli police tries to disperse protest against PM Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan outside the parliament in Tel Aviv, March 27, 2023.

Israel suspends controversial judicial overhaul following widespread protests

Tension in Israel over proposed judicial reforms have sparked controversy as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to make major changes in judicial power.

Joshua Drakes
Senior Reporter

Israel on Monday moved away from a proposed overhaul of the country's judicial system that would have taken power away from the courts and given it the government.

The proposed changes have been put on hold for at least a couple of months, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said to avoid a "rupture among our people."

Over the weekend, Israeli police faced off against tens of thousands of protesters as unrest continued to grow amid Netanyahu's proposed judicial overhaul. There was widespread anger after Netanyahu fired

his defence minister Yoav Gallant, who had spoken out against the proposed reforms.

Some of the changes would check the power of the judicial branch, such as the courts, which according to Netanyahu's government have amassed too much power and influence in Israel.

One of these changes would allow the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, to have a final say in the country's Supreme Court appointments by changing the selection committee to be a majority held by government members.

Opponents considered the judicial changes to be a centralization of power in the country, while others argued that it would create a better balance of power between government institutions.

Aurel Braun, Professor of International Relations and Political Science at the University of Toronto, told Humber News on Monday that it's not so simple, and that both sides are lacking understanding and context in the current situation.

"A modern democracy is a system of checks and balances,

which means that no one has all the power," he said.

"Everyone has some power in the visit, checking each other to limit power in order to protect rights," he said.

"A judiciary, a Supreme Court, has a very important function of judicial review. This happens in all democracies. And that balances the power that the legislature and the executive has."

Braun said that in Israel the need for judicial reform is long overdue, and that the courts have too much sway in the power balance.

"If any one of the three branches has too much power, it creates a problem," he said.

"The Israeli Supreme Court has too much power. We select judges in Canada through our Governor General and the Orders in Council process. That is, the Prime Minister proposes it, and it's approved by the cabinet," he said.

"In Israel, that is not the case. They will succeed themselves. The old judges have a huge amount of say in who's going to succeed them."

Braun also said that the move by the current Israeli government

presents a problem since Netanyahu himself is facing allegations of corruption that are before the courts.

"Benjamin Netanyahu carries a lot of baggage, he has been indicted on a number of charges. There is that problem that with somebody like that, as prime minister, you are going to have suspicion that he is doing this just to protect his own interests," he said.

"Netanyahu and his coalition are the wrong messengers," Braun said.

"I wish that the suggestion for reform would have come from the previous government, which was liberal left, because they should have been intent on reforming the process," he said.

Democracy is a constantly changing and constantly embattled system, and it must be proactive to guard against any branch gaining too much power at any given time, Braun said.

"Democracies are imperfect, democracies can be volatile," said Braun. "But a democracy that survives all these conflicts is a democracy that can take a step back, and that democracy offers a lot of hope."

Don't feed the wild animals: New rules begin April 1

Samantha Little
Senior Reporter

In advance of new bylaw regulations on Saturday that will prohibit feeding wildlife, the City of Toronto is urging people not to feed local wildlife.

Owing to the negative interactions involving humans and wildlife, the city created new regulations under Chapter 349 of its Animals Bylaw that will come into effect on April 1.

Advocates are supporting the new rules.

"Wildlife doesn't need to be fed by us," Nathalie Karvonen executive director of Toronto Wildlife Centre told Humber News.

"This bylaw will benefit wildlife as they will not get food that is unhealthy for them and put them at risk of changing their behavior and approaching humans putting them at risk of being injured, killed or trapped," Karvonen said.

The changes which will make it illegal to feed wildlife or leave food out to attract animals on public and private properties.

"There were a number of difficult situations that came up of coyotes that were a direct result of people feeding them and despite trying to educate those people they wouldn't stop," Karvonen said.

Right now the fine in place for feeding wildlife is \$365 in Toronto parks.

Toronto Wildlife Centre told Humber News that the changes will help its efforts to promote peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife by providing education and expert advice about wildlife situations.

"As a charity that runs off donations, we are extremely busy and would rather not be dealing with this as it is entirely caused by humans and is not the wild animal's fault," Karvonen said.

"Many people don't follow bylaws such as keeping your dog on a leash so I am curious on how this will be enforced especially if it is on private property," Michael Drescher a professor at Waterloo University said.

Private bird feeders are still allowed under the new rules but they need to be kept above grade, kept clean and should not be attracting other animals.

Police seek suspect linked to two assaults reported near Humber Lakeshore campus

Muhammad Hamza
Senior Reporter
Antonio Peláez Barceló
International Editor

A Humber College employee and a student were assaulted — one sexually attacked — on Tuesday by a man Toronto Police are now seeking.

Police said they consider the suspected to be violent and anyone who sees him should call 9-1-1. Investigators were called to the area twice on March 28 for two assaults, about two hours apart in the area surrounding Humber College Lakeshore campus.

In a security alert message sent by Humber College to Lakeshore staff, the school reported that at approximately 4:15 pm, a 33 year-old woman walking on Lakeshore Boulevard West, west of Kipling Avenue was grabbed by the arm by the suspect.

A 26-year-old woman was sexually assaulted by a man at about 6:30 p.m. in the same area, the alert stated.

Toronto Police said they believe the attacks involved the same suspect.

“Investigators believe that both occurrences are related,” they said.

The police released two surveil-

lance images of the suspect.

They described the man as being 5-8 to 5-11 tall, with a slim to medium build, with possible marks on his face.

Rob Kilfoyle, director of Public Safety and Emergency Management at Humber College, said Humber is providing additional images to police.

“We have good descriptions from several of the survivors,” Kilfoyle said. “We also have obtained some good video surveillance, not of the incidents, but of the suspect.”

Haysi Vale, a public relations student, said she passed by the suspect

“WE HAVE GOOD DESCRIPTIONS FROM SEVERAL OF THE SURVIVORS. WE ALSO HAVE OBTAINED SOME GOOD VIDEO SURVEILLANCE, NOT OF THE INCIDENTS, BUT OF THE SUSPECT.”

Rob Kilfoyle

Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management, Humber College

on Wednesday, laying down on a bench by the War Heroes Memorial in front of 3146 Lake Shore Blvd.

around 25 years ago, said he was wearing a hoodie.

“He was looking around people,

he locked eyes with me and then I went another way,” she said. “He definitely gave the impression he was up to no good.”

Kilfoyle said the Humber Guardian app may be useful in this cases.

“There’s a Friend Walk feature, which allows you to send your location to another person,” Kilfoyle said.

He also said that at Lakeshore campus there was a security alert “paraphrasing the Toronto police alert that went out.”

But no security guard consulted by Humber News knew about the incident when asked at 11 a.m. Thursday.

More than 10 students were interviewed by Humber News and none of them knew about this issue either.

“When these incidents were reported to police, they immedi-

ately came to the area,” Kilfoyle said.



ANTONIO PELÁEZ BARCELÓ

A Humber College employee and a student were allegedly assaulted near Lakeshore campus on Tuesday by a man Toronto Police are now seeking.

TORONTO POLICE

Image of suspect released by Toronto Police. Toronto Police describe the man as 5-8 to 5-11, with a slim to medium build.

Regarding the victims of the assault, Kilfoyle said he’d been informed they were scared but have not been injured.

“I just know that one of them was an employee, and one of them was a student,” he said.

Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to call 22 Division at 416-808-2200.

OPINION: Being self-employed is better than being an employee in Canada



Daryna Vieniartseva
Senior Reporter

In Canada, being self-employed is better than being an employee. By the end of 2021, 2.6 million Canadians were self-employed, according to Statistics Canada.

Evgeny Rosen was an employee for HomeLife reality in Toronto but changed his life. For the last nine years has been a self-employed realtor. He said his decision was the right one because he can

watch his kids grow up and have unlimited income from home, but there are some downsides as well.

“Disadvantages are that you are responsible for everything you did, spent and earned, so if you have no income, it is only your problem,” Rosen said.

While employees receive significant support from their hiring company, self-employed people have to find new clients by themselves. This means their income is not permanent and it can cause extra stress.

Self-employed people are constantly thinking of ways to improve their business, while employed individuals spend their free time for personal use, rather than thinking about the company that employs them.

Another advantage is a free schedule. A self-employed person can choose their flexible office hours. But self-employed individuals may struggle to separate their personal and professional lives

because of self-designated office hours and working from home.

Another disadvantage is self-employed individuals pay more taxes.

The contribution rate on pensionable earnings is 11.4 per cent, the contribution rate is split equally between the employee and your employer. According to the federal government, self-employed individuals pay the full 11.4 per cent.

However despite these potential challenges with self-employment, the list of advantages is longer.

“The advantage is that you first count your expenses and only afterward pay taxes. When you are an employee, you pay taxes every month,” Rosen said. “If you are self-employed, you can write off all expenses that you incurred to earn your income.

“For example, office rent, petrol and internet, so your income gets lower and consequently, you pay fewer taxes,” he said.

The federal government says

self-employed individuals only get taxed on their net income (pure profit after all expenses), while employees get taxed on their full gross income and can’t deduct any expenses like transport, phone bills, and rent.

Independence, freedom, and the ability to be your own boss. A self-employed person does not have to worry about being fired any day without explanation, unlike an employee.

Sometimes the firing does not even happen face-to-face, employees get a phone call or email. According to Canada Labour Code, there are no laws prohibiting an employer from terminating employees via phone or email.

Self-employed individuals are still required to make contributions to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), and these contributions are calculated when they file their tax return. Self-employed taxpayers are permitted to buy and set up

additional retirement income investments on top of the CPP.

Self-employed people pay taxes alone but can earn more than employees who are not self-employed because they control their income and do not need to wait for a raise.

Employed professionals always have the maximum salary they can reach, while self-employed professionals have no limits on how much they can earn.

Self-employed people work to make them rich, while employed people work to make the company rich.

Owning a business can be a perfect investment for the future because it grows in value and can be a retirement fund, a heritage for children, or it can be sold to provide a carefree life.

To be a successful self-employed person, one should have the willingness to sacrifice in the short term to enjoy long-term benefits.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/FRANK GUNN

Pallbearers carry the casket of Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Const. Grzegorz (Greg) Pierzchala after his funeral ceremony at the Sadlon Arena in Barrie, Ont., on Jan. 4, 2023.

EDITORIAL: It's time to tighten Canada's bail system for firearms offenders

On Dec. 22, 2022, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Const. Grzegorz Pierzchala was killed near Hagersville while responding to a call involving vehicle stuck in a ditch. There, he found Randall McKenzie, 25, and Brandi Stewart-Speary, 30, who allegedly ambushed the officer and shot him.

At the time of the shooting McKenzie was already out on bail for possessing firearms and assaulting a different officer.

McKenzie had skipped a court hearing in September 2022 for those charges. A warrant was then issued for his arrest.

Since Pierzchala's death, three more Canadian officers have been killed in the line of duty. Two of them, Const. Travis Jordan, 35, and Const. Brett Ryan, 30, were shot while responding to a call in Edmonton.

It's time the federal government makes a change to bail laws when it comes to offences involving firearms. It's time something is done to keep both police officers and the public safe from potentially violent repeat offenders.

The incident with Pierzchala led to a call for change for bail regu-

lations from provincial leaders. In January, all 13 premiers sent a letter to Ottawa, asking Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to make changes to Canada's bail system.

"The justice system fundamentally needs to keep anyone who poses a threat to public safety off the streets," the letter read. "And this starts with meaningful change to the Criminal Code, an area solely within the federal government's jurisdiction."

The letter called for a reverse onus on bail for offenders charged with possession of a loaded, prohibited or restricted firearm.

According to the letter, this means that someone accused of those crimes would need "to demonstrate why their detention is not justified when they were alleged to have committed an offence where there was imminent risk to the public."

This request by the premier's is one that has been echoed by police officers across the country.

In a press conference shortly after the shooting of Const. Pierzchala, OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique made a public call for change.

"The murder of Const. Grzegorz was preventable. This should've never happened. Something needs to change," he said.

"Our police officers, your police officers, my police officers, the public deserves to be safeguarded against violent offenders who are charged with firearms related offences."

This is echoed by retired OPP Det. Const. Brenda Orr, whose husband was killed in the line of duty in November 2006.

Orr has first hand perspective on the damage that these bail regulations can cause as she is a member of SOLE (Survivors of Law Enforcement), a non-profit organization that supports the families of fallen officers.

"The punishments are so lenient that they just keep, you know, going out and reoffending," she recently told Humber News. "The same is with the parole board not keeping people in custody and releasing them back out to reoffend."

"It's very difficult for the police to do their jobs and they end up dealing with the same people over and over again because the punishments don't fit the crime," Orr said.

The leader of the federal opposition, Pierre Poilievre, has also called for change to the Canadian bail system.

Conservatives put forward a motion to repeal Bill C-75 on Feb. 1, bail legislation that the Liberal government passed in 2019. The bill made a number of changes aimed at reducing judicial delays, and releasing offenders at the earliest opportunity.

This was later accompanied by the passing of Bill C-5 in 2022, which repealed some mandatory minimum sentences for firearms offences.

The Conservatives argue those measures are putting too many violent offenders out on the streets on bail.

Despite all the calls for change, not everyone feels that a reverse onus system would be the solution that Canadians need. Jane Sprott, a criminology professor from Toronto Metropolitan University, told Humber News that while Canada has an imperfect system, the onus needs to remain on civil liberties.

"If there's concerns about a serious offence on release, you try

to mitigate that. But the person is legally innocent, so there's a chance they could have all the charges withdrawn," she said. "So you really can't intervene deeply in a legally innocent person's life."

Section 11(e) of the Canadian charter of rights and freedoms, however, states all Canadians have the right not to be denied reasonable bail without just cause.

The key word being reasonable. Canadians must decide whether the definition of reasonable includes denying bail to those charged with gun crimes. They either find gun crimes abhorrent, or they don't.

There were 297 victims of homicide in Canada where shooting was the primary cause of death in 2021, according to Statistics Canada. That was the highest rate since 1992.

Despite gun violence being a bigger problem for Canadians than ever, and all of these requests for change, there still has been nothing done in four months since the death of Pierzchala.

It's time the federal government steps up and acts to fix our bail rules for firearm offenders.

OPINION: The environment needs more than paper straws and paper bags



Maegan Lee
Op-Ed Editor

The soggy texture of the paper straw and the taste of cardboard overpowers the \$6 iced coffee, only 20 minutes into drinking it.

Since the discourse of climate change has progressed, the use of plastic straws has diminished. Furthermore, the Canadian federal government issued a ban on the production and consumption of single use plastics in December 2022.

According to a press release from the Canadian government, plastic shopping bags, utensils, stir sticks, and straws will be banned

from being sold and imported throughout Canada.

This change can be seen prominently throughout the city. Shoppers Drug Mart locations no longer have plastic bags at their self-checkouts, nor does the grocery store chain FreshCo.

Despite this ban and change in consumer habits, is it enough to help the environment and our future?

Sabrina Bowman, the Climate Action Lead at the Leadership Lab at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), currently works to educate and talk to post-secondary students around Canada about climate change.

The Leadership Lab is a policy think tank that works to connect people to policy and make them more relevant to people's lives. Bowman said switching to paper straws or paper bags means that we are still producing single-use products, which does not hit the root of the problem.

"We need to get rid of single use anything," she said. "In the long term, the best solution is reusables."

Bowman said the federal gov-



THE CANADIAN PRESS/TJIANA MARTIN

'Turn Off The Plastic Tap' art installation by Benjamin Von Wong outside of the Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto.

ernment's ban is a start, but companies and institutions should find creative ways to implement reusable items.

Humber College North campus's O2GO program is a creative method of implementing reusable lunch containers into students' lives.

For this program, students pay a one-time fee of \$10 to get their lunch from the Street Cafe, in a green reusable container. After they are finished, they bring the container to the O2GO machine and get a token for their next meal in a new container.

This type of program is also used at TMU, Bowman said.

The root of the problem is the

overproduction and overconsumption of single use items, plastic or not.

Instead of implementing the production of new paper straws to get rid of the old plastic straws, companies and institutions should advocate for reusable products that are accessible to all.

"We live in a system that encourages consumption," Bowman said. "The other thing to do, that is really important, is to get engaged."

Bowman said there are many ways for consumers to take action against climate change. Signing petitions and showing up at climate change events are small ways to create change.

"There is also huge power in pushing the government for more regulation," she said. "One of the reasons why the climate change issue is so big now is because young people in particular, stood up and revolted."

Climate anxiety is real and the big problem that consumers face, especially young people, is a lack of hope and the idea that one couldn't do anything about it, Bowman said.

"Sometimes, just let yourself be sad. 'Cause it's hard, and know you're not alone," she said. "The future is scary right now."

"Change is possible, so don't give up," Bowman said.

OPINION: International students question the fairness of unpaid internships



Shraddha Bhojane
Newsletter Editor

Labour laws in Ontario allow internships associated with an educational institute or a vocational school to be unpaid. But with rising tuition fees and living expenses, many international students are questioning the fairness of these arrangements.

For this reason, co-op and internship programs should be planned in an inclusive manner to lift the financial burdens of international students in the country.

Radhika Mehta, an international student at Humber College's Lakeshore campus, said she had a tough time managing multiple jobs during her co-op term last year.

"I absolutely couldn't afford to stop working part-time as the

co-op was unpaid," Mehta said.

She said most of her classmates, who were international students, could not find paid internship opportunities.

"It is unfair for international students who have to manage everything on their own, from working to paying off living expenses, and also having the heavy burden of student debts," she said.

According to statistics by Erudera, an educational platform, there are almost 390,000 international students enrolled in higher education in Canada in 2022. Ontario is home to more than 190,000 of them.

Unpaid internships are illegal in Ontario. However, an unpaid internship is deemed to be legal if it falls within any one of the exceptions under the Employment Standards Act in section 3(5). These exceptions include being a secondary school student, working under a work experience program, and if a school board has authorized the work.

"Co-ops were traditionally designed as sort of an earn-while-you-learn type of scenario," Toronto labour lawyer Andrew Langille said. "It's unfortunate, but there's been quite a bit of growth in this unpaid learning and training



PEXELS/CHRISTINA MORILLO

Unpaid internships creates unnecessary burdens on international students trying to enter the workforce.

while in academic programs."

Zainab Laila, a Marketing Management student at the Lakeshore campus, said the uncertainty of not having a paid internship is causing her "more stress and anxiety."

"It's extremely difficult for students to find internships in their field in this competitive environment and the repercussions of which are even more draining on these students' bank accounts," she said.

Carlo Fanelli, a Work and Labour Studies professor at York University, said Canada has had four decades of stagnant wages across labour markets which is "in conjunction with the explosion of incomes at the top end of the spectrum."

Fanelli, who also is one of the authors of *From Consent to Coercion: The Continuing Assault on Labour*, said data shows international students, racialized groups and women are "more likely to be engaged in this type of unpaid work." "One of the ironies is that those most likely to be able to engage in unpaid internships are those at the upper end of the spectrum because they're often from well-to-do families and have secondary familial support," he said.

Laila said international students are constantly struggling with increasing expenses and rising tuition fees, and "doing full-time unpaid internships means taking away from the time from paid

part-time jobs to save up money."

Langille said unpaid training and the unpaid work is necessarily bad.

"I don't think anybody is necessarily starting from that viewpoint because I can see a lot of benefits to that potential," Langille said. "But it's often not delivered in a way that has a lot of quality."

Unpaid internships have long been a popular way for employers to provide job experience to students and recent graduates. But, as an international student, I believe unpaid internships not only take advantage of young workers but also create an uneven playing field for those who cannot afford to work for free.



PEXELS/MICHELLE LEMAN

There are several different treatments that can help manage symptoms of polycystic ovary syndrome. These treatments involve both lifestyle management and oral contraceptive pills.

PCOS goes undiagnosed despite serious symptoms

Heta Khakhar
Senior Reporter

After being diagnosed with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS), Jane Tam worried about her facial hair and pimples on a day-to-day basis.

Tam is one of the millions of women around the world whose reproductive, cardiovascular, and mental health is affected by PCOS.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) studies, PCOS is a complicated but primitive metabolic and reproductive disorder in women.

“At the time, I did not have a feeling that I wanted to kill myself, but I felt like I would have probably jumped from the building I was living in,” Tam said.

The 32-year-old from Naga in the Bicol Region about 380 kilometres southeast of the capital Manila, was first diagnosed with PCOS at the age of 16.

She said she recalls being unable to find a proper diagnosis and seeking help from multiple gynaecologists. Unfortunately, many of them were dismissive when asked if depression was related to PCOS.

Dr. Jerilynn Prior, professor of Endocrinology at the University of British Columbia, has a different perspective when it comes to PCOS. She said people with PCOS should not view it as a disease, but rather as an imbalance that can be corrected with the right approach.

Prior said PCOS can be identified when two of three symptoms are present, including irregular or

absent periods, overproduction of androgens in the blood (hyperandrogenism), and physical manifestations like body hair growth, hair loss and acne.

In addition, Prior said most women with PCOS develop many small cysts on their ovaries, which often lead to menstrual cycle problems and difficulty conceiving.

According to the World Health Organization, about 116 million women are affected by PCOS worldwide.

In spite of that, 70 per cent of cases remain undiagnosed.

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Tam said she was first diagnosed with Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) and with depression soon after.

She said she developed a multitude of health issues because of PCOS, including hypertension, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and GAD.

To maintain her insulin levels, Tam said she must take multiple medications every day. Unfortunately, these are only bandage solutions to the risk factors associated with these disorders.

Difficult periods and fertility issues are just two of the issues Tam still faces.

Additionally, Prior said insulin resistance and central obesity are common problems. Cells can't effectively absorb glucose if they have insulin resistance.

As a result, she said blood sugar levels might increase, which could have a number of negative effects on health.

Prior said depression may result from the body's ineffective use of insulin, creating a vicious cycle.

Tam said she began to feel isolated and helpless, as she was unable to talk to anyone about her plight of not finding a proper diagnosis. With no one to turn to, she said she became desperate for help.

Fortunately, Tam said she found a support group called Letters Against Depression based in Florida, which provides hope and support to those struggling with mental illness through the power of handwritten letters.

Tam said this gave her the support she needed, and helped her to feel less alone in her journey to finding a diagnosis and managing her mental health.

Research shows most women affected by PCOS are insulin resistant, which prevents their cells from properly absorbing glucose. As a result, they said blood sugar levels rise, which can lead to a variety of adverse health effects.

Prior says there is no cure for PCOS. There are, however, several treatments that can help manage its symptoms. These treatments involve lifestyle management and oral contraceptive pills.

While lifestyle management can help manage the symptoms of PCOS, it is not a cure. Prior said it's important to speak with a doctor to determine the best treatment plan.

“PCOS is like a dark cloud that lingers no matter what,” Tam said. “Even if you go through a full hysterectomy, it will not make

the PCOS go away. It is always present, like a shadow for every inch of light in your life.”

Tam said women living with it should avoid seeking consultation from public clinics, and not rely on social media or crowdsourcing for information about their symptoms.

She said these sources of information are unreliable and do not

provide the best advice for managing PCOS.

Instead, Tam said women should seek out professional medical advice from a qualified doctor or health care provider.

She said this will ensure they receive the most accurate and up-to-date information about their condition, and the best treatment options available.



HETA KHAKHAR

Jane Tam displays her PCOS drug regimen. Tam is one of the millions of women around the world who deals with polycystic ovarian syndrome.

Relaxed performances gather individuals with disabilities



ANTONIO PELÁEZ BARCELÓ

The end of the relaxed performance that took place at Roy Thomson Hall on March 25, 2023. Conductor Gustavo Gimeno and the whole TSO thank the audience for attending the show.

Antonio Peláez Barceló International News Editor

Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) played a relaxed performance at the Roy Thomson Hall last Saturday where Gustavo Gimeno, TSO's music director, told his audience "you are welcome to do what you need to in order to enjoy the performance."

That included singing or playing Happy Birthday, a piece that would be heard at least twice, although the program included only Schuman's Cello Concerto and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

According to the orchestra's website, these events are "intended to be sensitive to and welcoming of neurodiverse audiences."

"You're welcome to move, you're welcome to vocalize, you're welcome to exit the auditorium at the performance," said Gimeno, who was also the performance's conductor.

Meanwhile, TSO Education Manager Pierre Rivard was supervising the event from the back of the main floor where the last three rows were empty.

"If it's too loud for them, people can move back to these rows," he said. "If it's still too loud they can go to the tunnels or to a silent room."

Rivard, who is also a writer, visual artist, and bilingual Ontario Certified Teacher, said one of the considerations for these performances included having fewer people than usual.

Roy Thomson Hall's total seating capacity is 2,630 seats. However, the only theatre space that was open that day was the main floor, which seats 879 guests.

Rivard said out of the total number of seats available, about 750 of them were filled.

Although there were fewer people than what the space could've held, ushers were still in

full effect.

Rachel Marks, an external consultant on relaxed performances, provided ushers with a special training workshop to prepare for the performances.

Marks said she discovered these performances through her love for theatre.

She said she had been working on theatre, as well as events specifically designed for families with children that have been diagnosed with autism.

Marks said she realized the two things could go together and discovered the relaxed performances.

After attending in-person training at the Big Umbrella Festival in New York and the Oily Cart Theatre at London, she said she began advocating for them around the world.

According to a 2020 study done by the French association Cinéma Difference, relaxed performances started in France in

2005 with the screening of films.

United Kingdom followed in 2006, and they began in Toronto in 2016 with Canadian Stage.

Montréal soon followed in 2018 as Représentation Décontractée.

Marks said they were designed specifically for people on the autism spectrum, but many other people had attended, too.

She said these performances include venue guides and fact sheets prepared specifically for people with disabilities, which are also very useful for newcomers.

"This universal design is welcoming many more people than just the autism community," she said.

Marks' training for ushers included targeted examples so they could respond to the attendants' needs, like sound-dampening headphones, earplugs or going to the silent room.

Marks said musicians had also

taken part in the training.

"Some of the members of the orchestra told me it's very exciting to perform for these audiences because they want to share their love of music with other people," she said.

Toronto Symphony Orchestra Violin Clare Semes was one of them.

She said they're used to playing in very silent spaces, but she really appreciated the connection with different types of listeners.

After Gimeno finished reading the stand-out features of the performance, the show had begun.

Canadian cellist, Jean-Guihen Queyras, stepped on to the stage and the orchestra began playing the first of Schumann's Cello Concerto under Gimeno's baton.

On the main floor, a teenager with sound-dampening headphones mimicked Gimeno's gestures conducting the orchestra.

On the aisle, a three year-old girl took the hand of her mother

to go up and down the stairs singing 'Happy Birthday' softly.

People proceeded to exit and return to the theatre.

Meanwhile at the last three rows of the theatre, Rivard said he wasn't feeling too easy during the performances.

"Whenever I'm working, I can't help but feel nervous," he said. "I just want things to go well and everybody to have a good time so I can't totally forget that I'm working and just enjoy it."

Four years earlier, on April 27, 2019, Marks was the one occupying the last rows.

"I never thought that an institution that had such prestige as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra would be opening their arms before many other companies," she said as she reminisced of when she was overwhelmed with emotion during her time in the back rows.

Marks is also working with other institutions as the National Ballet of Canada or the Hot Docs Documentary Festival.

When the last note of Beethoven's Fifth sounded, the audience clapped emotionally.

Clare Semes took her violin but waited on stage for somebody in the audience she knew.

"They came to talk and then everyone just kind of felt welcome to come and talk with musicians and ask questions," she said.

"It was great.

"A boy named Joseph approached me and told me that his favourite composer was Beethoven," she said.

"He said he had to hear Beethoven's Five on his birthday," Semes said.

She responded to Joseph's remarks by playing 'Happy Birthday' on her violin.

"It's been definitely one of the most fulfilling experiences I've had," Semes said.



COURTESY A. LAMB

Rachel Marks, relaxed performances consultant since 2018, provides training and prepares brochures.

OPINION: Soccer needs to take concussions, player safety seriously



Andre La Rosa-Rodriguez
Senior Reporter

to test temporary substitutions so that players with head injuries can have proper off-field assessments during matches.

Several player unions and leagues have been pushing for these trials, but IFAB continues to keep all proposals under “active review” regardless of the criticism for not taking action.

The Major League Soccer Players Association said the IFAB’s decision is an example of global soccer’s “broken governance” structure.

“FIFA and IFAB’s short sighted, misguided decision demonstrates once again their failure to prioritize player health and safety in our sport,” the MLSPA said in a statement. “Their refusal to act provides yet another example of global soccer’s broken governance structure.”

Instead the governing body is set on the permanent concussion substitution rule implemented in 2021 to make the difference when it comes to player safety. It allows a team to make a player change purely for head injury-related

reasons.

Dr. Andrew Massey, FIFA director of medical, said in a press conference that the rule’s protocol is that if there is any doubt a player might have a concussion, they will be switched off for the rest of the match since it can take up to three days for symptoms to appear.

“That’s why the permanent subs are so much safer [than temporary subs],” he said. “Zero chance of taking a risk with anybody that you suspect has a concussion, either from whatever symptoms they’re displaying at the time, or the mechanism of their injury.”

But the rule on its own is not enough.

A 2022 study by the University of Toronto found that this new rule in the Premier League has had almost no effect on protecting player health since the medical assessment time remains the same.

Emiliano Martinez, an Aston Villa FC goalkeeper, was taken off using this rule in October 2022. But it was after he returned to the field after being medically assessed from his collision with another

player’s knee. The symptoms appeared shortly afterwards.

But the permanent concussion substitution rule is not the problem as its been welcomed by numerous leagues. It’s not about making a choice between both approaches despite the way Massey has chosen to respond.

Without a temporary substitution rule, they are maintaining protocols that force medical staff to make decisions in a situation that in some cases might require more time.

Without taking further action, IFAB and FIFA’s claims to prioritize player health and safety in soccer is a fallacy.

Support for this rule is continuing to grow and so is the criticism towards the inaction of the organizations.

The Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA), the English players union which houses over 5,000 members, says 80 per cent of players are in support of introducing temporary substitutions.

“This feedback reflects what we see as a common-sense next step to

prioritize player safety,” said Adam White, the Head of the PFA Brain Health Department, in a letter to IFAB. “There is a real difficulty when football’s lawmakers prevent us from taking the necessary steps to protect players.”

Adding the new protocol could impact the course of a player’s career.

Vertonghen’s career was changed the night of the head injury. He spent nine months with lingering dizziness and headaches that negatively affected how he played. He was not given a new contract.

“I continued to play, which I shouldn’t have,” he said at a press conference.

“I had a year left on my contract and I thought I had to play because I had to showcase myself to other clubs and to Tottenham, but when I played, I was rubbish,” said Vertonghen, who currently plays for Anderlecht in Belgium.

If FIFA and IFAB want to put player’s health first, then more action needs to be taken. It starts by listening to the needs of the ones who are being put at risk.

Tottenham defender Jan Vertonghen crashed head-first into a player during a semi-final soccer match in 2019. The game continued without him as he was taken aside by medical staff to be assessed. After being cleared to play, he was back for 15 minutes before trudging off the field vomiting.

I was reminded of that moment when Major League Soccer submitted a formal proposal to the International Football Association Board (IFAB), the rule-making body for the sport, on March 7



AP PHOTO/FRANK AUGSTEIN

Tottenham’s Jan Vertonghen walks off the pitch with a head injury during the Champions League semifinal soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Ajax in London in 2019.



KRYSTAL YEUNG

Team Canada hockey player Joe Fornasier (right) takes the puck in transition versus Team USA Dirk Morgan in the 2023 Canadian National Blind Hockey Tournament in Toronto.

Canadian blind hockey defends title

Krystal Yeung
Sports Editor

The Mattamy Athletic Centre spectators' stands were filled with 1,700 energetic school kids on March 24 for the Canadian National Blind Hockey Tournament.

Students packed the stands and prepared signs to support Team Canada in their game against Team USA.

O Canada rang through the crowd proudly.

Francois Beaugard, a defenseman for Team Canada, said he was shivering because of the resounding rendition of the national anthem.

Team Canada defeated their American counterparts 11-0, maintaining its streak of zero losses to Team USA.

Beaugard, who has been playing blind hockey for 17 years, said it was great to win and they played the right way.

He said they usually have around 200 fans in the stands, so the turnout of fans at the tournament was impressive.

Joe Fornasier, another player for Team Canada, said he was grateful for the kids who came to watch.

"They are the magic [today], it's awesome," Fornasier said.

He said the crowd radiated so much energy when he scored his first goal, that "it was electric."

"We love playing for them, representing Canada," he said.

Students in the crowd had an eye-opening experience watching the game.

It has been a while for students to be able to learn about blind hockey in person as the tournament just resumed shortly from a two-year suspension due to the pandemic.

Fornasier said it was difficult to do blind hockey.

"Doctors told me I would never be able to play hockey, never be able to skate again," he said. "It takes a while to get used to it."

Fornasier said communication was the key to master blind hockey.

Players keep talking to coaches and teammates to learn where their location in both practices and games, he said.

"Once you keep doing it for a while, it becomes muscle memory," Fornasier said.

"I know their voices so well," he said. "If I hear someone, I know this is Mark, I know this is Kelly."

He said the Blind Hockey Canada is his "second family". He spends weekends on ZOOM with his teammates and have camps with them every summer.

Beaugard reinforced the Fornasier said he wanted people to know everything is truly possible.

He said he didn't make it to Team Canada the first time around, it



KRYSTAL YEUNG

Third grade students high five Team USA players after the Canadian National Blind Hockey Tournament.

took him several attempts.

"Use everything as motivation, use everything as fuel, just get better and better all the time," he said. "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do anything."

Beaugard shared the same view and said it was important to try.

"If one never tries, one never

knows whether it will be their calling," he said.

He encouraged anyone who is visually challenged to contact Canadian Blind Hockey for tryouts.

He said the sport grew fast in North America, and this year's tournament has expanded to six different divisions. This includes children, youth, open, low vision

and development, women, and Canada versus USA.

Fornasier said he wanted to continue to play and to inspire kids who aspire to participate in the sport.

"Blind hockey is a real thing, we are athletes just like anyone else," he said. "Everything is possible if you put your mind to it."

TEAM CANADA UNDEFEATED



Team Canada hockey player Joe Fornasier (right) steals the puck from Team USA's Charlie Mitchell in the 2023 Canadian National Blind Hockey Tournament in Toronto on March 24, 2023.

**TSO BRINGS
TOGETHER
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES
P. 11**



**FIFA AND IFAB
NEED TO TAKE
PLAYER SAFETY
SERIOUSLY
P. 12**

