

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN SQUEEZE

It begins on the grain fields of Ukraine



Ukrainian wagons being filled and prepared for transportation so they can go to various places in Europe. Ukrainian grains continue to be a vital source of food for Europe and the world.

**TORONTO
COMMUNITY
CRISIS PILOT
SHOWS PROMISE
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**HK CITIZENS
FRET OVER
LOSING SPECIAL
PROGRAM
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IVAN NECHET

Trucks in a Ukrainian warehouse supplying grain. The war has slowed down the growth of food in the country, which is impacting food prices.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine affects global food prices and supply chain

Daryna Vieniertseva
Senior Reporter

Food prices have been a painful topic across the world but in 2022, prices began to rise even faster.

A significant cause was Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February, according to the Federal Reserve Board and Division of International Finance.

Ivan Nechet is part of a Ukrainian farming family that has spent their lives growing wheat, corn, and sunflowers. They live in the Zaporizhian *oblast* (region), just north of Russian occupied territory in eastern Ukraine, and suffer constant attacks.

Nechet said they have already lost equipment worth 1 million hryvnas (\$35,000) and tonnes of wheat.

"We have high quality standards and need time to make our job properly, but it is officially forbidden to work during the air alarm, so sometimes we must hide for some hours," he said in an interview.

The ex-farmer said that when the war started, everyone who had crops decided to sell them to get some money. Farmers were ready to sell it for low prices due to the panic, but the country does not have enough storage space to save it.

He said had working in South Korea for two years and when he returned to Ukraine, he bought a storage unit for his parents for \$15,000.

Now it's completely destroyed. "Russians attacked all storage facilities because they didn't know what was inside, so they ruined everything. That's why wheat prices in Ukraine decrease — we don't have a place to save it," Nechet said.

Currently, Nechet works as a

grain inspector and controls the quality before export. He said that prices around the world are going up because of delays.

"We have lots of rain, and to protect the grain from moisture, we cover the wagons with awnings, but the Russian soldiers see this and start firing because they think we are transporting military equipment," Nechet said.

Ukraine is the world's fourth largest corn exporter, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. The war has damaged Ukraine's ports and agricultural infrastructure, crippling if not stalling distribution of food to the world.

According to the United Nations reports, 50 per cent of Ukraine's energy infrastructure was destroyed by Russia and \$35.3 billion of its transportation infrastructure was damaged. That could lead to years of agricultural crises.

Nechet said he believes next year will be much more difficult because his family and other farmers are not going to plant grains next season.

"On our field, Ukrainian soldiers found 23 mines, but my father ran over one of them with a combine harvester. Dad is alive but shell-shocked," Nechet said. "His hearing has not yet recovered."

His family no longer wants to take the risk, and many of their colleagues don't as well, so next year's harvest could be much smaller.

According to the State Emergency Service's website, 30 per cent of the agricultural areas have been mined.

But the biggest reason for delays is the occupation of Ukrainian ports, which were the main infrastructural objects for export. Nowadays, all transportation is done by train, and fuel prices have skyrocketed.



IVAN NECHET

Ivan Nechet's harvester was destroyed after hitting a Russian mine. Nechet said they have lost equipment worth 1 million hryvnas (\$35,000).

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy said the number of ships departing from Ukrainian ports fell significantly because of Russia blocking the grain corridor.

According to German Bundesamt statistics, in December 2022, the index of producer prices for industrial products increased by 21.6 per cent compared with December 2021.

Gunter Ortwig, a restaurant chef from Germany who orders groceries weekly, said he feels the war is behind much of the price changes.

"Germany does not buy Russian oil, vegetables, or seafood, but the main problem is that, due to the war, Ukraine can't export enough," Ortwig said in a phone interview.

Natural gas issues are also contributing to price increases. According to the comparison portal Verivox, last fall's gas prices peaked and rose almost 10 times (40 cents per kilowatt-hour). According to

Verivox, one kilowatt-hour of gas currently costs an average of 11.9 cents for new customers.

"The prices rise because of energy prices, we do not buy Russian gas and we need to buy it from the United States and Middle Eastern countries," Ortwig said. "It is much more expensive. We buy oil in Norway, which is 30 per cent more expensive than before."

Prices are rising in Canada as well. According to the 13th edition of Canada's Food Price Report 2023, the annual food expenditure in 2022 for women aged 31 to 50 years was \$3,495 and \$3,896 for men, which is \$330 more than the previous year.

Canada excluded Russia and Belarus from its Most Favoured Nation tariffs. The withdrawal soon resulted in a 35 per cent customs duty, which was applied to nearly all imports from Russia and impacted the prices of products for Canadian consumers.

ETC •

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

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Sajel Mistry

FACULTY ADVISER
Rob Lamberti

TECHNICAL ADVISER
Marlee Greig

FRONT PAGE PHOTO
Ivan Nechet

BACK PAGE PHOTO
Tessa Bennett

@HUMBERONLINE

ETC.HUMBER@GMAIL.COM

HUMBERNEWS.CA

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205 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, ON, M9W 5L7

Loblaws 'No Name' price freeze ends

Carter Roy
Senior Reporter

Food pricing experts contacted by Humber News on Wednesday reacted to news that Loblaws has lifted its freeze on No Name groceries.

The price freeze for three months, announced by the grocery chain last October, was to help shoppers manage their grocery budget due to high inflation costs.

The freeze is ending, at least for now.

"The more than three-month price freeze ends January 31," a Loblaws spokesperson told CTV News in an email this week.

"Looking ahead, we'll continue to hold those prices flat wherever possible, and switching to No Name will still save the average family thousands this year," the statement to CTV said.

Ken Whitehurst, Executive Director of Consumers Council of Canada, spoke to Humber News about the move.

"The announcement by Loblaws was mostly a stunt, so it's hard to say how meaningful this change will be," said Whitehurst.

Whitehurst is urging shoppers to realize that consumers have



THE CANADIAN PRESS/ALEX LUPUL

A person carries a bag of groceries from No Frills on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022. The House of Commons committee looking at food price inflation will hear from executives at some of Canada's biggest grocers, including Loblaws.

left a period of price stability, and shoppers should to be on guard concerning prices that everyone pays for all products right now.

"There's a lot of factors influencing prices, but whenever there's price volatility, companies will often seek the opportunity to

exploit moments of uncertainty among consumers to try to command the highest price for their products that they can," he said.

Food prices from stores rose 9.8 per cent in 2022, the fastest growth since 1981, as reported by Statistics Canada.

Overall in Canada, "the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 6.3 per cent year over year in December, following a 6.8 per cent increase in November," Statistics Canada reported in January.

"Year over year, prices for food purchased from stores decelerated marginally in December (+11.0 per cent) compared with November (+11.4 per cent)," the agency said, adding that price growth was "hovering around 11 percent for the last five months."

"Food inflation has still risen while the No Name freeze was in effect so I would expect that most, if not all products will see some increase moving forward," said Stuart Smyth, Industry Research Chair in Agricultural Food Innovation at University of Saskatchewan.

Smyth shared his insights on what this could mean for the first half of 2023.

"[The] falling value of the Canadian dollar, high fuel prices, and I think the 30 percent increase on carbon tax in April will affect food prices, at least for the first six months of this year," he said.

Restaurant owners grapple with food inflation costs

Sajel Mistry
Online Photo Editor

Restaurant owner Shelley Orr does not think getting into the restaurant business is a good idea at the moment.

The sector took a hit because of lockdowns and restrictions caused by COVID-19, and now it's inflation that is cutting into the industry.

Canada's Food Price Report 2023 indicates the price of food will increase by another five to seven per cent on average this year. Vegetables, dairy, and meat will surge the most.

"Times like this, I don't recommend anybody buying a restaurant," said Orr, owner of Bugsy's, a restaurant in St. Catharines.

Orr has worked in the restaurant industry since she was 18 and has owned Bugsy's for the last 20 years. She has been struggling to keep up with inflation while keeping her customers and staff happy.

"You know, I used to spend like \$20,000 a year in oil. Now, I'm spending \$55,000 a year in oil," Orr said. "I'm spending \$900 a

week on lettuce and tomatoes just to get going."

She said she had to put up her prices to cover some of the rising costs, but is still not making any money.

"Everything went up," Orr said, listing bacon as a product that has gone up exponentially in price.

However, she said people have continued to dine at her restaurant and have told her the prices remain reasonable.

Orr said other restaurants have increased their prices much more, but she tries to keep her prices as competitive as possible.

"I don't want to make too many changes, because you make too many changes, it stops people," she said. "People get freaky. You just can't do too much to them, you know?"

Orr's experience as a restaurant owner is no different from that of new restaurant owner, Stephanie Su.

Su is the owner of Ryu Izakaya, a newly opened sushi restaurant in Richmond Hill.

Before the pandemic, Su owned a small takeout restaurant. She said



SAJEL MISTRY

Canada's Food Price Report for 2023 found that the price of food will increase by another five to seven per cent, with vegetables seeing the highest increase. This will be felt by many restaurants across the country.

all of the ingredients and supplies have either doubled or tripled.

Now, at her new restaurant, which she has owned for just four months, Su has already had to make changes.

"When we first opened, all the portions were a lot larger than how it is now," she said. "We have

set back on what we buy and also increased our prices."

Su said she has increased her prices by one dollar, and portion sizes only decreased by very little, but it still needed to be done.

"We haven't gotten way too many complaints and right now, with everything going up, some people

are very understanding," she said.

The anticipated food price forecast for restaurants will be a four to six per cent increase this year compared to 2022, the report found.

"It was bad enough during the pandemic," Orr said. "But it's still pretty tough to make money with the way prices are right now."



SCOTT MCLAUGHLIN

Incoming Ontario NDP leader Marit Stiles at Queens Park on Wednesday, announcing new evidence which she feels bolsters her request for an Integrity Commissioner investigation.

'Somebody knew something': ONDP Stiles says

Scott McLaughlin
Editor-in-Chief

Incoming NDP leader Marit Stiles announced Wednesday at Queen's Park new information which she believes strengthens her case for an investigation into Housing Minister Steve Clark and the Conservative Greenbelt plan.

She claimed one developer, RICE Group, contacted Steve Pellegrini, Mayor of King Township, three days before Ford's initial Greenbelt announcement.

According to the NDP, the company told the mayor an area of protected land could be made available for development for a fee. RICE Group had purchased the land on Sept. 15, 2022.

"The evidence tells us that someone knew something before the government relayed its plan to the public," Stiles said. "The more we learn about days and months around this deal, the shadier I think this becomes."

The NDP said they became aware of the development following a freedom of information request put

in by a Newmarket resident.

Pellegrini has denied his government had any knowledge of the province's plans to open protected lands. He said he wants an apology from the NDP for their allegations.

The NDP also raised attention to potentially improper lobbying done by a former chief of staff to the minister of municipal affairs and housing.

Luca Bucci, who worked in

April 1, 2023."

Stiles' letter to Integrity Commissioner J. David Wake said Bucci "answers to the OHBA Board of Directors, whose members include Alana De Gasperis of TACC, a major beneficiary of Minister Clark's decision to remove lands from the Greenbelt."

Ontario's Integrity Commissioner announced on Jan. 18 that he would be investigating

the conduct of Ontario's Housing Minister, following a request by Stiles. Specifically, he would look into whether Clark broke section two or three of the Ontario Member's Integrity Act.

The new information

was submitted to the Commissioner's office on Friday and Stiles said she believes it has been accepted into the investigation.

Premier Doug Ford and Clark previously denied allegations saying they had previously notified developers of the decision to open the protected land.

"The government has been very clear in our postings on what our intention is regarding the property. We've been open, clear and

"I'LL JUST SAY THAT WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, YOU BETTER BE LOOKING FOR FIRE ANYWAYS. I THINK THAT WE SAW PREMIER FORD ALREADY LIED TO THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO MULTIPLE TIMES."

Marit Stiles

Leader of the Ontario New Democrat Party

Clark's office from January 2021 to April 2022, is now acting as the CEO for the Ontario Homebuilders Association (OHBA). A month after leaving his position, Bucci registered to lobby the ministry.

However, in his application he states that he "will not lobby the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and/or the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, until at least



CANADIAN PRESS/CHRIS YOUNG

Steve Clark, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, speaks to journalists on November 16, 2022. Clark has denied that he tipped off developers ahead of announcing changes to the Greenbelt.

transparent, and we look forward to receiving comments from the public," Clark said on Nov. 30, 2022.

Stiles argued the meeting between RICE Group and the King Township Mayor indicates the Conservative government has not been truthful when denying these allegations.

"I'll just say that where there's smoke, you better be looking for fire anyways," Stiles said. "I think that we saw Premier Ford already lied to the people of Ontario multiple times.

"He lied before the last election, he lied during the last election that he wasn't going to touch the Greenbelt. He lied," she said.

In addition to the investigation by the Integrity Commissioner, Ontario's Auditor General has launched a value-for-money audit on the potential financial and environmental impacts of removing the Greenbelt lands.

The Ontario Provincial Police are also currently deciding if they will launch an investigation into complaints made about the decision.

Crisis pilot report shows bright results

Tyreike Reid
Senior Reporter

The Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS) pilot project successfully diverted 78 per cent of 911 mental health crisis calls, according to a mid-year progress report.

The project was launched in early 2022 as part of the city's attempt to follow a community-based response to mental health crisis calls without police involvement.

The mid-year report was brought to the city council on Jan. 16. This was completed by third party evaluators from the Provincial System Support Program and Shkaabe Makwa, both at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

The project currently services four areas in the city and according to the report, TCCS handled a total of 2,489 calls, with 84 per cent of these calls resulting in crisis workers being dispatched.

The report said that most calls did not find a need to involve police officers and TCCS requested the assistance of officers in only 2.5 per cent of calls.

The city of Toronto released its proposed 2023 budget, which includes a 25 per cent increase for TCCS.

The release of the mid-year report comes after the city's proposed \$48.3 million Toronto police budget increase.

The city announced Jan. 26 it

"EVERYBODY KNOWS IF YOU'RE STABILIZED THROUGH HOUSING AND YOU HAVE A LIVABLE WAGE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS OR DISTRESS, THAT YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE IN A BETTER PLACE TO HEAL."

Dr. Marina Morrow

Professor, Health Policy and Management at York University

will be deploying 80 additional Toronto police officers to the TTC in response to recent attacks.

But activists and community organizers voiced concerns over the increase in police presence at a protest on Jan. 24, with fears this may have negative impacts on those experiencing homelessness.

Dr. Marina Morrow, a York University professor of Health Policy and Management, said homelessness is often a factor leading to a mental health crisis.

"Everybody knows if you're sta-



The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health building in Toronto. TCCS handled 2,489 calls with 84 per cent resulting in dispatched crisis workers.

bilized through housing and you have a livable wage, even if you have a mental health illness or distress, that you're just going to be in a better place to heal," she said.

Several city counsellors sent a

transit and respond to the needs of people in crisis, including investing in trained crisis response and mental health outreach workers to proactively support these transit users?" the statement asked.

It was signed by Counsellors Amber Morley, Gord Perks, Alejandra Bravo, Ausma Malik, Josh Matlow, and Paula Fletcher.

Groups such as the Shelter and Housing Justice Network said more investment into social services such as housing with rent geared to income would help ease the effects of homelessness.

Morrow said underfunding at all levels of government is preventing the implementation of more community-based models as a form of mental health care.

"We don't have the publicly funded available tools to really support people's mental health well before they get into a crisis," she said. "We have to publicly fund a wider range of services for people with mental health issues."

In response to the TCCS mid-year report, Mayor John Tory said in a news release he continues "to call on the provincial and federal governments to make more long-term sustainable investments into mental health care."

The evaluation report for TCCS will be brought to city council in fall 2023.



John Tory announces that he received the six month evaluation report on the implementation of the Toronto Community Crisis Service pilots.

TWITTER/JOHN TORY

Campus groups kickstart Black Heritage Month

Jacob Tye
Senior Reporter

Humber held opening ceremonies for Black History Month on Feb. 1 as it began a full month of activities centred around the Black community and experience.

The opening ceremonies and upcoming events were planned by the Black Heritage 365 Committee, which is comprised of representatives from all different parts of the college, along with BSSE (Black Student Support and Engagement).

For students, there were guest speakers, a drumming performance by Toronto-based drumming group Alpha Rhythm Roots, Jamaican patties and other cuisine provided by BSSE.

“What these events do is they allow expression of that particular community,” said Errol Cyrus, who is the project manager for Humber’s Equity, Diversity & Inclusion task-force and also a member of the Black African Employee Resource Group.

“Our presence here as the Black African ERG gives us the oppor-

tunity to tell more black students that exist and encourage them to become a member of a safe space to be yourself,” said Cyrus.

The Black African ERG unite black people into a voluntary, employee-led group that foster a diverse and inclusive workplace aligned with team and organizational missions, goals, and objectives.

Kim Daniels, manager of Equity & Student Life at Humber College and organizer of the event, spoke to the importance of the event for all Humber students and the theme of the event being Black Joy.

“We really wanted to celebrate the joy that goes into being black and everyone got to offer up their ideas and we settled on that we really wanted it to be a community piece, where we can celebrate with food and conversation and music and sharing of resources and really being together as a collective,” she said.

Daniels said she was really happy that the celebration got to happen and was happy with the huge turnout.

“It’s important for the commu-



JACOB TYE

Drumming group Alpha Rhythm Roots perform for the start of Black Heritage Month at Humber on Feb. 1, 2023.

nity to gather and celebrate, while I encourage people to celebrate black heritage 365 days of the year, I think its nice on February 1st to kick off the month with a celebration,” she said.

For the ten years before coming to Humber, Cyrus worked with an organization that helped with mental and physical disabilities and credits that work to his greater involvement in advocacy.

“It helped me get very ingrained in advocacy and understand how being ‘other’ can be so challenging

and you need to pay attention to equity deserving people of society,” he said.

Cyrus said his passion for his field was ignited at a young age with parents who always tried to share the successful black people at the time despite racism.

“I’ve always been interested in advocacy and growing up in a household with a mother and father and certainly a dad who spoke about one’s blackness and importance and proud of sharing the success of black people of the

times back then and certainly the roar of what was happening in America at the time,” he said.

Daniels said she encourages students of all ethnicities to join in on the events planned throughout the month and take action with educating on Black heritage and not be another slacktivist.

“It’s important for us to learn about each other and be able to celebrate each other and so participating in Black History Month is a way to really show solidarity to the Black community,” she said.

Brampton raises Pan African flag for Black Heritage Month

Trishelle Dotson
Senior Reporter

Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown and members of City council on Wednesday morning raised the Pan African flag in honour of the start of Black Heritage Month.

“We raise this flag in recognition of Black History which is Canadian History,” said Brown.

Members of the community were awarded for their achievements and contributions towards the progression of a growing legacy.

The flag was created in 1920 by the UNIA (Universal Negro Improvement Association). The flag, also known as the Black Liberation flag, was designed by Jamaican political activist Marcus Garvey Jr.

The red represents the blood that unites all people of Black African ancestry and the blood that was shed in the fight for freedom. The black represents the people as the nation. And green represents the wealth of Africa through its natural beauty and abundance.

“Black History Month is so important for us to start looking towards the future, reminding us where we came from,” said MPP



TRISHELLE DOTSON

Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown stands with council members on Feb. 1, 2023 to raise the Pan African flag and start the Black Heritage Month.

for Mountain Center and Ontario’s Associate Minister of women’s social and economic opportunity, Charmaine Williams.

But, she said, the month is also about “looking towards the future, and making sure that we are working every day, holding people accountable, that are keeping us out of spaces where we should be long, and also pushing ourselves to be at the table in spaces where we need to be.”

“A significant per cent of the black community is here in the Peel Region for Canada. We make up the majority. And, you know, we are 11 per cent of the population in the Peel Region,” said Williams.

For the month of February Brampton will be hosting different events throughout the city to educate and unite the public in celebration. This year’s theme is Black Resistance, which dives into how the Black community has resisted

the many forms of oppression on a global scale.

“When we think about the journey of resistance, I think our young people have to understand the struggle continues. But the path has been a lot easier, because now we have allies working with us on this journey working with us to create a better future for our young people,” said Erica Henry-Jackman, Advisor with the City of Brampton equity office.

“We have fulfilled the legacies of our foreparents because we are their dreams,” Henry-Jackman said.

Throughout the weeks, the public can indulge in different experiences such as Spoken Word, Making Black History Awards, and different panels such as the panel on Race and Education.

There will be live performances, a vendor market, and dishes to taste. Wednesday evening will showcase the Black Makers Market until 9 p.m.

Also, on Wednesday evening at City Hall, Brampton will be honouring the first Black full-time driver for Brampton Transit. She

retired Tuesday and has been a crucial part of progress in the Black community.

“After 30 years, when we think about black resistance and transportation as a service. The journey when we had resistance with Rosa Parks sitting in the front of the bus,” she said.

“I’m thinking about our fire trucks being wrapped with inventors who are Black inventors on it,” said Henry-Jackman.

Black Heritage Month in Canada was officially recognized in December of 1995 by the House of Commons. February was chosen as the celebratory month because it was the birthday of U.S. president Abraham Lincoln. He was known as the president who freed the slaves.

“We make up such a large portion of the population, yet we are underrepresented at many decision-making tables. And that means we need to be holding those who we elect accountable. And then also making sure that we are engaged in our community. To be engaged and involved in the electoral process,” said Williams.

HKers want liftboat scheme extended

John Wong
Senior Reporter

For Hong Konger Kasey Xu, her path to stay in Canada hasn't been an easy one, as she's faced more fences than others.

Xu said she came to Canada in July 2022 with a temporary three-year open work permit through the federal government's special scheme for Hong Kong residents to come to the country more easily amid China's crackdown on the city's autonomy.

She rushed to apply a few months before she arrived in the country as soon as she realized she would not be eligible again if she applied for the scheme at a later date due to a five-year post-graduate requirement.

Applicants must have graduated from a post-secondary institution within the last five years to apply for a three-year open work permit and work in Canada, the federal government said.

They are eligible for permanent residency after working in this country for at least a year and fulfilling the five-year post-graduate requirement at the time of applying, it said.

Some are now calling on the federal government to expand the policy to allow more people from Hong Kong to qualify, as it is set to expire on Feb. 7.

Beijing imposed a sweeping National Security Law on Hong Kong in July 2020 in response to anti-government protests in 2019. More than 200 people, including opposition activists, politicians, journalists, and protesters, have been arrested for endangering national security.

Canada introduced special pathways for Hong Kongers to come to the country in 2021, including the issue of open work permits and pathways for permanent residency in response to the deteriorating human rights, democracy, and freedom in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

The program imposed exemptions for Hong Kongers who graduated from post-secondary studies in the last five years to come and work in the country. Western countries like the U.S., the U.K., and Australia have introduced similar schemes.

Figures provided by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) show almost 17,000 have applied for open work permits since the special scheme was announced two years ago, with less than 16,000 seeking study permits.

Humber News spoke to Xu, a woman who came to Canada from Hong Kong, who said she left the city quickly as the situation deteriorated soon after the new law.

"I think the situation in Hong Kong is terrible now," Xu said. "The city is no longer suitable to live in, such as getting married, giving birth to a child and organizing my family there."

"Hong Kong has no hope anymore," she said. "I'm ready to start a new life in Canada and contribute my talents to this country's economy and society."

But Xu, a 2017 graduate, said the five-year post-graduate requirement had made people like her very confused as that requirement barred them from applying for permanent residency because the five-year period has

passed when she can apply.

"I feel like my present situation is floating on the ocean, and I'm lost because there's no end in sight, she said. "We have been given a lifeboat, but it doesn't lead us back to the shore, we just keep afloat on the sea without any directions and hopes."

She said she is now trying to settle in Canada permanently through Express Entry, a path that allows skilled workers to have higher priorities on permanent residence applications.

"I think I'm being left out," Xu said. "Obviously, there is a flaw in the policy that I'm eligible for the special work permit, and I'm in Canada, but I'm not eligible for permanent residency through the special scheme."

Anna Victoria Wong, executive director of the nonprofit organization Community Family Services of Ontario, said there was a miscalculation of the policy.

"They probably didn't think straight that they wanted to keep the requirements consistent, but in fact, they are ruling out a batch of people to apply," she said.

Wong said many of the 2016 and 2017 graduates are uneasy as there are still uncertainties and anxieties looming among these people who are in the country.

There are also critics who say the scheme's requirements are too narrow, as there are many still hoping to get out of the city.

Jenny Kwan, MP for Vancouver East and the NDP critic for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, said Ottawa needs to review the program as the program's limitations barred many Hong Kongers from seeking permanent safety here.

"The scheme is fraught with problems and barriers," Kwan said. "Many people would have graduated more than five years ago, and they are not able to get into the scheme."

Kwan said Ottawa should "have a reality check" and overhaul the program by extending the deadline and expanding its eligibility.

"I raised concerns to the minister (Sean Fraser) about the looming deadline," she said. "The government must make a decision quickly. There will be people left out otherwise."

"The Canadian government said we will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Hong Kong," she said. "If that's the case, they need to take action, otherwise it's meaningless, then the policy is not worth the paper that is written on."

In responding to calls to extend and expand the program to support Hong Kong residents coming to the country, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada said Ottawa remains concerned about the situation.

"IRCC continues to engage with stakeholders on this issue and monitor the situation actively," the department said in a statement responding to Humber News. "We cannot speculate on future policy decisions."

The department said Hong Kong residents no longer able to apply for permanent residency through an expiring special program may be able to apply through a different avenue, including under one of the economic immigration programs or by applying to reunite with a family member through family sponsorship.



EYEPRESS / HW CHAN

A Hong Kong protestor arrested by police in a protest against the National Security Law on July 1, 2020. Canada introduced special immigration pathways for Hongkongers in 2021.



HOUSE OF COMMONS PHOTO SERVICES / MELANIE PROVENCHER

NDP MP Jenny Kwan, critic for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, calls for the federal government to extend temporary immigration pathways for Hong Kongers settling in Canada.



ERIC SADHU

The DeGasperi Muzzo Tower at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, opened June 6, 2021, needs to employ more frontline healthcare workers to deal with the provincial staffing shortage.

EDITORIAL: 'Bill 124 really screwed us': Ontario's frontline healthcare workers

Healthcare staff and public sector workers are still demanding Bill 124 be revoked and abandoned after Ontario Superior Court Justice Markus Koehnen ruled it unconstitutional on Nov. 29, 2022.

The province, however, intends to appeal the decision.

"Bill 124 is gone," Ford said as he assured the attendees of his first public conference of the new year on Jan. 11, 2023.

Yet, Bill 124 never left. The victims of the bill are not just the workers covered by it, but by extension the general public who are treated by caregivers and taught by teachers.

Kabilani Sivarajah, a Registered Nurse (RN), witnessed the ramifications of the bill on fellow colleagues and her line of work.

"Many health care workers have left for other provinces or for travel nursing assignments, where they are sent to a different province or city with a contract," she said. "I'm even planning to go to B.C. or Alberta to do nursing because the pay is so much better.

Erin Ariss, vice-president of the Board of Directors for the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA), said Ford's neglect of healthcare workers was to save tax dollars.

"This just shows me that his agenda is to continue down this road and we will just lose more. We will lose more nurses, more healthcare professionals," Ariss said. "It's an insult."

Bill 124 was legislation passed into law by the provincial government in November 2019 limiting wage increases for public sector employees.

Also known as the Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations

Act, Bill 124 thresholded pay rises at one percent, from 2019 to 2022.

The bill was ruled unconstitutional by the court for its infringement on workers' rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Public scrutiny intensified following internal documents retrieved by Global News that expressed the province's awareness of Bill 124's inability to retain healthcare workers.

Ariss emphasized the public confusion surrounding the province's handling of the crisis.

**"WE WILL LOSE MORE NURSES,
MORE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS...
IT'S AN INSULT!"**

Erin Ariss

Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Ontario Nurses' Association

"Why would you be appealing oppressive legislation? Wouldn't you take steps, as the government, to entice people to come into these professions?" she asked.

The court ruling revealed the government's apparent agenda, suggesting that it intended to extend the spirit of Bill 124 with new legislation after it was scheduled to expire in 2022. That seems to be why the province is appealing Koehnen's ruling.

Sivarajah said that recent medical graduates, including herself, faced intense shock during the pandemic after entering the workforce under such unusual conditions.

"They are coming into a whole new COVID

system, plus a lot of these students had virtual placements. Then they're thrown into a work environment with not enough staff," she said. "At the place I work at now, no one knows each other because everyone is new.

"Nurses are dropping like flies," Sivarajah said.

Ford pointed out various measures during his conference that were overseen by his government to address the staffing shortage.

He said the province hired more nurses than ever as more than 60,000 new nurses have been hired since 2018. Yet labour

shortages in hospitals remain, and threaten to worsen with recent moves to open private medical care.

Healthcare workers like Sivarajah are unable to take a single day off due to the shortage.

"Nurses are overworked because they're short(staffed) and then when they want to take time off to recharge and breathe, they can't because there's no nurses," Sivarajah said.

Ariss also shed light on just how many healthcare workers it would take to just start resolving the shortage.

"We would need another 33,000 registered nurses just to bring us in line with the

second-from-last province," Ariss said. "To put that into perspective, we would need the population of Orangeville in just registered nurses to get us up."

Labour unions have taken matters into their own hands by vocalizing the demand for resolution.

The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) launched its Enough is Enough! campaign on Jan. 31, and advocates for Bill 124's permanent repeal, alongside affordable housing and realistic wages.

Sheree Bond, media relations officer for ONA, announced today plans for province-wide actions involving ONA members to launch province-wide pickets, starting Feb. 23, to back demands for a new contract. We can be certain they are seeking more than one per cent.

Sivarajah emphasized that the bill must remain inactive for any hope at alleviating the staffing shortage in Ontario's healthcare sector.

"There's no way to help with the nursing shortage without actually increasing the wage," she said. "Other provinces have rules set in place in terms of working shorter hours, overtime and vacation days."

Ariss said that in order for any notable change, the government must listen and prioritize its healthcare workers.

"This is not something Ontario should be proud of," she said. "I wish there was an end in sight."

The last quote, however, is left for nurse Sivarajah.

"Bill 124 really screwed us," she said. Truly.

OPINION

IGNITE's Soup Bar doubles down amid rising food insecurity



Andrea Pozo
Art Director

According to Canada's food price report for 2023, food prices are set to increase by up to seven per cent across the country in the upcoming year.

This comes after three consecutive years of gradual price increases which have left stu-

dents wondering how they can afford tuition as well as a warm meal.

Humber College's student union, IGNITE, has been partnering with the University of Guelph-Humber's student news organization GH360 since 2020 to try and provide relief to students who are dealing with food insecurity.

Meshanda Phillips, a student coordinator at IGNITE, said she felt very strongly that the college had to do something to help combat food insecurity.

"I have first-hand experience with food insecurity. I know how important it is to have something warm in your belly when you're going to school," Phillips said.

Food insecurity first became a serious subject of conversation at Humber when the college shut down in 2020 because of

COVID-19.

Phillips remembers being worried students who relied on school food programs would inevitably run into complications.

According to Statistics Canada, currently, one in five people living in Canada are likely to rely on a food organization for food or meals.

IGNITE partnered with GH360 in 2020 to launch the Soup Bar on the Lakeshore and North campuses.

The program consisted of providing students who needed it with daily soups that they could pick up from campus and bring it home with them.

The various soups are made on campus by the culinary science department and are packaged in recyclable containers for pick up.

Phillips said it didn't sit well

with any of her IGNITE colleagues to stop at the soup bar once the campus opened again.

She felt that providing a program like the soup bar was a privilege and understood that campus opening up again didn't mean that students stopped relying on the service.

With tuition prices increasing after the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lack of provincial support for students dealing with food insecurity, IGNITE has taken the program one step further.

The soup bar is now providing around 100 soups a week between both campuses.

Although the program shows great initiative from IGNITE in trying to support students, it's still not enough.

Humber College is attended by 33,000 full-time students.

Following the data provided by StatCan, there could be up to 6,600 students dealing with food insecurity.

The burden of providing food for all those students cannot be put solely on the shoulders of the culinary arts students.

However, the college may have a hard time justifying not providing more free meals while also increasing tuition further in January 2023.

Phillips also said she was concerned about the lack of affordable meal options on campus and that students needed to be able to have options.

With the extra burden of keeping up grades and paying tuition, students are left scrambling for options. No one should have to choose between paying rent and buying groceries.

OPINION

Perceived isolation fuels Canadians' post-pandemic climate anxiety



Rheegan Goodale
Culture Editor

At work, Megan Kennedy-Woodward sits across from her clients and assures them they are not crazy.

Kennedy-Woodward, the co-founder of Climate Psychologists, said she regularly works with her clients through climate anxiety and the isolation that comes with it.

"They feel like they're the only ones that know what's happening, you know," she said. "No one else seems to be upset by it."

Canadians are still relearning how to engage socially in post-pandemic society, and adjust to the many lasting impacts of COVID-19.

Kennedy-Woodward said the transition has exacerbated climate anxiety, especially as winters get warmer and summers become less predictable.

She said content pertaining to big,

existential threats, like COVID-19 and climate change, are not the best to be consumed online.

"The human brain isn't really equipped to process them, especially with the way that we consume information through technology," Kennedy-Woodward said.

Weather experts agree. Peter Kimbell, a warning preparedness meteorologist with Environment Canada, said recording and sharing climate-related content online has attracted more concern around the issue.

"There are more people out there with cameras and social media posting [storms] online when they do occur, so we're more aware of them when that happens," Kimbell said.

Even more, an increase in clickbait, misinformation, and fake news in recent years has worsened the problem, according to Kennedy-Woodward.

"There have been a huge number of disinformation campaigns to keep us feeling like either the responsibility falls on the individual, or that it's too big to solve," Kennedy-Woodward said. "And that can feel isolating."

She said that an aspect of the community has been missing since the introduction of COVID-19, and Canadians are still feeling the impacts.

"With the isolation of COVID, people have these heightened experiences, and that might have



AP PHOTO/JEFFREY T. BARNES, FILE

A person walks on the street as a winter storm rolls through Dec. 24, 2022, in Amherst N.Y. Lasting impacts of COVID-19 have left people feeling isolated and socially unsupported in regards to climate change.

meant that they felt more fear, anxiety, anger and even apathy because they felt really disempowered," Kennedy-Woodward said. "And so coming out of that, people are still adjusting and working on that sort of community basis, and that cohesive social pattern."

Kent Moore, a physics professor and Vice-Principal Research at the University of Toronto Mississauga, blames this lack of community on the delocalization of Canadian society.

As Canadians continue to work from home and communicate more heavily online, he said a spotlight has been cast on climate change.

"People are more aware of the weather now, perhaps because of anxiety around the climate," Moore said. "Our perceptions, I

think, sometimes collapse down and aren't really representative."

Kimbell has similar thoughts. He said Canadians' perception of weather severity may be driven by anxiety, rather than actual, concrete events.

"We hear a lot about how the weather is going to get worse, and then something happens, and you are under the perception that it is getting worse," he said.

Kennedy-Woodward said the ongoing isolation and lack of community post-pandemic has fuelled the fire.

She highlighted the importance of regaining social support, and said community action relieves climate anxiety more effectively than climate action itself.

"When people feel connected

with others, they are a lot less likely to feel that isolation," Kennedy-Woodward said. "And in turn, they feel more motivated and inspired by others to take action."

Kennedy-Woodward said now, more than ever, Canadians should actively seek out positive solutions and stories where communities are taking climate action.

She said Canadians can use the lasting impacts of COVID-19 to their advantage and find like-minded communities online.

"That's a really supportive way of moving away from that isolation and finding your climate action interests," Kennedy-Woodward said. "Find a group that's interested in the same thing you are so that you can support each other."

Drag event shows us 'it's all about love'



KRYSTAL YEUNG

Naomi Leone wept when talking to the crowd during the Drag & Snack at Humber. Leone told the audience that it "doesn't matter if you are black, white, or Chinese, it doesn't matter."

Krystal Yeung Sports Editor

Love from the crowd at Humber College's North campus empowered drag queen Naomi Leone while on stage during her routine last Friday.

Students chanted for her after her performance.

She wept.

"You guys are giving me so much f**king love right now," Leone said.

The LGBTQ+ Resource Centre welcomed students to a new semester with a two-hour drag show, snacks, and a lucky draw on Jan. 27, 2023.

Leone said she didn't want to cry because she worried that tears would ruin her makeup.

But the crowd said "you're hot" and "you're beautiful, sweetie!"

The centre invited Leone and two other renowned drag queens, The Virgo Queen and Destiny Doll, to slay the stage at the Student Centre.

The Virgo Queen, a Humber College alum who performed at a halftime show for the Toronto Raptors, said they came because they wanted to take opportunities to visit places that are not predominantly queer.

"It's always good to educate people, get people out of their comfort zone, just get them more aware of my community," she said.

"That's more important."

The drag queens danced to a series of all-time hits such as Don't Stop The Music by Rihanna, Bad Romance by Lady Gaga and Super Bass by Nicki Minaj.

The Virgo Queen said they brought several suitcases filled with costumes for the event.

She said she didn't know what to expect, but the crowd was energetic.

"I really enjoyed it," she said.

Leone also said the crowd gave her good vibes.

"Oh, my god it's amazing, everyone was good, the whole country, the whole world," she said.

Leone, a refugee from South Africa, said individual differences should not matter.

"Doesn't matter if you are black, white, or Chinese, it doesn't matter," she said. "Just be kind to one another, and just share love."

"That's why I'm here today guys, and I hope you continue to share love," Leone said.

Leone kissed one of the lucky draw winners, Horace Nile Lederman IV, and said "being gay is all about love."

Lederman said the students gave so much energy and the performers were astounding.

"Being able to bring the same energy from a club to an education centre is amazing, the empowerment and the experience," he said.

Lederman said he wanted to see more drag shows at Humber in the future.

Destiny Doll, a final-year student at Toronto Metropolitan University, said she felt the same.

"It's nice for the students (to) see drag, because there are people that are, like, probably (seeing drag) today (for) the first time," she said.

She said performing for her peers felt like spending time with her friends.

Leone encouraged students to embrace whoever they are.

She said she has been doing drag for a long time because it is a blessing to be born this way.

"Having this as Naomi Leone, I want to carry this till the day I die," Leone said. "It's good that everyone can be a part of the LGBT community because it's all about love."

The Virgo Queen, however, said it was important to "tip your drag queens."

Leone said tips are important as they go toward hair and makeup.

But she said events like the Drag & Snack are different, and often give new audiences a taste of drag.

They did this event to "encourage people who are out there to go to LGBT and see a drag show to see what to expect," Leone said.

"It's amazing, everyone was great," Doll said after the show. "It's great doing university shows."



KRYSTAL YEUNG

The Virgo Queen danced to Level Up by Ciara during the Drag & Snack at Humber on Jan. 27, 2023.



NATIONAL FILM BOARD

A still from the Canadian animated short *The Flying Sailor*. It marks the 50th Academy Award nomination of a Canadian film in the category Best Short Film (Animated).

Canadian animated film gets Oscars nom

Antonio Peláez Barceló
International News Editor

Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby have made three animated short films together, *When the Day Breaks*, *Wild Life* and *The Flying Sailor*.

All three have been nominated for an Oscar.

The Flying Sailor, this year's nomination for the duo, also won Sundance's 2023 Animated Short Film Prize, among other awards. It's the 50th Academy Award nomination of a Canadian film in the category, according to their official database.

Forbis said they wanted to make this film since they knew about the real story.

"But other things got in the way until sixteen years later," she said.

Tilby said she hopes the nomination can help people "to appreciate these films take a long time and you get cloistered making them."

Animation professor at Humber College Terry Posthumus said that

talent, skills and opportunity are important in this sense.

"At the end of the day, what really matters is how hard you want to work at it," he said. "I fell in love with this and when the opportunity came, I determined in my heart that I was going to be the first to arrive and the last to leave."

Nevertheless, they represent different ways of working in animation. Forbis and Tilby work with traditional and mechanical techniques, like watercolor, drawing or even scanning videotapes. Posthumus works mainly with computers.

However, their lives changed in 1999. Forbis and Tilby had just finished their first film together, *When the Day Breaks*.

"We shot ourselves or friends in video, printed selected frames and painted them using oil stick-and-pencil," Tilby said.

That's how they achieved the texture of the animal characters and animated objects for which they earned a Palme d'Or in Cannes.

That same year, researchers Glen Norcliffe and Derrek Eberts published a study about the computer animation industry in Toronto. According to the study, "the speed of change in this sector makes links to training very important."

That year, Terry Posthumus said he started teaching the software Maya to tutors at Humber College, while at the same time working at Disney. He said still teaches the Animation – 3D program, which he developed and coordinated.

A study about Canadian animation education, written by Chinese professor Xingqi Wang and published in 2016, that says "Canada has a global reputation for her excellence in animation education and animation movie industry." Wang researches what Canada has done to improve the Chinese education model.

"[Canadian animators] have good pedigree, because the teaching of animation started here with Sheridan College program," Posthumus said.

The study by Norcliffe and Eberts says it began in 1967 with a classical animation program, which was upgraded in 1980 by adding a one-year computer animation course.

But Canadian animation history has been previously recognized, mainly thanks to Scottish-born filmmaker Norman McLaren. According to the National Film Board (NFB) website, McLaren joined the NFB in 1941 and worked mainly in experimental works and founded the animation department.

He won a Palme d'Or in Cannes and an Oscar, but the creation and development of the animation program is an important part of his legacy, according to the study by Norcliffe and Eberts.

Amanda Forbis said the Canadian animation industry is successful



NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Canadian animators Amanda Forbis (left) and Wendy Tilby (right) have earned their third Oscar nomination for their short film *The Flying Sailor*.

"because of the National Film Board.

"When we were kids, we used to see NFB films on television, in the classroom, so we've grown in a culture of our own animation," Forbis said.

She said she and Tilby dreamed of doing a film for the NFB while they were in art school.

"And that happened for both of us, it was within reach, and that's a privilege," Forbis said.

Along with many other animated films, Tilby and Forbis's last film (as well as the other two) can now be seen online for free on the NFB website. *The Flying Sailor* is based on the real story of the survivor of the Halifax explosion in 1917.

Although they said their artisanal way of working is declining, they have done many commercials and

even projections for a ballet.

As for their next film, it will take time.

"Five years is a generous deadline for us," Forbis said.

On the other side of the animation spectrum, Posthumus said "as a teacher, seeing my students' names in films and games credits, nothing makes me prouder."

Films, video games and visual effects (VFX) are some of the outcomes for computer animation students, Posthumus said.

He said that for his students nowadays it wouldn't be so strange working for a big studio as when he did it.

"When I told my mom I was going to work for Disney, she asked me what mall I was going to be working at," Posthumus said.



NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Still from the short film *The Flying Sailor*, animated by Forbis and Tilby.

Snow sports change as climate warms

Rheegan Goodale
Culture Editor

Ontario ski resorts are finally back in business, albeit with some changes following a slow start to the 2023 season.

This year's mild January conditions have climate change to blame. These shifting trends have forced ski resorts to change their business models.

Daniel Scott, a University Research Chair at the University of Waterloo and Vice Chancellor Research Chair at the University of Surrey, said Canada will see more of these milder winters as time goes on.

"A season like this gives us a glimpse of the future, that those things will happen more regularly," Scott said. "It gives us a bit of a taste of what future generations are going to find normal in terms of how ski seasons and winter sports work."

He said ski resorts are adapting to climate change in more ways than one.

Scott said Ontario ski resorts have worked to improve their snowmaking capacity to combat milder winter temperatures. Sarah Tyler, a representative from Horseshoe Resort in Barrie, Ont., said the resort plied more than \$2.5 million into new ventures this year to compensate for shorter season lengths, shut downs, and service limitations.

"It's a huge investment," Tyler said.

Tyler said snowmaking works well for resorts like Horseshoe Valley, due to its north-facing location in the snowbelt.

"Where we're situated, we get afternoon shade, so we're doing pretty well in terms of retaining our snow," Tyler said. "So we do have snow, even if it has been mild."

But Micah Hewer, a climate change impact and adaptation research associate at the University of Toronto, said there are limits to snowmaking.

He said diversification is a much more effective long-term strategy to adapt to the warming climate.

"Eventually, the climate becomes too warm to make snow," Hewer said. "And so that's not the only solution available."

Scott agrees. He said many resorts are becoming all-season, and often have more visitors in the green season than they do in the ski season.

"They've tried to weatherproof their activity list so that there's always something else to do," Scott said.



SCOTT MCLAUGHLIN

To compensate for climate change, Ontario ski resorts have improved their snow making, delayed their seasons and become all-season resorts.

Scott said resorts like Blue Mountain have even gone as far as changing their names to mountain resorts as a way to attract visitors year-round.

But not all resorts have the space or infrastructure to diversify. For them, snowfall is essential to remain in business. Scott said closures are to be expected in the near future, and could happen quickly.

"With a smaller ski hill like Chicopee or Glen Eden, even two years back-to-back could wipe out their cash reserves, and they just can't get open again," he said. "You don't have to wait until 2050 for something like that to happen."

As smaller resorts start to limit their services or close altogether, Hewer said there will be a shift in the ski industry. He said even as smaller resorts close down, demand does not disappear.

"Even if climate change forces a resort to close because the ski conditions are just not suitable, and it was costing too much money to keep it operational, there's still all those skiers who want to ski," Hewer said.

Scott said there will be winners and losers among these resorts as the climate continues to shift. He said larger resorts will temporarily benefit from the closures of

smaller, less established resorts.

"The bigger players can expect more demand pressures, which is good from a business perspective," Scott said.

Scott said the phenomenon could impact the next generation of elite snow sports athletes. He said the loss of smaller, local hills causes participation in snow sports to diminish.

"When you lose those local hills, that's where many of them start," Scott said. "So you lose a good portion of the next market of skiers, and the pipeline to the next generation of Olympians starts to get smaller and smaller as well."

Scott said the future of skiing in Ontario is grim, but not hopeless.

"We haven't found a regional market where skiing as an industry would be obliterated completely, at least not through mid-century," he said. "How much of it will be left in Ontario is the question."

For now, Ontario ski resorts are doing what they can to adapt to the changing climate and maximize their skier experience along the way.

"We've all had different struggles, but we're all working to make sure we can keep our resorts open for our guests and have good winter adventures," Tyler said.



SCOTT MCLAUGHLIN

Horseshoe Resort in Barrie, Ont., has spent \$2.5 million on new ventures to compensate for shorter seasons, shut downs, and service limitations.

WNBA game promotes women's sports

Tessa Bennett
Sports Editor

The Minnesota Lynx will face off against the Chicago Sky in Toronto on May 13, 2023.

This marks the third preseason game played outside of the United States, and the first-ever played in Canada.

Holding a game outside of the United States could mean big things for the expansion of the women's league.

The WNBA Commissioner, Cathy Engelbert, said in a press release that playing in Canada is "an important milestone for the global growth of the league."

Many women's basketball coaches and clubs across the GTA think that this could mark the beginning of a new era of Canadian basketball.

May Kotsopoulos, a former professional player in Canada and the United States, said in an emailed statement that Canada is slowly

becoming a powerhouse for women's basketball.

Three Canadians currently play in the WNBA, and Canada's national women's team is ranked fifth in the world, she said.

"It's important for every parent to use this opportunity to bring their children, girl or boy, to come out and watch this historic event,"

"I THINK THE SAYING GOES, YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME...IF ANYTHING, WE'VE SHOWN AN EXAMPLE OF THAT IN '95 WHEN THE DINOSAUR CAME TO TORONTO."

to start playing basketball, but was presented with very few options for teams or clubs to join.

"I have a son who plays in the GTA for hockey," he said. "There's multiple teams all over, so many opportunities for the boys, and it's interesting because for the girls that's just not matched."

Omar Miles, head coach of Humber's men's basketball team, said his daughters faced the same issue.

Miles has coached several basketball players who went on to play in the NBA, and said he hoped to see

a similar success story for women in the sport.

"The impact [the WNBA game in Toronto could have] I think is in participation rate at smaller clubs, so more girls are wanting to get into the game," he said. "I struggled as a parent trying to find a club where my daughters could play with just girls."

Clubs like Oakville Vytis are working hard to change the narra-

she said. "Not only as inspiration for them, but to showcase to the WNBA why they should expand a team to Canada."

Kotsopoulos now wears the hat of assistant coach for the Etobicoke Thunder girls' Under-15 basketball team.

The lead coach is Patrick Duggan, who has been coaching for a number of years. His daughter, like many others, wanted



TESSA BENNETT

A Canadian WNBA expansion team may launch a new era of basketball.

tive in the largely male-dominated sport.

Alana Juzenas, a coach for Vytis, said her dad started the club 25 years ago when he noticed a lack of opportunities for girls in basketball.

Duggan, Miles and Kotsopoulos all said that representation of the WNBA in Toronto could hint at the establishment of a new wom-

en's team here.

"I think the saying goes, you build it, they will come," Miles said. "If anything, we've shown an example of that in '95 when the dinosaur came to Toronto."

"You build a team here in Toronto, fans will come out," Miles said.

The WNBA preseason game will be held at Scotiabank Arena.



TESSA BENNETT

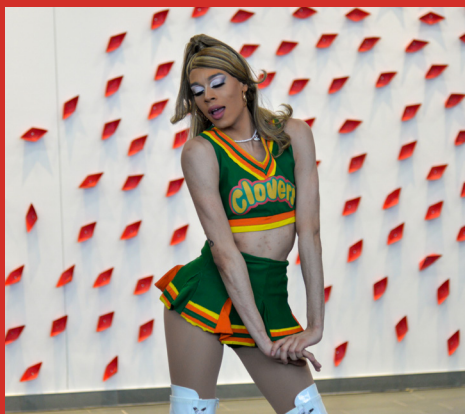
Alana Juzenas, a coach for the Oakville Vytis girls' basketball club, said her dad started the club 25 years ago after he noticed a lack of opportunities for girls to play basketball.

WNBA INSPIRES YOUNG ALL-STARS



Minnesota Lynx face the Chicago Sky in Toronto on May 13, 2023, which marks the first WNBA game played in Canada. Coaches hope it will increase participation in girls' basketball.

**DRAG & SNACK
EVENT UNITES
AND ENTERTAINS
AT HUMBER
P.10**



**FUTURE OF
ONTARIO SNOW
SPORTS IS
CHANGING
P.12**

