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JUSTICE FOR STUDENTS

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ANUSHA SIDDIQUI

International students protesting at Algoma University's Brampton campus on Jan. 14 against unfair marking in five courses by the university.

Inter'l students protest unfair marks

Anusha Siddiqui.

Senior Reporter

Algoma University students defied subzero temperatures and cold winds in Brampton during 12 days of protest that ended last Sunday accusing the university of unfair marking.

The protest started on Jan. 3 when about half of the students taking the one-year Information Technology (IT) course were failed by a professor on Jan. 1.

Himanshu Nagi, a student at Alogma, said after the protests started, the university passed nearly 100 students in the IT course through the bell-curve-up grading system.

"They changed the grading system but did not explain why they failed the students in the first place," Nagi said.

Last week, students taking four different courses of business administration, who had similarly failed, joined the protest.

Simranjit Singh, a student at the university, said the same professor taught three of the courses and assessed the fourth.

"The passing marks are 50 per cent. Before the exam, I had 45 per cent marks, but after attempting the final exam, I got (a) 44 per cent mark. How is this possible," he said.

Singh said the marks were given within a week of registration for new classes, and no time was provided to appeal for the grades.

A statement released by Algoma International Students' Committee

on Jan. 19 estimated about 38 per cent of the students failed in each class.

Uma Devi, an affected Human Resources and Business Management student and a mother of two children who are living in India, said she wants justice.

"I know it is unfair because I already passed the course with the assignments and the quizzes, I got good marks. I don't understand on

what basis I've flunked the final exam," Devi said.

Devi said that living away from family is hard as it is and the professor has not been responding to their emails.

"Even after paying four times the (domestic) tuition fees, they are giving us random marks," Devi said. "And now again, we have to pay \$3,000 to take the course, which is

almost one and a half month's pay."

The protest is supported by Naujawan Support Network, a group that said they are "fighting against wage theft and student exploitation."

"We have been listening to the stories and it's heart-wrenching," said Jobanjeet Kaur, a group member. "These students have not done any wrong, but the college has failed

them unjustly.

"Students have not been (told) why they failed, and some of them have failed twice in the same subject," she said.

The Algoma International Students' Committee statement said international students are viewed as cash cows.

"This is also not the first time, nor the only college, where disproportionately high numbers of inter-

national students have failed," the statement said.

Algoma University told Humber News in a written statement that the allegations of mass failing are untrue.

"Algoma University has never and will never change any student's grades due to a protest," the statement said.

The university called for the protests to end due to safety concerns. "Student, staff and faculty safety and wellbeing is Algoma University's top priority. No one has a right to make others feel unsafe, and Algoma University is taking a zero-tolerance stance against anyone who threatens violence or who tries to intimidate students," the university said.

The student committee statement said after the protest began, the university did a reassessment and about 135 students have now received a passing grade.

The student committee said in one of the courses, students have now been given the option to complete an intensive online class for free, but students of the other three courses have not received any respite despite being taught by the same instructor.

"Given the partial victories since our protest began, our committee is temporarily halting our permanent protest while continuing a broader campaign for fair reassessment, transparency and accountability," the student committee statement said.



ANUSHA SIDDIQUI

The protest started on Jan. 3 when students were failed by a professor.

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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Report says Canada's grocery bills to hike

Annicca Albano.
Social Justice Reporter

Yuming Kuo, a first-semester Architecture Technology student at Humber College, thought \$300 for a month's groceries would be enough when he moved to Canada. These days, he forks out close to \$120 weekly on prepackaged meals and simple food.

"Everything here, the price here, is very expensive," Kuo said.

Kuo, 30, said he dips into his savings to pay for food, tuition fees and his one-bedroom short-term rental in Etobicoke. For Kuo and other people in Canada, some relief is expected, not in lower prices, but a slower pace in inflation.

According to Canada's Food Price Report 2024, the global pandemic, the war in Ukraine and wildfires and flooding across the country, on top of rising cost of living and personal debt, have hurt people's ability to afford food, the report stated. "It's been a difficult two years ... but we are looking at a better 2024," said Sylvain Charlebois, project lead and director of the Agri-Food Analytics Lab at Dalhousie University.

"It's reasonable to expect food prices to continue to rise, but it will be at a much lower pace," he said.

According to the food price report, the annual grocery expenses for a family of four may increase by \$701.79, compared to the \$455.44 forecasted difference from 2022 to 2023.

Mike von Massow, chair of Food Systems Leadership at Ontario Agricultural College, said it's important for people to remember not all food prices go up.

Prices fluctuate throughout the months and will be different for each food item, von Massow said.

Von Massow said shopping at different grocery stores or trying seasonal produce or substitutes for people's favourite foods can make them less susceptible to the impact of climate change, export bans and fuel price increases that drive up both energy costs and commodity prices.

"Not only does that make eating more fun, and this sort of diversity of flavors makes it more interesting," he said. "It can also make it more affordable." Von Massow said the government should bring back basic cooking skills to the high school curriculum to allow people to adapt more effectively to rising food costs.

But a registered dietician said it's not enough. "Regardless of how well your cooking skills are, you should be able to afford all of the food that you want for yourself," said Marissa Alexander, co-executive editor at Food Secure Canada.



ANNICCA ALBANO

A fruit stall in St. Lawrence Market in Toronto offers deals to encourage shoppers to buy and save more.

According to Food Bank Canada's 2023 Hunger Count report, there were nearly two million food bank visits in March alone, the highest level on record.

A BMC Public Health study revealed that more than half of post-secondary students in Canada were food insecure in the past year.

The study also showed the odds of experiencing hunger are even higher for those with children, those living in rented accommodation and those in families reliant on social assistance.

"If you have lived at home, somebody else has potentially made a lot of food decisions for you," Alexander said.

"Then you transition to being responsible for all your own schooling and maybe living on your

own for the first time and having to make food for yourself, and buy groceries and pay for rent," she said.

Alexander advises post-secondary students to plan their budgets, buy foods that can stretch longer and seek advice from counsellors and dietitians in their universities and colleges.

Similarly, a national school food program provides a consistent and safe option for children living with household food security, she said.

"By the time that you are potentially now finished school and off on your own, you have an idea ... you've been introduced ... to different types of foods that maybe your family wouldn't make at home that are new," Alexander said.

Canada, however, is the only G7 country without a national school

food program, according to the Coalition for Healthy School Food. Although individuals have no control over price tags, Alexander said they could write letters to the ministers and vote for politicians who value food and prioritize accessibility and affordability of healthy foods for all.

In the meantime, Canadians' new year food resolutions include shopping more creatively.

According to a survey of 5,000 Canadians late last year by the Agri-Food Analytics Lab, 43.3 per cent of participants said they will focus more on sales and promotions, 34.6 per cent intend to use more coupons, 33.6 per cent would like to use loyalty programs more often and 30.6 per cent plan to shop at other stores to get better deals.

"We are expecting more grocers to fight for our loyalty," Dalhousie professor Charlebois said.

In an Agri-Food Analytics Lab survey of 9,884 respondents conducted March 2023, many Canadians believe grocery chains were profiteering from food inflation, which Charlebois said is a misunderstanding of how food distribution works.

Canada had the second-lowest food inflation rate among G7 countries in 2023, according to the Consumer Price Index by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Still, "[Grocers] want our business," Charlebois said. "They're going to have to offer us some good deals."

Charlebois said implementing the Grocer Code of Conduct should be mandatory to foster healthy competition among food retailers.

The code ensures a fair distribution of costs and profits within the food supply chain to promote equitable practices and protect consumers.

It's the housing crisis that has forced people to spend more on shelter and less on groceries, Charlebois said.

For international student Kuo, moving to more affordable, long-term accommodation is ideal and inevitable.

"I don't want to save that much money on food," Kuo said. "I want to eat healthy."



ANNICCA ALBANO

Canadians can expect more deals and healthy competition among grocery giants if the Code of Conduct is implemented.

Ontario eyes zero emission EVolution

Akhil Dalvi
Science Reporter

The push towards EVs is undeniable as Ottawa announced an investment of up to \$529 million in project funding for the Stellantis car manufacturer.

Ontario has seen a surge in electric vehicle (EV) adoption, driven by the federal government's ambitious mandate to have all new light-duty vehicles sold in Canada be zero-emission by 2035.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who visited Stellantis' new facilities in Windsor, Ont., said Canadian auto workers have been part of building a strong economy and will aim to make the country a global leader in electric vehicles.

The federal government said it aims to secure thousands of good-paying jobs by funding the modernization of its assembly plants, producing EVs, strengthening global EV supply chains, and cutting pollution to help fight climate change. Electric sedans, coupes and pickup trucks are becoming

increasingly common on Ontario streets thanks to the \$91 million investment from the Ontario government in 2022 as part of the EV ChargeON program.

The expansion in EV chargers across Ontario's highway rest areas, carpool parking lots and tourist destinations is a reflection of the accelerating shift towards EVs.

According to data released by S&P Global Mobility, registrations of battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles rose to 8.3 per cent in the third quarter of 2023 from 7.2 per cent in the previous quarter.

This rise is fuelled by numerous factors, including government incentives like rebates of up to \$5,000, savings on fuel, and charging infrastructure investments to make EVs more affordable and accessible. Mary Mallin, a manager at Plug 'N Drive, a non-profit organization promoting the use of EVs, praises the cost of upkeep.

"My car has a 75-kilowatt bat-



AKHIL DALVI

An increasing number of people are switching to electric vehicles.

tery and it typically costs \$7.50 to charge it completely," she said. "This grants me a total range of 490 km and so I ask the question, how far can you go with \$7.50 in gas?"

The shift towards going all-electric isn't without challenges since range anxiety lingers for some, especially outside major urban centres where charging infrastruc-

ture is still developing.

Mallin said customers need to research where charging stations are located before heading out toward their destinations. "You might end up having to install one or two different network apps on your phone to not only activate the chargers but also to pay. Some of them will allow you to pay with a credit card and others may not, so

it's essential for people to take this step," she said.

Another hurdle that needs to be jumped is the upfront cost of an EV itself, which remains higher than its gasoline counterparts.

There is not a single new EV that currently costs under \$30,000 Canadian, which is a high price to pay for the general population.

After the Doug Ford Progressive Conservative government cancelled all provincial rebates of up to \$14,000 in 2018, anyone who now purchases a used EV will only receive a rebate of up to \$2,000.

Abhinandan Rawat, a call desk manager at RBC in Mississauga, said the government should offer incentives for students looking to buy an EV.

"The government should give better incentives or rebates to younger working professionals or students because it will allow them to not just gain further interest in EVs but also make them eligible to attain them easily," he said.

Indigenous vigil after ancient remains found

Abhijit Alka Anil
News Reporter

A sacred fire marked the effort to return the disturbed spirits of those buried in an Indigenous grave dug up by a construction crew in east Toronto.

Philip Cote III, a recognized young spiritual elder representing the Anishinaabe and Ojibwe people said the fire was the doorway to other side where the ancestors awaited them.

The vigil was organized by Anishinaabe Indigenous Peoples to honour the ancient remains found at Withrow Avenue in the Gerrard Street East and Broadview Avenue area, an archaeological site since about 1886.

The neighbourhood gathered and participated to show its support on Jan. 8.

"The descendants of the Ojibwe are still here," Cote III said. "The Indigenous community at the vigil fed the sacred fire with tobacco and food.

"We have come today, acknowledged the ancestors, fed them," he said. "They know we're okay and continue assisting us."

Cote III said the anthropologists on site are estimating the remains to be around 5,000 years old.

The vigil was organized in front of Withrow Avenue resident



ABHIJIT ALKA ANIL

The Anishinaabe Indigenous Peoples organized a vigil at the site of ancient burials on Withrow Avenue.

Kristin Briggs' house, where the remains were found.

"It was surprising and stirring to know. It's easy to forget history," Briggs said. "Some years ago they discovered that the public school across the street was an Indigenous encampment and it is not unlikely that they will find more such remains at some point.

"These findings make the his-

tory alive," she said.

The sidewalk where the remains were found is open and police are supervising the site until it can be more secure, Briggs said.

Cote III, referencing a city report on the Danforth Avenue area, said through text message that the Withrow Public School sits on an Indigenous encampment where an archaeological survey found a spear

point carbon dated to about 7,000 years ago.

Cote III said he would like to have a plaque put at the site of the remains with an Indigenous narrative rather than an archaeological narrative.

"We're going to put the Seven Grandfather's flags before they're going to bury them here. They will go in the ground

with the bones as an offering to the ancestors," Cote III said. He said he wants to create an action plan with local politicians to reinter the bones back into the site and have easy access to it for rituals like the sacred fire held. Shane Gerard, a communications coordinator for the City of Toronto, said in an email that Toronto has been instructed by the Registrar at the Ministry of Public and Business Delivery to appoint a licensed consultant archaeologist to undertake an archaeological investigation into the site.

Gerard said the investigation will provide the City and the Registrar with a detailed report of its findings, including a probable cultural origin, religious affiliation, boundaries of the burial site and any artifacts that are a part of the burial site.



ABHIJIT ALKA ANIL

Philip Cote III spoke at the vigil.

Students say scholarships provide little help

Aanchal Nigam
General Reporter

Bhriagu Anilkumar knows firsthand the power of student financial awards amid the increasing cost-of-living crisis.

Enrolled in the Bachelor of Engineering program for five years, Anilkumar, 20, found out about Humber College's student assistance programs through email.

He said he received approximately \$6,000 in scholarships, but it was not enough for an international student in his situation.

"However, I am really grateful to Humber for the scholarship, which really helped me," Anilkumar said.

The current cost of completing a Bachelor of Engineering – Information Systems Engineering from Humber College is \$7,907.62 for domestic students and \$21,105 for international students.

Humber boasts of a robust scholarship program and every student is informed through repeated emails from the administration.

Currently, students at Humber can apply for Winter Scholarships from Jan. 5 to Feb. 2. Humber's community of donors and alumni contribute to making these student awards possible. Sudhir Annalingam, manager, Student Scholarships and Bursaries, said more than 1,000 students received



AANCHAL NIGAM

Students at Humber College welcome scholarships but need more help.

scholarships in the academic 2022-'23 year.

"We encourage all students to apply for scholarships during each of our three cycles "of fall, winter and summer," Annalingam said.

"Once a student submits a scholarship application on their MyHumber account, they are automatically considered for the scholarship opportunities they are eligible for and presented with recommended opportunities that they may want to consider," he said.

Students can check their eligi-

bility in their student accounts, which show a range of student awards. Some of these applications even require the student to write an essay describing their goals and volunteer work. The process usually takes several months.

Albin Augustine Puthussery, 27, who is enrolled in a one-year UX Design course, received his confirmation for securing an IGNITE student scholarship during his first semester. However, he received his \$120 scholarship amount several months later.

"I received my scholarship in the

first semester and got the amount after three months," he said. "I faced challenges with the response time and had to send multiple emails to the respective department."

Puthussery credited Humber for providing thorough information about the application process. While he applied under several eligible programs, he was only selected by IGNITE, Humber's Student Union.

For Anilkumar, the process was different. He filled out a form for the Barrett Family Entrance Scholarship and was already eligible for the Entrance Scholarship. He said both student awards had general applications. He received \$3,000 in Entrance Scholarship awards and another \$3,000 in Barrett Family Entrance Scholarship.

But students across Ontario demand free education for all. Student unions have raised the issue of the degrading student experiences in the country when coupled with ever-increasing cost-of-living expenses. The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFSO) protested in November 2023 to demand free education, grants not loans and Education justice.

CFSO has also taken note of an additional crisis for international students, who are "subject

to unjustifiable hikes in their tuition fees and are left without support from institutions."

Mitra Yakubi, chairperson for CFSO, said Doug Ford's government was not prioritizing education.


"Budgets are about priorities and so far what we have seen from the Ford government is that they do not prioritize education and they continue to underfund Post-Secondary Education, perpetuate student debt, and consistently attack students and their rights to organize," Yakubi said.

CFSO said demanding free education is the "only way" to ensure access for all.

While students continue their fight for free education, others depend on college student awards to lessen their financial burdens.

Humber's scholarship system will not be subjected to any changes shortly despite calls for increasing financial assistance to students, Annalingam said.


"We don't expect any changes to the scholarship system in the near future, however, we are always working on streamlining the scholarship application process to make the system as efficient as possible for students," he said.

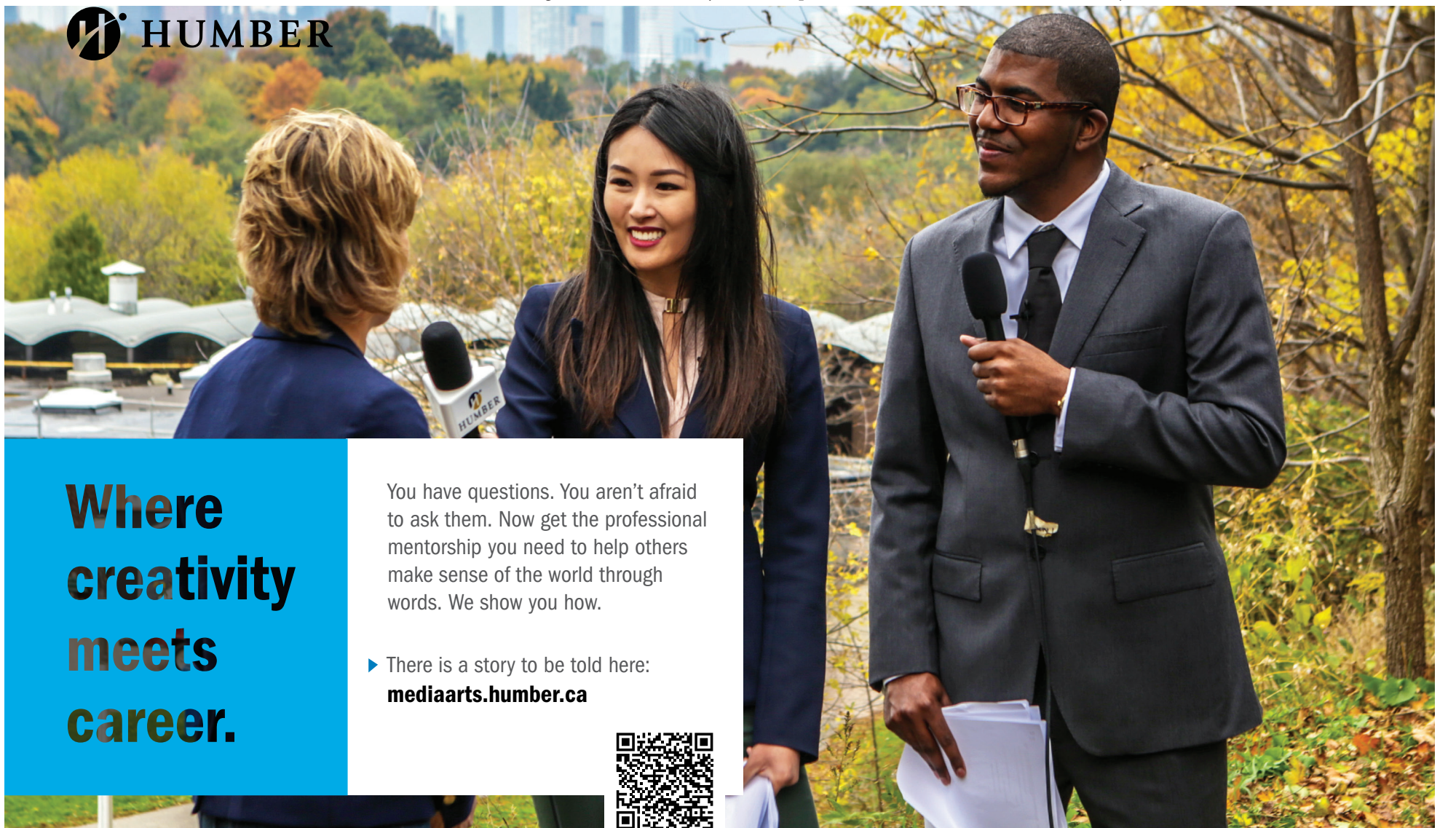


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Canada caps international student visas

Kritika K.
Senior Reporter

Many international students are rethinking their academic plans for Canada after Immigration Minister Marc Miller put a cap on international study visas and post-graduation work permits.

Miller said increased interest rates and a growing number of international students are related to one another.

“It isn’t immigrants that raised interest rates, but volume is volume and it’s something that we need to look at,” he said.

Miller said the issue is not solely the number of students, but the system too.

“We need to be doing our jobs and making sure that we have a system that actually makes sure people have a financial capability to come to Canada, that we’re actually verifying offer letters,” he said.

This act will also impact the

chances of getting a work permit for an international student who will be graduating from public-private college partnerships.

“It is not the intention of this program to have sham commerce degrees and business degrees that are sitting on top of a massage parlour,” Miller said.

Colleges Ontario issued a statement where they unhappily addressed the changes made by the government for international students.

“We believe this blunt approach does not adequately consider the talent needs of the province of Ontario and does not consider the many thousands of students who will now be left in limbo with their hopes on hold,” the provincial ministry said.

Andrew Ness, dean of international education at Humber College, said he does not want to comment on the issue as the story is still developing.

“I’m not prepared to make any

statements at present as the information coming from the federal government is evolving very quickly, as are the resulting conditions and requirements,” Ness said.

Joseph Wong, vice president of international and professor at the U of T’s Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, said the university respects the changes made in the system by the government.

“We appreciate the changes announced today are focused on addressing abuses in the system by particular actors and are not intended to adversely impact universities such as ours,” Wong said.

While universities are working in tandem with the government’s statement, prospective students are disheartened.

Khushbu Khajuria, a 26-year-old content writer from India with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, had plans to come to Canada for her

masters in the upcoming Fall.

She says she is now rethinking her plans.

“Minister Miller’s statement has certainly raised concerns for me,” Khajuria said. “My friends studying in Canada have told me about high unemployment rates, expensive housing and a relatively low minimum wage compared to other foreign destinations.”

She said she is now considering alternative study destinations that may offer a more favourable environment for academic and personal growth.

Bhavya Sharma, a 26-year-old from India who has a bachelor’s degree in English, planned to move to Canada this year to pursue journalism and build a career in the field.

She said she now feels Canada may not be her best option.

“I feel there is too much uncertainty going on with the immigration right now and I don’t think it’s worth the hassle,” Sharma said.

“I have crucial years of education ahead of me, and I want everything to sort out first.”

Mridul Sharma, a 17-year-old who is currently in Grade 12 and not related to Bhavya, wanted to come to Canada to study business, but due to the international changes, he doesn’t believe he can pursue his dream.

“The increased GIC amount will put a financial strain on my family and moreover, if I will not get a work permit after completing my studies then I feel education will be of no use if I cannot work and put my knowledge and skills to any use,” Sharma said.

Miller said the new measures are protecting a system “that has become so lucrative that has opened a path for its abuse.

“Enough is enough,” he said.

The measures are temporary, in place for two years and the number of new study permits accepted in 2025 will be reassessed later this year, Miller said.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marc Miller, seen here on Jan. 22, announced a new limit on the number of international students to Canada.



THUY TRANG NGYUEN

Humber College is a major destination for international students, making up almost a quarter of its population. The federal government has capped the number.

Colleges expect financial hit by fed move

Aditya Kapoor
Senior Reporter

The federal government announced a cap on international students which has caused financial concerns for post-secondary institutions.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Marc Miller, announced an intake cap on international student permit applications for two years, on Jan. 22, 2024.

He said international student intake is expected to decrease by 35 per cent in Canada, which would amount to 50 per cent in Ontario.

The cost-of-living financial requirement for study permit applicants was raised by the federal government to \$20,635 from \$10,000 for an international student starting Jan. 1, 2024.

The government said the integrity of the international student system was threatened.

“Some institutions have significantly increased their intakes to drive revenues, and more students have been arriving in Canada without the proper support they need to succeed,” the government said. Indeed, Ottawa said the rising numbers of international students

put pressure on housing, health care and other services.

According to a Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFS) report, Ontario has the lowest per-student public funding for post-secondary education and the highest enrolment rate for international students.

As a result, many institutions depend on international student tuition to run their operations and because international student tuition is unregulated, institutions increase it to generate revenue, the report said.

According to the CFS report, relying heavily on international students can create ethical prob-

lems and cause business disruptions. The decline in international student numbers during the COVID-19 Pandemic led institutions like Laurentian University into bankruptcy.

Sylvie Lendvay, Humber’s media relations and external communications specialist, said there are more than 10,000 international students at Humber with approved study permits who will not be impacted by this announcement.

The college has about 38,000 full-time students.

“Humber College is assessing the impact of the federal government’s announcement about international study permits.

Current international students and study permit renewals will also not be impacted,” Lendvay said.

“As the international study permit changes are new, we will work with the Ontario post-secondary sector and with the province to determine next steps,” she said.

Public-private college partnerships will no longer provide post-graduate work permits for international students, which Lendvay said is not a concern for Humber.

“Humber does not have a public-private partnership, and international students approved to

study at Humber will still be eligible to apply for post-graduate work permits after they have completed their studies,” she said.

“We are focused on our current international students and those approved to begin their studies with us in May and September. Those students are not impacted by this announcement and are eligible for post-graduate work permits after they have completed their studies,” Lendvay said.

Colleges Ontario, the body representing all Ontario colleges, released a statement about the government’s decision expressing concerns about the cap.

It said the decision to cap international students was rushed and the federal government failed to consult public colleges about the significant changes, causing chaos for students and institutions.

“Students who had already been accepted into programs – and had paid their fees for those programs are now having their applications for study permits returned to them,” Colleges Ontario said.

Colleges Ontario urged the federal government to have a meaningful discussion with Ontario colleges and the provincial government about the potential impacts on students and Canada’s reputation.



Rent increase causes concern for students

Krishna Bhagnathsingh
General Reporter

A job used to help when food and rent prices went up while being a student. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the case for Humber student Evan Dallimore.

"Everything is so [far], especially inflation and in the housing market," Dallimore said. "There's nothing you can really do about it. You just got to deal with it."

Dallimore, an Electrical Engineering Control Systems student at Humber, said he and his family pay about \$900 per month on rent.

The guideline for rent increase in 2024 is 2.5 per cent for units built before 2018, according to the provincial government.

It's the maximum amount a landlord can increase rent during a year without the approval of the Landlord and Tenant Board.

"You just need more money," Dallimore said when asked how he could adapt to the rent increase.

"You can't really fight against it, so yeah, adapt towards it and kind of make decisions to be able to financially support that," he said.

Dallimore said as he grows older, he'll have to choose a field that offers better income to be able to keep affording rent.

"You're definitely going to have to sacrifice a few wants over needs," he said. "Like the food



Evan Dallimore

that you need is harder to buy, it's just everything is dependent on what you can do."

Kenny Vuong, a Police Foundations student at Humber, also rents an apartment with his family and wonders how the rent increase will affect them.

"It's a lot of money to consider, inflation is going up, among other personal issues," Vuong said. "It's pretty hard outside right now, rent is going up and if rent keeps going up, how can we pay it off?"

Vuong said he and his family pay about \$1,000 a month for rent.

"It definitely impacts my family



KRISHNA BHAGNATHSINGH

A house for lease in Toronto. Tenants who are renting both houses and apartments are affected by the annual residential rent increase.

and me," Vuong said. "The hard part is to multi-task with school and trying to help out with the rent."

Vuong thinks the government should step in to address the issue and that they should focus on helping tenants who are struggling with the rent increase.

"It's not just for me, but for everyone who is renting as well, it affects them too," Vuong said.

"They should have a program to help them with this issue or provide money to those who are struggling."

He said job opportunities are getting harder, which makes it a struggle to pay rent.

Vuong said a rent increase would have a domino effect, making it harder to buy other essentials.

"I would definitely say less spending on items, but due to inflation, it's hard to consider that," he said.

Jessica Bell, an MPP and housing critic for the NDP who represents the University-Rosedale riding, said the rent increase limit shows the need for stronger rent controls.

Bell said a 2.5 per cent increase is significant "especially when we consider the rent is already at a record level and most Ontarian wages have not kept up with rent hikes."

Bell said this is pushing renters to a breaking point and too many renters can't afford to pay their bills because housing costs have gone through the roof.

"I think it's driving a lot of the

anger and the frustration that renters would feel towards our political leaders because they feel they are being left behind," Bell said.

She said forcing millions of renters to pay even more for rent will make it even more difficult for people to live in our very expensive province.

A January 2024 report from Urbanation says a one-bedroom unit in Toronto commands an average of \$2,521 per month.

In Mississauga, a one-bedroom unit averaged \$2,371, while the same unit demanded \$2,284 in North York. In Brampton, a one-bedroom unit averaged \$2,117 a month.

These rental costs put these cities in the top 10 for most expensive rental units across Canada.

The average rent for a single bedroom in Canada soared 22 per cent in the past two years, including nine per cent last year.

Putting 2.5 per cent into context, Bell said the Ford government has raised the rent on rent-controlled apartments by the legally allowable maximum, under the Residential Tenancies Act.

"They are not allowed to raise it beyond unless they changed the law, they're actually not allowed to raise it to 2.5 per cent," Bell said.

"Currently new buildings are exempt, so maybe people move into a new building, built after 2018, and they get a surprise at the end of the year when their rent has gone up by \$500 because they didn't know they were not

protected by rent control," Bell said.

She would like to see a rent control system similar to what Quebec and Manitoba have done, which includes vacancy control.

"Many landlords illegally evict tenants because they want to bring in a higher paying tenant to make more profit," Bell said.

"More people who live in Ontario can have better lives here because they're going to have more disposable income," she said.

Bell said many cost-cutting measures people are now making are because they can't afford



Kenny Vuong

housing.

Rees Nam, a spokesperson with the Federation of Metro Tenants Association (FMTA), said the rent increase is not warranted.

"We don't think the landlord should get these increases at all, just because they get these increases even if they don't do anything," Nam said.

Oftentimes there are landlords who don't do maintenance or repairs and yet they're still

allowed to get rent increases," they said.

Nam said the FMTA gets a lot of calls on their tenant hotline and that the market rent in general is high.

"With any increases, it just becomes really hard for the tenant and things become unaffordable really quickly," Nam said.

"Some tenants have to decide between food and rent and that's a really hard decision to make, especially with the rising food cost as well," they said.

"There's a limit to rent control on newer buildings built after Nov. 15, 2018," Nam said.

They said the organization's goal is to primarily serve the city of Toronto by answering questions about tenant rights and providing information.

"The FMTA board tries to push for things [up] to city level as well, surrounding budgets and trying to get more funding for tenant rights," Nam said.

"We usually feel that the government needs to [reinstate] rent control, as well as install vacancy control," they said.

"Tenants feel pushed out of their rentals and that even if they leave, it's hard to find anything affordable," Nam said.

These rental units include rented houses, apartments, basement apartments and condos, and other living spaces such as care homes, mobile homes and land lease communities.

The Landlord and Tenant Board did not respond to multiple interview requests.



PEXELS/MATT BERNARD

The Canada-U.S. border is a new issue among Republican presidential candidates as border security becomes a main priority in the New Hampshire Primaries.

Republicans prioritize Canada-U.S. border

Caleb Moody
Sports Editor

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Security on the Canada-U.S. border has become a topic of discussion among Republican presidential candidates.

While former President Donald Trump focused on border security in a broad sense, his only remaining Republican contender, Nikki Haley, went a step further by naming America's northern border as the issue.

In a campaign rally on Jan. 19 in Manchester, N.H., she placed the issue above foreign policy priorities list such as supporting Ukraine and Israel in their respective wars.

"Securing our border is priority number one, no more excuses," Haley said.

She was not the first Republican candidate to focus on the northern border issue as now former Republican candidate Vivek Ramaswamy raised it as an issue earlier in his campaign.

He posted an official campaign video outlining the potential security issues of the Canada-U.S. border from the border crossing station in Pittsburg, N.H.

He questioned the need for border customs offices when there

are accessible forests and trails surrounding them, making illegally crossing the border an easy task.

"As an institution, it would just be better off and more honest if we didn't have this whole barbed wire charade in the first place," Ramaswamy said.

The issue also brings forth critics from another perspective, including Democratic Congresswoman Annie Kuster.

Kuster said the issue is a non-starter and described it as being a part of the greater narrative of xenophobia amongst Republicans.

She also described how Republicans see America being overrun.

"This is not a thing, but they've started talking about it as if it is," Kuster said.

Political Scientist Brendan Nyhan, a presidential professor at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., has studied multiple American presidential races in the past.

He recognized the attention that has been brought to the issue of the northern border but feels it is far more subdued compared to security on the southern border.

"The northern border is a far less salient issue than the southern border in the U.S., but it's becoming more salient," Nyhan said.

The northern border being a lesser-known issue was also the sentiment of some voters in New Hampshire on Tuesday when they went to the ballot box.

Amanda Smith, an American voter, shared the same point of view as Congresswoman Kuster, that the issue is more of a race issue than one about border security.

She said that for this reason, the focus among American voters is on the southern border rather than the northern one.

"I have never discussed with a voter or anyone I know the Cana-

dian-U.S. border," Smith said.

"That's just not something that comes up, as opposed to illegal immigration that is coming through our ports of entry, like airports or so forth or from the southern border," she said.

Jenn Haigh, another voter, agreed, saying the northern border was a non-issue.

"According to the polls I've seen, nobody thinks it's a big deal," Haigh said.

And polls seemed to support Haigh's statement.

A Jan. 10 poll from the Boston Globe and USA Today showed

61 per cent of New Hampshire voters were either not very or not concerned about border security on New Hampshire's border with Canada.

But the poll does show Republican voters in New Hampshire are siding with those like Haley and Ramaswamy when it comes to the northern border, with 64 per cent of them showing some degree of concern.

Only 10 per cent of Democratic voters and 37 per cent of independent voters in New Hampshire had some concern, showing this is a more one-sided issue.



TONI CANYAMERAS

American voters, largely do not see the northern border as the issue when it comes to border security.

EDITORIAL

Tent up Canada, support our nation's unhoused people

Home is where the heart is, but the hearts of various Canadian governments seem to be rather cold in supporting our homeless population.

Homelessness, a plight that can affect any person, has been increasingly affecting Canadians more than ever.

Homeless Hub, a Canadian research group monitoring homeless persons, reported at least 35,000 Canadians experience homelessness on any given night.

Toronto, which recorded 110 deaths of homeless people in 2022, said it provides “more than 7,000 emergency and transitional shelter beds in 63 locations and through motel programs mostly used by families.”

That is not enough.

Our homeless population is growing exponentially. The Homeless Hub said 7,000 is the minimum number of homeless persons at any given time in Toronto.

But things should be done in the short term to alleviate the plight of the unhoused. In 2017, the Canadian military set up a tent city in

Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle, Que., to support refugees fleeing the U.S. after Donald Trump was elected president.

The Canadian military set up 75 tents equipped with floors, lighting, and heating.

The Canadian government and military care for and support those who flee their countries, but we seem to be lacking in caring for Canadians in need.

City authorities in Ottawa already used military tents in November last year. It is something that could be replicated in Toronto.

The Department of National Defence said its funding estimate for 2024 is \$26.5 billion.

“The Department of National Defence (DND) is the second largest department within the federal government in terms of budget and the largest in terms of size,” according to the Canadian government.

Weatherhaven, a provider of military products to the Canadian military, said its shelter systems can rapidly deploy in extreme climates, have environment control units,



SANTIAGO HELOU QUINTERO

An encampment in Kensington Market, home to more than eight unhoused persons, was torn down by the city in December 2023.

and are very adaptable.

The Canadian government said these shelters were purchased as a part of its Headquarters Shelter System Project (HSSP).

The HSSP launched in 2012, and

the Canadian government said it continues. The project entails an initial contract for purchasing three sizes of tactical shelters.

“The initial contract for purchasing the equipment is about

\$154 million and will cover five years to 2022,” the government said.

With a budget of this size with access to shelter systems, it is entirely within the military’s capability to support the housing of homeless Canadians.

Everyone deserves a place to call their own, even if it is shared. Everyone deserves comfort from long winter nights and a bed to rest in.

Canadians are known for their kindness, community support, and a “we” mentality.

Justin Trudeau gave a speech praising Canadian values in 2022.

“While we can’t change history, we can put in the work to build a better future,” he said.

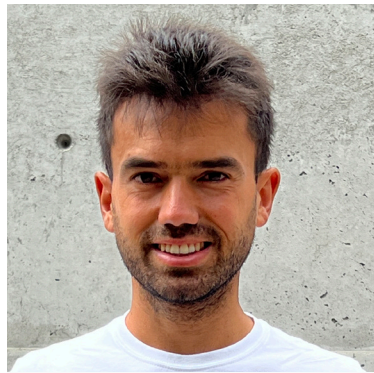
“One that reflects our values of hope, resilience, kindness, respect, and generosity”

Those values expressed by Trudeau are not reflected in the work governments have done to support the general homeless population.

Canada should use its military resources to support Canadians needing temporary housing.

OPINION

Inside the hive mind of Donald Trump’s MAGA voters



Toni Canyameras Rojas
Sports Editor

selling wares — including banners and figures — from in his large van. One of the banners stuck to truck announced that “Jesus is my saviour, Trump is my president.”

“He is a little crazy,” he said of Trump.

“But everything goes better with him. I don’t know too much about the capitol attack.”

Donald Trump spoke for one and a half hours, igniting the crowd as he railed against Nikki Haley and President Joe Biden.

Mary Smith was one of the attendees who listened to 77-year-old presidential candidate.

“Republicans promise things for the campaign trail, but they get into Washington and listen to the media or to the Democrats and they don’t fight for what we want. Trump fought for it,” she said.

Dave Crafton was another Trump voter who attended the rally. “I do really believe that the 2020 elections were rigged. They will try to do something again,” he said.

“One thing they possibly do is this state allows the Democrats to vote in the primaries, so they are going to vote against Trump.

“They are going to vote for Haley,



TONI CANYAMERAS ROJAS

Trump supporters in attendance at a Trump campaign rally held in Manchester, N.H., on Jan. 20.

who seems the person they want to put there,” Crafton said.

Democrats can’t vote in the Republican Primary.

Crafton said Trump didn’t do anything wrong in the capitol attack.

“The first amendment of the Constitution is the right to freedom of speech, the right to assemble things, that is what they were doing on Jan. 6. And nobody knows that the last article is the right to address the grievances,” he said.

Andrew Smith, a professor of Political Science at the University of New Hampshire, said Trump’s

personality is one of his strengths.

“He’s funny and entertaining compared to almost all other politicians, remember he was on television for years,” he said.

“He also has a great ability to troll the press, which endears him to folks with anti-elite sentiments,” Smith said.

“Not because they agree with him, but because he is mocking elites who they feel don’t respect them.”

Tyler Landry, a Nashua, N.H., resident accompanied by his partner and child, explained why he thinks there was fraud in the

2020 election.

“Something happened, it was suspicious. Like in Michigan at 1 a.m. he was up 300,000 votes and then you wake up to check it at 2:30 a.m. and all of a sudden, Biden’s ahead in Michigan,” he said. “Three hundred thousand votes, just all of a sudden, in one or two hours.”

Joseph Jacobs is another supporter of Trump, who won the New Hampshire Primary on Jan. 23, in his duel against Nikki Haley by just more than 11 points.

“I think they are going after Trump, but they don’t have anything to put him in jail,” he said.

OPINION

Canada's cancel culture controversy cannot continue



Hawi Tulu
General Reporter

If you have been following online drama, you may have come across the term cancel culture. But what is cancel culture?

Pew Research stated that “cancel culture” originated from a relatively uncommon slang term, “cancel,” which refers to breaking up with someone, which was used in the 1981 song by the band Chic called *Your Love is Cancelled*.

This word was used in movies and television before evolving and gaining popularity on social media.

In recent years, cancel culture has become a hotly debated concept in national politics. The meaning of it is the subject of numerous dis-

cussions and definitions. Whether it's enforcing accountability, condemning others, or both, it became a broad conversation.

Lisha Gicana, a York University graduate with a bachelor of fine arts, said it's something she is terrified of as a threat.

“I've seen a lot of people where cancel culture has been their downfall,” she said. “So it is something that I'm very scared of. It is something that you learn and grow from.”

“I'm online and have seen a lot. In my time, the term cancel culture was coined,” Gicana said. “I have tiptoed when it comes to sharing my ideas. When I was younger, I'd never heard of that before. I can say I have witnessed its uprising.”

Pew also showed that in 2022, 61 per cent of U.S. adults say they have heard at least a fair amount about the phrase “cancel culture,” up from 44 per cent in 2020.

Today, cancel culture is still rising with no signs of stopping. The best example is the demise of the Ellen Show in 2022. The show was cancelled because of a workplace scandal that damaged Ellen DeGeneres' reputation and the values of her show.

While the outcome of cancel culture might be extreme, some believe cancel culture doesn't exist.

The main argument is cancel culture can't be a force that can destroy people.

Tyler Shipley, a sociology professor at Humber, said cancel culture is not real.

“I don't think cancel culture exists,” he said. “It's fiction created out of the far right created from the political spectrum. It's a way to try to signal fear over effort to transform society.”

“They called it political correctness,” Shipley said.

It's correct that it existed long before we named it “cancel culture.” Still, in recent years, most people have been involved in holding people accountable for their actions, especially celebrities.

The idea we can say and do whatever we want publicly — such as racism and sexism — and still be okay is incorrect because you can be a victim of cancel culture.

Look at Josh Giddey, then a rising 19-year-old NBA superstar. He woke up in November 2023 thinking it was a typical day, but it was nothing but that. Twitter got hold of a video of him partying



PEXELS/MARKUS WINKLER

with a then 15-year-old girl a few years earlier.

There weren't enough details regarding the relationship, but people saw her age and attacked him immediately. The news quickly spread, and a fellow teammate, whom he claimed to be his best friend, unfollowed him on social media.

This is now the new reality of cancel culture. You are not safe in this era. If you refuse to cancel someone who is cancelled, it can happen to you, too.

Yes, we might not be able to cancel someone for a very long

time. Some might even come back after being cancelled, but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist, because at the moment when a person gets cancelled, they will lose something, whether it's a job, money, reputation or something else. It's something we need to be careful of, but the specific cheat code to avoid not becoming a victim of it is to be a better person. Most agree people who say racist, sexist, and homophobic words should get cancelled for their disgusting actions.

And it's right. You shouldn't have a platform to be rude.

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► There is a story to be told here:
mediaarts.humber.ca

**WE ARE
FUTURE FOCUSED**

Explore Maestro's Restaurant Winterlicious

Iqbal Alibhai
Senior Reporter

Rina Camarra, who owns Mastro's Restaurant, a 60-year-old eatery in North York, is an example of the history hidden in Toronto that the annual food festival Winterlicious can highlight.

The Wilson Avenue Italian eatery, near Dufferin Street, is one of more than 200 restaurants in Toronto participating in the Winterlicious Festival's 20th anniversary this year from Jan. 26 to Feb. 8.

Camarra, the 84-year-old owner of the restaurant, has always kept the menu dedicated to an authentic Italian experience.

Camarra said Mastro's first opened in 1964 with 12 tables on a two-lane street without a sidewalk. It is now Mastro's 60th anniversary.

The restaurant has seen many storms over the decades, including recessions, epidemics, and the growth of Toronto as a city. It has weathered them all.

Camarra said many of the people who lived in the community have left, moving to Vaughan and other parts of the Greater Toronto Area.



IQBAL ALIBHAI

Rina Camarra sees Winterlicious as a big opportunity for her restaurant and to build relationships.

Although the neighbourhood around Mastro's has changed, the restaurant has become a destination for regular diners, she said.

Camarra said that these regulars come from far and wide to eat at her restaurant, bringing their children and their children's children.

"Sometimes they'll call me from the States. We know we're gonna be

in, reserve a table for us because we're going to be there Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and we would like to be there [all] three," Camarra said.

Winterlicious is one of two festivals, the other being Summerlicious, which runs between May and June, offering Torontonians the chance to explore Toronto's

cuisine.

Camarra said she has participated in Winterlicious in the past and found it to be even more successful than the Summerlicious festival.

A Toronto news release said Winterlicious first began in 2003 as a way of increasing business during the slow months of January

and February.

Toronto said that the festival became important to the city and its businesses when the SARS epidemic hit and there was a decrease in diners.

The release said patrons can choose from pre-fixed menus with different price points, between \$20 and \$55 for lunch and \$25 to \$75 for dinner.

The release recommends reserving a table early because the popularity of Winterlicious makes it hard to get a table on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Toronto said since the program began, participating restaurants served more than eight million meals, and generated over \$353 million in stimulus for local restaurants.

For Camarra, Winterlicious is a chance to make a one-time customer a customer for life.

"We found that a lot of new people came, who weren't just coming once, they came again and again," she said.

Mastro's is only one of the many different culinary tastes available to Torontonians for a reduced price, with over two hundred other restaurants waiting to be enjoyed.

Humber dropout's show wins six Emmys

Arushi Roy Chowdhury
Culture Editor

Winning an Emmy was probably not on Matthew James Matheson's radar when he was still a culinary student at Humber College, in the year 2000.

Matheson has starred in Vice's *Munchies* and *It's Suppertime*, and played host to YouTube shows like *Cookin' Somethin' w/ Matty Matheson*, before he went on to become an Executive Producer on FX's *The Bear*.

The hit series about the inner workings of a Chicago restaurant took home six awards in the Comedy categories at the 75th Emmy Awards. The show won the Best Comedy Series along with best writing, and secured three in the acting genres, and for writing and directing.

Matheson dropped out of college just before graduating to tour with a friend's metal band.

He landed his first job at Le Select Bistro on Queen Street in 2004. Here, Matheson became proficient in French dishes under the guidance of Chef Rang Nguyen.

That was just the beginning of his career in the culinary arts. Matheson has since been the proprietor of numerous restaurants and authored two books of family recipes and anecdotes called *Matty Matheson: A Cookbook* in 2018, and *Matty Matheson: Home Style Cookery* in 2020.

His first restaurant, *Maker Pizza* started in 2015 and now has multiple outlets all across the GTA.

Matheson opened *Cha Phe Rang* and *Prime Seafood Palace* in 2022. *Prime Seafood Palace* was recommended in the Michelin Guide for its food and ambiance, *Streets of Toronto* said.

Beyond his culinary talents, Matheson also owns a workwear brand called *Rosa Rugosa* in collaboration with Ray Natale.

He has successfully managed to combine his love for cooking with his television ventures. Matheson has since been an active part of shows like *Dead Set on Life* and *Selena + Chef*.

He has explored the roles of an actor with his portrayal of Neil Fak on *The Bear* since 2021.

Yash Sharma, a Culinary Man-



NIHARIKA NAYAK

Matthew James Matheson served as an executive producer on *The Bear*, which won six Emmys.

agement student at Humber Lakeshore campus, is a huge fan of Matheson's character on the show.

"He is a chef, who plays a chef and that's what makes him so special," he said.

Matheson's fame is attributed to his comedic persona and affable demeanour, according to his fans.

High Performance Centre a gold standard

Nicholas Endrizzi

Senior Sports Reporter

Weights clanged loudly inside the High Performance facility at Humber's North campus as rap music blared as many student-athletes engaged in rigorous workouts.

The sounds of grunts and exhales could be heard intermittently.

These noises are heard every day at Humber's High Performance Centre, as they are necessary for a program that aspires for greatness.

David Ohemeng, the graduate strength and conditioning coach, said being present and communicating with the athletes is key, rather than sitting in an office.

"It's very important for us to be hands-on because it builds our environment," he said.

A state-of-the-art facility combined with a dedicated staff of coaches is exactly what is needed to achieve said greatness. This dedication and attention to detail is showcased in different ways such as tailoring training programs in a way that maximizes performance for playoff time.

Assistant strength and conditioning coach Daniel Galati said the program follows a specific



NICHOLAS ENDRIZZI

Students have benefited greatly from the high standards set at Humber's High Performance Centre.

sequence as the season builds.

"We focus on what we call hypertrophy, putting some size on the athletes and building some strength and then we transition that into more power," he said.

Galati said this type of meticulous work gets applied to essentially everything that goes on in

the High Performance Centre.

Ohemeng said there's a method to the madness and everything is planned out ahead of time.

He said they make a concerted effort to delve into the science behind their methods and relay that information to the athletes in digestible way.

"We don't just go on YouTube and look it up," Ohemeng said.

Galati said this research is crucial when dealing with an injury and the rehab that goes with it.

The centre works in conjunction with therapy services to help in this process, Galati said.

He said they work together

to determine the severity of the injury and then make a course of action from there.

Galati said in the event of an injury such as an ACL tear that requires surgery, they work with the athlete to build strength around the joint.

He said with the months-long layoff time, it is important to do this to maintain the joint's integrity.

"Pre-op, we just try to push them as much as we can and then once they have their surgery, that's when we hand them off," Galati said.

He said the centre also provides various protein powders such as Biosteel and a recovery powder to ensure the athletes are set up for a good workout. Christopher Bowen, who plays for the men's varsity volleyball team, was effusive in his praise for the centre and how it's improved his career.

"The centre is a great space for me, I've learned so many things over the years about not just strength training but also lifestyle habits," he said.

Given the success of Humber's sports programs and the centre's integral role, Bowen's sentiment is something many Humber athletes, present and future, can attest to.

OPINION: Ross Atkins is misreading the Jays' needs

Caleb Moody

Sports Editor

Disappointment has been no stranger to the Toronto Blue Jays, from being swept in the American League Wild Card Series this past season to missing out on two-time American League (AL) MVP Shohei Ohtani in free agency.

When Blue Jays General Manager Ross Atkins approached the mic at his first media appearance of the new year, he had the opportunity to outline a plan to right the ship.

It was a chance to provide Blue Jays fans with something to get excited about going into the upcoming year.

Atkins did the opposite.

"We feel like last year was just a blip in terms of run-scoring," Atkins said.

Toronto ranked third in the MLB in runs in 2021, scoring 846, followed by a decline to 775 in 2022 and dropping even further to 746 in 2023.

With runners in scoring position in 2023, the Blue Jays hit .260



HARRISON HAINES

The Jays, on a steady decline offensively, have made no progress the offseason in addressing it.

and in 2022 that number was very similar at .258. Both these were down from the .266 average in 2021. Vladimir Guerrero Jr., the 2021 AL MVP runner-up and face of the franchise, encapsulates the team's struggle.

Guerrero peaked in 2021 posting 6.3 wins above replacement (WAR), an all-encompassing statistic of overall value.

Since then, he has posted a 2.8 WAR in 2022 and a disappointing

1.0 WAR this past season.

All of these indicate the issue is more than just a blip, but rather the beginning of a consistent decline.

But if Atkins is given the benefit of the doubt and it is a blip, the least the Jays should aim for is the same production in 2024 with their off-season moves. They haven't done that to this point. The Jays have gotten worse. Toronto let third baseman Matt Chapman walk in free agency while the signing of

utility infielder Isiah Kiner-Falefa indicated the Jays could manage at third base with a combination of Kiner-Falefa and Santiago Espinal.

Kiner-Falefa and Espinal accounted for a combined 0.3 WAR in 2023, which doesn't come close to Chapman's 3.5 WAR.

The Jays also brought back centre fielder Kevin Kiermaier, a controversial signing given his age, 33, a position Daulton Varsho, 27, can play just as well defensively.

Varsho also has far more power, which is valuable to overall run-scoring efforts, as well as uncommon among centre fielders.

The Jays should've focused their efforts on trading for Juan Soto, who has since joined the Yankees. Or they could have signed the career-revitalized former MVP Cody Bellinger.

Although Bellinger is currently unsigned, it's speculated Toronto won't make an offer given their outfield depth.

The Jays show no hope for improvement offensively, and Atkins not accepting the facts staring him in the face will not change anything.

With the young Baltimore Orioles roster winning 101 games last season, the New York Yankees making significant improvements this offseason, and the Tampa Bay Rays somehow always finding a way to win, their path to success isn't getting easier.

The Blue Jays could slip into irrelevance if Atkins fails to accept reality. The time for him to act is now.

Siakam traded and the best Raptors era is gone

Toni Canyameras Rojas
Sports Editor

Toronto Raptors President Masai Ujiri is usually stoic and cold as ice. But his decision to trade Pascal Siakam to the Indiana Pacers made him burst into tears, displaying an emotional and different side to Ujiri.

“You think that’s easy for me? It’s not easy, it’s not easy,” Ujiri said at a Jan. 18, media conference just a day after trading his star player.

“Honestly, the human part of this business is tough,” Ujiri said.

“My wife and my kids see me suffer,” he said.

The golden era of the Toronto Raptors came to an end on Jan. 17 with the trade of Pascal Siakam, the face of the franchise and the last key player of the 2019 championship team.

The Cameroonian had spent seven and a half seasons in Toronto after being selected with the 27th overall pick in the 2016 NBA Entry Draft.

The Raptors obtained 2023 NBA champion Bruce Brown, Jordan Nwora and three first-round draft



TORONTO RAPTORS

Pascal Siakam became the face of the Raptors after spending seven and a half seasons in Toronto.

picks in return from Indiana.

They also obtained Kira Lewis Jr. from New Orleans to round out the three-team trade.

“The other day my agent told me, ‘Hi Pascal, what other team do you see yourself playing for?’” Siakam said.

“I couldn’t imagine playing for

any other team than the Raptors,” he said. “I didn’t even think about it. I felt a Raptor forever.”

The trade marked yet another key change for the Raptors in player and coaching personnel.

They hired Darko Rajakovic as a new head coach after firing Nick Nurse, they let Fred VanVleet go in

free agency this summer and they traded OG Anunoby to the Knicks three weeks ago. Siakam averaged 17.4 points, 6.5 rebounds and 3.6 assists and was a two-time all-star in his tenure with Toronto.

“I remember the times when people said ‘the Raptors can’t make playoffs’ or ‘they can’t win the

championship,” he said.

“We didn’t get respect from American media and to me personally that hurt because I was part of the community and I embraced everything meant to be a Raptor and all I wanted to do was win because I felt the city and the country deserved it,” Siakam said.

Siakam also left his mark off the court in Toronto through his work in the community through his foundation, the PS43 Foundation.

But a new era in Toronto is dawning with 2022 Rookie of the Year Scottie Barnes as its leader, with other young players like RJ Barrett, Immanuel Quickley and Grady Dick expected to be key pieces around Barnes.

Barnes said he is ready to become the new face of the franchise.

“I don’t feel pressure,” Barnes said in a post-game interview on Jan. 17. “We already knew that, we already discussed that and I was already out there. No pressure at all,” Barnes said.

Raptors fans will have the chance to properly send off Pascal Siakam on Feb. 14, when the Pacers come to town.

Men’s volleyball looks to build on success

David Lynch
Sports Reporter

A few volleyball players prepared for the end of their college careers with the Humber Hawks on Tuesday while also practicing for their last three games.

Max Crowder, a fifth-year player, wants to show Humber and his potential future coaches what he brings to the court in his last few games.

“It’s a little sad, but it’s also a driving factor for me to play my best,” Crowder said. “Trying to give it all I got and show the guys what it takes and try to help lead this team to win.”

The Hawks have improved their record to 10-6 from a rocky 2-4 start.

For first-year Humber player Josh Nicholson, seeing teammates like Crowder graduate offers motivation to end the season well.

“They motivate me to get better because they know it’s their last year, their last opportunity to have a shot at Nationals and I just wanna contribute as much as I can,” Nicholson said.

This season hasn’t been easy for the team.

Nicholson said they have a lot



DAVID LYNCH

Coach Wayne Wilkins said this year’s team took some time to develop as a unit, but they’ve grown since.

of big personalities on the team, which sometimes clash.

“We’ve dealt with sort of a lot of egos on the court,” he said.

They also had many new additions this year, leading to a slow start to the season.

They also suffered numerous injuries this season, which affected their ability to gel as a team.

Head Coach Wayne Wilkins, who is in his 27th season of leading the team, said they had a period where they were learning how to integrate everyone.

“We’ve had our ups and downs, but we had a lot of learning moments,” Wilkins said. “Our hope is that as we go into the playoffs we’ll be able to draw on some of that

learning in order to help us do well.”

The Hawks are currently fifth in the west division, having played more games than all but one team.

Crowder said the team has turned their tough times into an advantage, using them as inspiration to learn and grow together.

“We realized what our mistakes have been and where we can

improve,” Crowder said. “So we’ve definitely been working hard, to try to fix those things and reach our goals.”

Nicholson said they have a good chance to end the season on a strong note heading into the final stretch.

“We have three games, very winnable games, and I think we just need to build off those games to lead us into the playoffs,” Nicholson said.

Crowder said even though the team’s final standing isn’t decided, the Hawks are looking forward to the playoffs, and are ready to face any team they’re up against.

“We’re ready to take on whoever’s in our crossover match and playoffs,” Crowder said. “We’ll take anyone that stands in our way.”

As the regular season winds down and the playoffs are on the horizon, Wilkins urges students to support the team by showing up to the final games.

“Show some school spirit, come on out and cheer us on, on our run to the national championship,” he said.

Wilkins shared his gratitude to the fans and students who have supported the Hawks throughout the season.



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HAWKS VOLLEYBALL ON A ROLL



Humber's men's volleyball team bounced back from a 2-4 start to the season and have a 10-6 record sitting fifth in the OCAA West Division, as they continue to build on momentum.

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