



'SHUT IT DOWN'

Jeferson Quiros-Vargas

Politics Reporter

More than 6,000 people walked side-by-side from Grange Park towards Queen's Park on Sept. 27 to raise their voices against the Ford government's free entry policies on Indigenous territory.

Chief Rudy Turtle of the Grassy Narrows First Nation said he has been fighting for decades to protect his land from unregulated corporations.

"Fifty years later, that Indian problem is still here," Turtle said. "It's never been resolved. 50 years later, we're still raising our voice and we're still telling the governments, you need to clean the river up."

Chief Turtle was referring to the poisoning of the English-Wabigoon River.

In 2019 the Supreme Court found the two companies responsible for contaminating the waters. Water levels continue to be poisonous.

Chief Turtle called upon the people who live in Fort Severn, Fort Albany, Ottawa, along the Hudson Bay and Lowlands to "defend our lands."

Chief Chris Moonias of Neskantaga First Nation spoke about the Ring of Fire in front of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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JEFERSON QUIROS-VARGAS

First Nations protestors walked from Grange Park toward Queen's Park to protest against Doug Ford's free entry policies on Indigenous territories.

First Nations protest against Ford's land policies

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

"We just don't want to let anybody ravage our lands, destroy our lands, destroy our rivers," Moonias said.

The Ring of Fire is a 5,000 square kilometre area with potentially valuable minerals located approximately 500 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay in First Nation land.

The Ontario government states they are working alongside First Nations to mine the land.

Samuel McKay of the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug said that the government was only talking to specific organizations and avoiding talking to other communities.

"If you're talking to the PTOs, AFN, Chiefs of Ontario, any other PTO, you're not talking to us. We're an independent nation," McKay said.

On Sept. 25 a letter was sent to Doug Ford to meet face-to-face on the front lawn of Queen's Park after a previous cancellation.

The letter reads, "The response from Minister Rickford, that he will meet with us in your stead is frankly disrespectful to us and ignores the nature of our request."

The letter repeatedly stated, "It is not too late to do the right thing." Cecilia Begg, Chief Chris

Moonias, Chief Rudy Turtle and Deputy Chief Stanley Anderson set a table on the lawn in front of the Ontario Legislative Building on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Ford did not show up.

Chief Mary Duckworth of the Caldwell First Nation took the stage and said the government of Ontario should "pay attention" because this generation will no longer stand for the injustices.

"The tactics of divide and conquer will no longer be accepted by the First Nations," Duckworth said.

"How do we keep coming to Queen's Park and getting nothing except being called our indigenous partners?" she asked.

In a media kit given to HumberNews, the Asubpeeschoseewagong Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows), Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake), Wapekeka, Neskantaga, and Muskrat Dam First Nations state they have formed an alliance officially known as the Land Defence Alliance.

The protest was held days before Orange Shirt Day, a day created to remember transgressions done in residential schools and seek truth and reconciliation.

ALL PHOTOS BY
JEFERSON QUIROS-VARGAS



More than 6,000 First Nations protestors marched side-by-side, awaiting Premier Doug Ford's arrival outside of Queen's Park

ETC •

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

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JEFERSON QUIROS-VARGAS

Thousands of protesters took over the front lawn of Queen's Park in Toronto on Monday, Sept. 25, to take a stand against the Ontario's government's plan to privatize healthcare.

Thousands protest private healthcare at Queen's Park

Jeferson Quiros-Vargas
Ayesha Barakzai
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News Reporters

Thousands of protesters occupied the lawn outside of Queen's Park opposing the Ontario government's plan to create and privatize parts of the province's public healthcare system on Monday.

The Ford government passed Bill 60 in May, known as the Your Health Act, which allows for-profit clinics to conduct specific procedures covered by OHIP.

There is no information yet on how the province will regulate private clinics.

The new law comes after the pandemic nearly collapsed Ontario's healthcare system which is now experiencing a widespread nursing shortage.

Critics say Ford's decision will affect the most vulnerable populations and make healthcare less accessible.

Judith Norris, whose brother is part of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), said the Ford government's actions will negatively affect people like her brother.

His care had already been affected by private healthcare when his vision began to decline,

and they discovered he was suffering from cataracts.

After testing, Norris' brother was recommended for surgery that cost \$1,300, an impossibility for someone on ODSP who makes up to \$1,308 a month, according to the Ontario government's ODSP website.

"So, he can't pay that. I can't pay that," Norris said.

After multiple attempts to upsell private care to her and her brother, Norris eventually elected to go on a year-long waitlist for the surgery.

"This happened in October of last year, and all of a sudden, the hospital opened up in November, and he had the surgery in November," Norris said.

The province has increased funding to private healthcare.

The Ontario Health Coalition said the province boosted funding by \$24 million to private ventures in July 2021. Private eye care providers can now use public facilities for surgeries as of January 2021.

Privatized medicine is far more costly than public healthcare, the coalition reports.

"It sounds conspiratorial," said Natalie Marra, the executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition. "But the truth is they've increased the funding for private-for-profit clinics by literally hun-

dreds of millions of dollars over the last two years."

The Ford government estimated in January it would spend \$18 million on existing private health clinics to deal with Ontario's surgical backlog. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was watching Ford's decision closely to ensure the Canada Health Act was followed despite calling the move "innovative" in a separate interview with Toronto Star.

Chief Chris Moonias of the Neskantaga First Nation supported the protest because of the issues his People faced with healthcare.

"I come here today to lend my support in our struggles against this corrupt government using its legislative bulldozer against our rights," he said. "Against our already weakened health care.

"What you feel here in Toronto or any other city, it's probably worse, 100 times worse, in the Northern First Nations community," Moonias said. "We don't have doctors, we don't have nurses, we don't have a hospital.

"All we got is small little clinics that service us," he said.

The decline in public health care has had a more severe impact on rural communities, and some townships have already started closing down hospitals.

Minden Hospital, in Haliburton County, and Chesley's Hospital in Bruce County are two of many currently closed or facing ER closures.

Simcoe County Health Coalition's co-chair, Anisa Carrascal, has noted that many rural citizens have shared concerns about how access to healthcare is becoming more and more complicated due to the closure of ERs.

"We had the chance to educate a lot of people in the community and talk with a lot of people about their concerns about what how the provision of health care in the province as it is right now," Anisa said.

Healthcare professionals have extreme concerns about the cuts in funding that public hospitals are seeing.

Several hospitals across Ontario have already been impacted by these cuts, seen through staff shortages or cuts at Minden Hospital and Steven Memorial Hospital.

"We are seeing nurses leave the public system and go to work in these private systems," said Erin Ariss, the provincial president of the Ontario Nurses' Association.

"What they're doing is siphoning off nurses and making the public system worse off," Ariss said.

Carrascal said she is devastated

by what is happening, especially in her 15 years of nursing. "The system has been collapsing for years and years. When I started my career, the nursing ratio was much, much smaller," she said.

"It was one to four, right now it's one to nine."

Ariss said that this creates an alarming work environment for both nurses and patients. It results in the quality of care to decline and safety issues to arise.

Both Ariss and Carrascal believe the answers lie in improvements in the healthcare system.

"There are several ways to help us," Carrascal said. "The very first thing that we really need to fix is the staffing issue, the fact that we have a serious issue with retention and recruitment of new nurses, and medical conditions and doctors. It goes all the way to the way we actually certified them.

The Financial Accountability Office estimates that Ontario will be short 33,000 nurses by 2028, and an investigation by the Toronto Star found 158 emergency room closures between 2022 and 2023.

"He (Ford) has billions of dollars that he has underspent in healthcare, so if he had just invested what he had budgeted, we would be better off," Ariss said.



UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH-HUMBER

Patrick Hunter paints in a floral and feather design on a University of Guelph-Humber mural.

Truth, reconciliation need to work together for healing, change

Julia Vellucci

Social Justice Reporter

Jolene Heida does not see herself or her community as damaged but rather the systems in place that mistreat them.

“The impact of settler colonialism, violence, poverty, and racism are forms of trauma, meaning every Indigenous person I work with experienced some form of trauma in their lives,” she said.

Heida is a local Indigenous social worker who practices in Bradford, Ont.

“If we don’t include the structural connections to like settler colonialism, for example, then all we’re left with is damage,” she said.

Heida said Indigenous People provided society with the truth and now it is their turn to support the change.

Social worker Brittany Madigan said while intergenerational trauma is passed down as is intergenerational resilience.

“There has been more truth than reconciliation through more reports, and discussions instead of action since so much more work still needs to be done, but there is movement,” Madigan said.

IGNITE’s student advocate Jessica Carrera told Humber News the Truth and Reconciliation March occurred at the Lakeshore campus on Sept. 25. The 1.5-kilometre walk was to build unity.

Carrera said supporters marched with orange shirts and donations for the walk will go towards four Indigenous charities and Indigenous students on campus.



Indigenous artist Patrick Hunter designed 200 orange shirts for the walk.

He said the shirt design has a turtle since Indigenous People call North America Turtle Island and a hand in the middle of it to represent a child’s hand.

Hunter said seeds are in the middle of the hand to emphasize poet Dinos Christianopoulos’ quote: “They tried to bury us. They didn’t know we were seeds.”

He said his artwork brings him closer to his culture.

“My mother was a ‘60s Scoop survivor and it is the construct of that idea, trying to kill the Indian in a child which can create an identity crisis in people,” Hunter said.

For the floral and feather at a University of Guelph-Humber mural, he said he wanted to paint something that made Indigenous students have some culture welcoming them.

Indigenous artist Siera Hancharyk had a booth mainly selling beaded and gemstone jewelry at Humber’s North campus.

“With reconciliation, you need ‘reconciliation,’” she said. “We need to see action, not just speaking.”

Hancharyk said as an intergenerational residential school survivor through family, she knew the truth but the school did not teach them the truth.

“If you start to look at the systems that are in place that allowed residential schools, a lot of the same thinking patterns, and a lot of the same systems are still in place. This is just a continuation of that legacy,” Heida said.

She said September and June are the “trendy” months to support Indigenous people, but the support should not lessen throughout the other months.

Heida said her job is to support the people who are currently doing the work and that there is “much strength” in Indigenous communities across Ontario.

“We need actual action and we need actual support,” she said.

This is why when it comes to Indigenous communities, people must think about who they are and why they care, she said.

Toronto residents concerned about Ontario Place plans

Zainab Raza

News Reporter

Toronto residents protested the development of a private spa and a Science Centre on West on Sept. 23.

Austrian spa developer Therme Canada is proposing to clear cut parts of the island park and build the spa using \$650 million in public money.

Tim Maguire, advocate for Labour and Employment Rights at Broader Social Justice, said he’s disappointed that the development is claiming the public money to turn a public space into a private space.

The design of the spa will take up to 50 per cent of West Island and Therme will operate the facility for 95 years in a deal kept private with the provincial government.

Advocacy group Ontario Place for All said the “internationally recognized landscape” will be redesigned to accommodate a 13-storey glass spa facility.

The other design will be a water park and other activities for the public.

Advocates for the protection of the site have been waging a public battle to save the site. The 62.5-hectare site was announced in 1968 by then John Robarts Progressive Conservative government and completed in 1971 by the Progressive Conservative government of Bill Davis.

“We shall utilize the natural setting of the waterfront, modern structural designs, and hope to create the mood of gaiety and openness which helped make so popular the Ontario Pavilion at Expo ‘67,” Robarts said when he announced the attraction.

Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow recently offered to swap the Better Living Pavilion at nearby Exhibition Place to protect Ontario Place.

Opponents to the plan are concerned about



ZAINAB RAZA

Over 800 trees on the west island are set to be cut down.

how it would affect wildlife on West Island. One of the questions the residents have is what will happen to the birds and the wild animals there once they start the new development.

Katrina Cziner said she’s concerned about the wildlife.

“I think what Ford is doing is dangerous and I don’t think he is thinking about the creatures or the birds or anything here and only thinking about money,” Cziner said.

With this in mind, Maguire said there are many other things that are necessary to develop at the park other than a private spa.

“There are so many other priorities right now like housing, the cost of living in general and it does not make sense to do this,” Maguire said.

Development will happen with the removal a Japanese monument. Ford has not made a decision yet but with the protest and the emails being sent, Toronto residents really hope this can be stopped and save West Island.



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Signs and fencing close a pathway at Ontario Place in Toronto closed due to construction.

Writers reflect on COVID-19 at authors' festival

Liam Neilson
News Reporter

The Toronto International Festival of Authors annual conference returns this year after its last staging before the global pandemic — this year's discussion focuses on the effects of COVID-19 on the creativity of authors.

The pandemic caused shifts in how people conducted their work with the majority of people having to work remotely.

Being stuck inside left people with spare time to fill and find new ways of being creative. For author Rebecca Rosenblum, this was done by writing about her pandemic experience.

"This book did not start out as a book but as a genuine day-by-day set of posts, reaching out to friends and associates and hoping for a response," Rosenbaum said.

"As a very social person deprived of actual society, social media became my creative space."

Rosenblum said that documenting her own personal experience during the pandemic helped her tremendously, and encouraged others to at least "give it a shot."

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Rosenblum's novel *These Days Are Numbered: Diary of a High-Rise Lockdown* is a recording of her own personal account of her experiences during the pandemic.

"It's definitely different to bring out a book in the world now that we have encountered such a radical shift in our perceptions of health and vulnerability," she said.

Exclaiming her adaptability, Rosenblum said it was through this global experience she was able to shift her writing to be more modern and creative.

"My last book came out in 2017 and there was no such thing as a virtual or hybrid reading then for most of us, and now it's pretty common," Rosenbaum said.

Some authors were already in the midst of writing their next novel prior to the pandemic and decided to incorporate this global

event into their world of fiction writing.

Eva Crocker freelance writer and PhD student shared her experience while she was caught in the midst of lockdowns when she moved to Montreal from Newfoundland and Labrador in 2019.

"I was trying to capture Montreal at a moment when the boom of the tech industry was threatening the city's relatively affordable rental prices," Crocker said.

Her novel *Back in the Land of the Living* brings speaks about the life of a young queer woman who moves to Montreal in the fall of 2019 after encountering life-changing experiences while living in St. John's, N.L., alone in a big city on the brink of the COVID-19 lockdown.

"When the lockdown happened it further impacted the housing crisis so it felt important to include that in the novel as well," she said.

When asked about the effects of the pandemic on her creativity as a writer, Crocker said she had started a virtual creative workshop in Montreal called *Fundamentals of Short Fiction*, which she said is still active today.

The workshop is open to writers of varying experience levels who wish to receive feedback and have their content read.

For novelist Clara Dupuis-Morency, the pandemic has changed the way she and many other authors work, even if they do not have the hindsight to describe exactly how.

"We reorganized with Zoom — new modes of communication and now we're always 'zooming' instead of going to see each other," she said.

"I feel it has shifted the way that artists interact," Dupuis-Morency said.

The festival is set to close on Oct. 1.



LIAM NEILSON

Authors discuss writing hardships during the pandemic at the 2023 authors' festival.

Indian students funding Humber more than Ontario gov't

Abhisha Nanda
News Reporter

Indian international students at Humber College pay tuition several times higher than domestic students, according to a vice president at the college.

International students as a whole put more money into the colleges' coffers than the province.

Inderjeet Singh, a third-year computer tech student, said he pays \$9,029 each semester for his tuition, compared to domestic classmates who pay \$1,907.34 per semester.

Singh said balancing his expenses is one of the hardest things he's done here in Canada, along with monthly expenses he needs to arrange for his tuition.

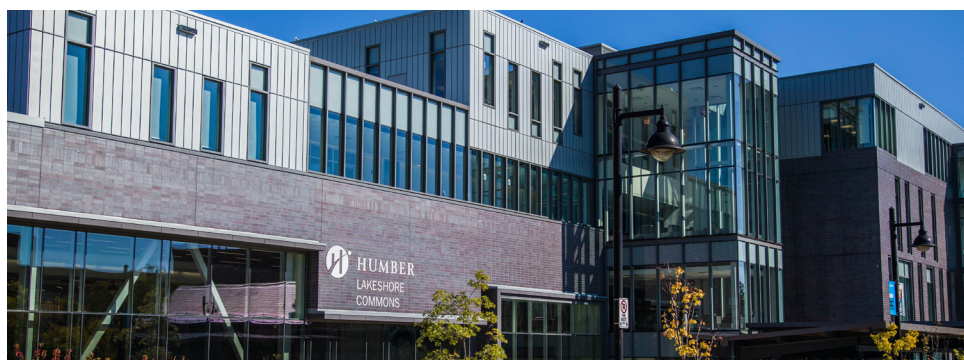
"With inflation, managing everyday expenses is a task in itself, let alone arranging for tuition," he said.

With a sister back home that his parents look after, Singh said they can't help him if he asks them for tuition for another semester.

"Honestly, my family back home is not that financially stable to support fees of \$9,000, education should be available to all at a fair and equal price," Singh said.

Like a majority of international students at Humber College, Singh is Indian, and he thought the difference in tuition was unfair.

The difference between domestic and international tuition fees is more than four



HUMBER COLLEGE

times, as shown through Humber's Journalism program, which proves more costly for international students.

A new report about the state of postsecondary education in Canada said that international students from India are funding Ontario colleges more than the provincial government.

Jason Hunter, vice president for Students and Institutional Planning at Humber, said colleges earn nothing from domestic students.

Indeed, domestic tuitions are almost at a loss, as the cost to offer the program is more than they earn out of it.

"The provincial government subsidizes the fee for domestic students, and they pay almost nothing," Hunter said.

He said around two-thirds of international students at Humber College are Indian.

"It would be right to say that Indian students are funding Ontario's education more than Ontario is funding its education," he

said.

Dodiya wants her parents to prioritize taking care of her siblings.

She said the difference between the two fees is because colleges want to earn more, and can only do so by raising fees for international students.

Preetkamal Kaur, a second-semester business marketing student, said she will have to work around 40 hours weekly to earn the \$8,401.50 she needs to pay in tuition every semester.

She said her friends have told her that many times that her work will make her compromise on her studies and she will have to deal with it.

"Sometimes you get home at 11 p.m. from work and would have an assignment due in 50 minutes," Kaur said.

She said as an independent girl, she wants to overcome every hurdle in her path to become self-independent.

"I don't want to burden my parents for more money," Kaur said. "They have already paid for my first year of college."

She said she knows Humber College offers financial aid services to international students, applying for scholarships every semester, but has yet to win.

"I hope the administration realizes how difficult it is for international students and gives us some relief for our tuition fee," she said.

EDITORIAL

Major shift in media, more than 1,000 journalists laid off this year

Well, the scope of the cuts was unexpected. More than 2,000 journalists, editors and administrative employees at Canada's top media houses will be out of a job by the end of the year.

June 2022 marked the beginning of the dark ages for journalism in Canada.

The government adopted Bill C-18 this year, upsetting major social media companies. It's a bill some say threatens the very fundamentals of journalism as social media platforms block news. Others say the social media companies were delivering news without proper compensation.

The announcement made by Meta makes online news a thing of the past for Canadian consumers who access news on Facebook and Instagram. Google is planning to follow suit.

On Emancipation Day (Aug.1) Meta announced on its website their full ban on news and news related in Canada, Meta said: "These changes will be imple-



THE CANADIAN PRESS

mented for all people accessing Facebook and Instagram in Canada."

Bell Canada Enterprises Inc. (BCE Inc.) is left picking up the pieces after it laid off 1,300 people following what it considers poor financials.

Bell executive vice-president and chief legal and regulatory officer Robert Malcolmson told The Canadian Press that the company's media branch "can't afford" to continue operating with its various brands.

CTV National News, BNN, and CP24 were among the list of brands placed on the chopping block for

employee revision.

Bell is not the only outlet reporting layoffs. Community-newspaper giant, Metroland, a corporate family member of the Toronto Star, laid off 605 of their employees this month, saying it's because of the decline of print and flyer distribution in part caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Metroland said in subsequent interviews that an online presence would be more sufficient at this time as it moves all its publications online. The company has sought legal protection under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.

With the rise of artificial intelli-

gence and new social media platforms, journalism stands between the mercy of a Great White Whark and a paddle boat. It seems it has only a 50/50 chance of surviving.

Just this week, another company announced its closure after 18 years of being on the air. ET Canada will be no more.

Several staff members of ET Canada took to social media to share their memories as they said their final goodbyes to fans and viewers. Indeed this is a great loss to daily entertainment.

In a LinkedIn post, Mike Cosentino president and executive producer of CosMedia recounts his time at ET Canada and how the program will be missed. Cosentino was the president of content and programming at Bell Media.

Consequently, shrinking newsrooms are causing an uproar among members of the media fraternity. The Canadian Association of Journalists said the layoffs will hurt Canadians.

"The increasing state of precarious employment sweeping across

the Canadian journalism industry is an issue that will lead to devastating social impacts," it said.

Indeed, we are seeing a trickling down caused by these trends, threatening the future of journalism.

Humber College suspended the intake of students for its Journalism Bachelors program for fall 2023 because of the dwindling number of admissions.

Mohawk College in Hamilton has also recently stopped new admissions to its journalism program, citing low enrolment and graduation numbers over the past two years.

Students having to find their internships in a shrinking market may quash the dreams of those who hope to become great journalists.

There is a greater potential danger. Fewer journalists means less interaction with communities and weaker oversight over the institutions that govern us. It acts similar to a muzzle of those who highlight and report on issues that affect the rights of people.

OPINION

Ottawa should let international students work more than 20 hours a week



Annicca Albano
Social Justice Reporter

I had 27 years of my life compressed into three boxes and a dream when I arrived in Canada from the Philippines last year.

In a heavy pink binder, I had my passport, all the necessary permits and bank statements proving my worth.

It didn't take long, however, for reality to slap me in the face.

My savings shrunk 40 times, work was slow and a family problem evolved into a financial one. At one point, I didn't know if I could continue journalism school.

Around the same time, Ottawa announced that until December this year, eligible international students would be allowed to work 40 hours off campus while classes are

still in session.

Previously, those on study permits could only grind 20 hours a week while in school and as long as they wish during scheduled breaks.

The temporary lift on this cap addressed labour shortages in many sectors across Canada and provided international students with an opportunity to gain meaningful work experience, then Immigration Minister Sean Fraser said.

While it was helpful during the pandemic, it does not make sense to have this limit at all.

International students pay tuition fees that are four to five times higher than Canadian students.

Whereas domestic tuition has remained frozen since 2020, Ontario colleges can raise tuition for international students by up to 20 per cent annually.

On top of this profiteering, data shows international students are a growing source of labour, contributing to the country's development through their taxes — but not without blood, sweat and tears.

Ironically, migrants had to take to the streets to protest the permanent residency rights that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised in 2021.

Without legal status, some are forced to work for cash to support themselves.

Others enter dangerous jobs where employers exploit them, knowing they are less likely to report or speak up for better wages and conditions than those with nothing to lose.

Anyone who had to leave their families, friends and careers behind does not want to jeopardize their plans.

Although the rules of the study permit are straightforward and sacred — study full-time, work part-time if wanted and exit the country upon graduation — life rarely goes according to plan.

The paperwork we signed didn't account for the impact of the housing crisis and food inflation on the \$10,000 we demonstrated we had as proof of funds. Nor does it guarantee there won't be unanticipated personal circumstances.

Unless one has generational wealth to lean on, these are beyond students' control, no matter how smart we are. Studying hard does not guarantee a good scholarship, either.

But hard work at a job can pay off.

Over summer break, I had

a full-time front desk job on campus, a part-time internship at a non-profit journalism organization and my freelance writing business during weekends.

These days, I don't have to think twice about buying a sandwich to tide me over for the next class or buy a coffee to finish this opinion piece.

I can finally focus on my studies, knowing I have enough savings to keep me in school in Canada.

Much has been said about the danger of over-selling the Canadian dream to international students.

And while raising the minimum proof of funds to reflect reality is a good idea, raising the standards

for workers to benefit all is even better.

As the government explores extending the lift — or so I wished upon receiving the email survey about the temporary policy from IRCC early this month — I hope it recognizes that giving students a choice brings more rewards than risks.

I hope it also remembers that celebrating cultural diversity requires systemic change, not just colourful posters only when it's convenient.

If the government genuinely wants us to come and stay, the least it can do is provide us with a chance at a dignified life and, ultimately, independence.



ANNICCA ALBANO

New international students at Humber College affected by work limits.

OPINION

Rhetoric in Nijjar's assassination threatens Canadian sovereignty



Asher Klaver
Politics Reporter



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Casket of Sikh community leader and temple president Hardeep Singh Nijjar during Antim Darshan.

The first thing done to justify the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar was to label him an illegal immigrant and a terrorist. The 45-year-old president of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara is being demonized in many quarters to justify the alleged extra-territorial, extra-judicial hit in B.C. in June.

Language is powerful. It can provide some justification for the unacceptable. Racist words justify or downplay this extra-judicial killing, harming the targeted demographic and our nation's laws.

A Canadian citizen, as confirmed by Immigration Minister Marc Miller, was murdered by a foreign government on Canadian soil, according to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

By all measures, this is an alleged violation of Canadian sovereignty.

Yet the reaction of a vocal portion of the Canadian population has ignored this and moved to use racist demonization around Nijjar's citizenship or claim he was

a terrorist as justification for his killings.

Some publications within media have done this outright, such as The Economic Times stating he was a "notorious wanted terrorist," and others have simply alluded to it without labelling him as one outright.

It's a tactic seen regularly in Canada.

And now more than ever, Canadians and our media need to hold themselves accountable for the damage this rhetoric is doing and has done and to acknowledge the ignorance this country has of its racism and the harms this language perpetuates.

Let's start by being completely frank about the terminology used — terrorist and illegal immigrant — and then we shall move on to what this type of language has done in the past.

The emotionally provocative term "terrorist" is neutral in ideology but holds unique meanings

when used politically. In simple terms, on its own, the term has no moral value about the person it's used to describe.

The fact of the matter is, according to the Oxford Dictionary, a terrorist is someone using violent action to achieve political goals.

This definition used in a country like the United States encompasses people and groups from al-Qaeda and Timothy McVeigh to the Black Panthers. Nelson Mandela was on the U.S. terrorism watch list until 2008.

In Canada, the 2012 Quebec student protests or the Freedom Convoy could be described as acts of rioting and the organizers deemed as terrorists.

However, the political optics of the statement and cultural idea around racial or political demographics means not all media or members of governance will call them that.

In a post 9/11 world, the word

terrorist is often weaponized against South and Southeast Asians as a tool to dehumanize them and force a narrative upon people to serve political ends. This is the reason the term is harmful.

After all, the first hate crime in North America in retaliation for the World Trade Center attacks was the murder of Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh man in Arizona. We haven't slowed down since.

The same racist rhetoric reoccurred during the Asian hate crime spike because of COVID-19. People blamed those of Asian descent in Canada and the U.S. for the pandemic.

The language harmed one targeted demographic until the next perceived crisis appeared.

Much of the same applies to the term illegal immigrant. The rhetoric, however, has an extra economic twist to reach working-class citizens worried about their financial troubles.

The base idea comes down

to putting up the image that a minority group that doesn't fit in among the imagined ordinary Canadian is coming in to do economic or physical harm.

These ideas are based heavily on the ideals of racism.

India has had the highest legal immigrant population by far in Canada, according to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The narrative of people of that region being here illegally shouldn't hold much weight.

So, with all this together, we look at one major historical event within our borders: the Japanese internment camps of the Second World War.

The Japanese, including those born in Canada, were demonized simply for their ethnicity. They had their rights stripped and property stolen, undermining their humanity as they were shoved into camps.

This isn't meant as a one-to-one comparison of the circumstances of modern-day Sikhs and Japanese. It does demonstrate how language perpetuates these ideas, which allows harm to come to our own people.

Now is the time Canadians need to stand up and speak about this history and how this language undermined the human rights of Canadians and tarnished the country as a self-governing democracy.

This language is being used to undermine Canada's sovereignty and is harming our citizens. It can do much worse, that is unless we stand up and fight back against it.

OPINION

Bill 23 helps upper class, doesn't do squat for low-income people



Sam Belton
News Editor

According to the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, called Bill 23, multiplex units would be exempt from development charges and parkland dedication fees.

The City of Toronto reported in November 2022 that it could lose \$230 million annually in revenue.

"This would negatively impact the City's ability to provide the services necessary to support growth over the long term," the report said.

The report also said Ontario has a responsibility to give Toronto the money for the infrastructure to create new homes.

I agree.

It's hypocritical to promise to solve the housing crisis and then cut a critical means from municipi-

palities being able to do so.

Without the province making up the money, Toronto will be unable to provide services and investments critical to short-term growth, nor have housing programs to grow supply, meet the needs of residents, nor plan for complete communities, the report said.

And since, as NDP GTA Issues critic Bhutla Karpoche told me in March, there's nothing in Bill 23 stipulating the income developers get from slashed fees be passed onto homebuyers.

As such, there is no guarantee that the cost of any housing built will be lower for the consumer.

Peel Region also highlighted

in a December 2022 report that "Bill 23 will not lead to a material improvement in affordability outcomes for the residents of Peel and will directly threaten the Region's Housing Master Plan."

This plan pledged 5,650 more affordable rental units including 226 supportive ones, as well as 60 emergency shelter beds in Peel by 2034.

Since Bill 23 cuts housing as an eligible service under amendments made to the Planning Act and the Development Charges Act to reduce municipal development-related charges.

Housing Master Plan projects backed by that act are at risk, which could cost the region 943 units.

The Peel report said even if the province achieves its housing targets, the increased affordability would only apply to its higher-income residents. The new housing would not have much of an effect on lower-income people.

Also, Bill 23 defines an "affordable" residential unit as one having a rent no more than 80 per cent of the average market rent. This does not take into account individual income levels, which, as the County of Brant pointed out, could make affordable housing more difficult to find for lower income levels.

In short, Bill 23 helps the rich and doesn't do squat for those with lower income levels.

The province has pledged to build 1.5 million homes, but the plan is all muscle and no brains.

OPINION

No means no, men need to learn how to handle rejection



Shayona Cole
Opinion Editor

Women all around the world are frustrated by the fact that their lives are in danger just for saying the word NO.

Historically, men have believed they have a right to harm a woman just because she rejected them.

According to Enik Relations, an online writing platform, men

express rage and often feel hurt and vulnerable when they are rejected.

It is nothing new for men who won't take no for an answer to harass and pursue women. According to the Canadian Women's Foundation, 30 per cent of all women age 15 or older report experiencing sexual assault at least once.

Social media is flooded with stories of women being attacked by men who were rejected.

Rho Bashe, a Somali immigrant who lives in Houston, was attacked after she refused to give her number out to a man.

Bashe posted a TikTok video on Sept. 3 in which she described being attacked with a brick in front of a group of men after rejecting the advances of a stranger.

"Y'all, this man just hit me in my face with a brick, and all these Black men just watched," Bashe said on the TikTok message.

Bashe said in a second video she

suffered a concussion from her injuries and won't be able to take time off from work to heal.

"What have I ever done to anybody in my life to deserve this? I ain't never did anything in my life to hurt anybody," she said.

Unfortunately, she isn't the only one to experience assault after rejecting a man.

Femicide in Canada is part of a bigger problem. It refers to the killing of a woman or girl by a man because of her gender.

According to the University of Guelph, at least 850 women and girls in Canada were violently killed between 2018 and 2022. The report shows that a woman or girl is killed at least every 48 hours in Canada and that number continues to rise.

A report from Eastern Kentucky University showed some men don't know how to take no for an answer and that results in women getting

harassed and targeted.

I was one of those girls. I was called the B-word on June 22 and was told to go "die in a ditch" after refusing to follow a man back to his house.

I was harassed with several degrading names and slurs while being followed by someone in a black Toyota.

"Why are you acting so stuck up? I'm talking to you," the man said to me.

I walked into a nearby Tim Horton's and waited 10 minutes after he drove off.

However, the most frustrating part of that experience was that it happened during daylight, and no one intervened.

I believe that one of the simplest ways to lose your life in a world where crime rates are steadily rising is through rejection. And it's deadly unfair for us women.

What did we do to deserve this?

Sadly, some men view women as property to be owned, but actions have consequences.

More and more women are beginning to say that they can't live like this.

According to Psychology Today, men and women respond differently to rejection because men take rejection as a challenge to their masculinity.

The report shows a man's pride and sense of self are focused on achieving a romantic quest, and when failed, can lead to violence.

A 15-year-old girl lost her life after she was stabbed on her way to school on Sept. 27 in Croydon, South London, after rejecting a boy's flowers.

When is violence against women for saying no going to end?

Being a woman is difficult and we shouldn't have to worry that saying no will be the last words that we speak.

TALES FROM HUMBER

Impact of 1973 Chilean coup is still felt by expats in Canada



Pedro Briceno-Oros
Entertainment Reporter

On the morning of Sept. 11, 1973, my father Pedro Riquelme was walking to his office when a passerby told him to back home. Quickly.

Confused, he would be told the Chilean military was moving into his town of Valparaiso.

More than 116 kilometres to the southeast, General Augusto Pinochet and the Chilean military began their siege of the capital Santiago. The rest of the country would soon follow.

A coup d'état and, later, a military junta in his home country more than 50 years ago is the reason my dad and my family call Canada home today.

"I could hear gunshots coming from everywhere," he said. "Soldiers would take prisoners behind the building, and you would hear gunshots."

The country was in chaos, he

said. People were being gathered and loaded on boats and trucks, civilians beaten and shot in the streets, and homes were being broken into by military personnel, all for the sake of eliminating the socialist threat and suppressing the people.

"There were a lot of people who resisted but with the strength they had, they would shoot you or make you disappear," he said.

Working as a draftsman on the day of the coup his office was lined with maps and schematics for future and current projects all around Valparaiso. All around town, soldiers were breaking down doors and barging into buildings. When they came across his office, they accused him of being a socialist sympathizer.

He would have his license revoked and his office robbed and destroyed. The junta held him as a

political prisoner over suspicions of conspiracy against the government.

"I was detained with about 20 other people," he said. "They stepped on my hands, they tried to break me psychologically and tried to intimidate me with gunshots to answer questions."

They questioned him. They accused him and intimidated him for seven days straight, but they did not break him. He would later be released with all charges dropped against him.

At the time, the Chilean government was trying to stop any potential rebellion or insurgency within the country and suspected many on the left.

"I was more left-leaning in my political views, and I was friends with many people who considered themselves socialist or communist," he said. "I saw a lot of people

who I knew personally just disappear.

"I had my left-leaning ideas for sure but I was just a worker, not an activist."

My father spent 12 years in Chile to care for and protect his family, but the government persecuted more people and threatened his life. He had to make a choice.

He decided to board one of the last two flights leaving Chile on Oct. 26, 1986, with one bag in hand and sought asylum in Canada.

"Everything I had stayed there and I had to start my new life here," he said.

Starting a new life in Canada can be difficult for many immigrants, but my father's inability to return to get his documentation from his home made it more difficult.

The Chilean government seized his documents and he could not try to go back.

"For the first 10 years, I wasn't allowed to return to Chile," he said. "I did not have my documents here to get permission to go, and my permanent resident status here was not approved yet."

When he arrived in Toronto, he was taken to the Toronto Chilean Society, established to help other Chileans escaping persecution to settle in Toronto.

"When I arrived at Toronto Chilean Society, almost all of the people who came here were due to political persecution, some of

them coming many years before me," he said. "When the military hit occurred, many left for different countries, and a lot came to Canada because Canada was accepting Chilean refugees."

There he met other Chileans with similar ideals, interests and stories, and one of the things some of them had in common was the love of their culture and folklore music. This love for folklore and shared experience helped them feel more at home.

"I helped create the first Chilean folklore group here in Toronto, I taught classes for Cueca, which is the national dance of Chile, I assembled a group of artists called Las Guitarras Chilenas, and we still perform even today," he said.

My father sang with the group for many years, keeping the culture and spirit of a free Chile they all remembered.

While a large part of the Chilean community in Canada returned to Chile once democracy was re-integrated in 1990, my father, like many other Chileans, stayed to live his new life here in Toronto.

"I still visit Chile when I can, but Canada became my new home and that's why I chose to stay," he said.

As another year goes by from the anniversary of 'El Golpe del Estado de Chile', thousands of Chileans in Canada and around the world are left to reflect on the events that relocated them and altered their lives forever.



PEDRO BRICENO-OROS

An old photo of Pedro Riquelme, senior, circa 1987 Niagara Falls, Ont.

Humber explores options as it pauses journalism degree

Claudia Ovejero Pham
Skedline Reporter

The future of Humber College's journalism degree program remains uncertain, as the college has yet to announce if admissions will re-open in fall 2024.

The administration is currently re-evaluating the degree program after pausing admissions this year. A group of full-time journalism faculty from all three programs available at Humber met on Wednesday, Sept. 13, to begin an in-depth review of the degree and the changing profession.

Guillermo Acosta, the senior dean of the Faculty of Media and Creative Arts, said the decision to pause the degree was due to a steep decline in enrolment.

There were only seven incoming students last year. He said such small class sizes don't make for a great learning experience, which is why they are reflecting on how to make the degree an "attractive value proposition for prospective applicants."

The low numbers made Acosta ask why it was happening, especially considering the college's other journalism programs, like the three-year diploma course, are not facing the same struggles.

Genna Buck, a journalism instructor, said it's a time of uncertainty and change, "we're recognizing we have to respond a bit to the broader trends that are happening within the industry and in society, to have students who are prepared for a variety of roles."

Acosta said they need to act fast to adapt to industry trends. The degree is consulting with the Postsecondary Education Quality Assurance Board (PCAB) to explore available options around the credentials needed to find an optimal mix.

Reassessing elements like the length of the degree is not off the table, as colleges are now able to offer three-year degrees, Acosta said.

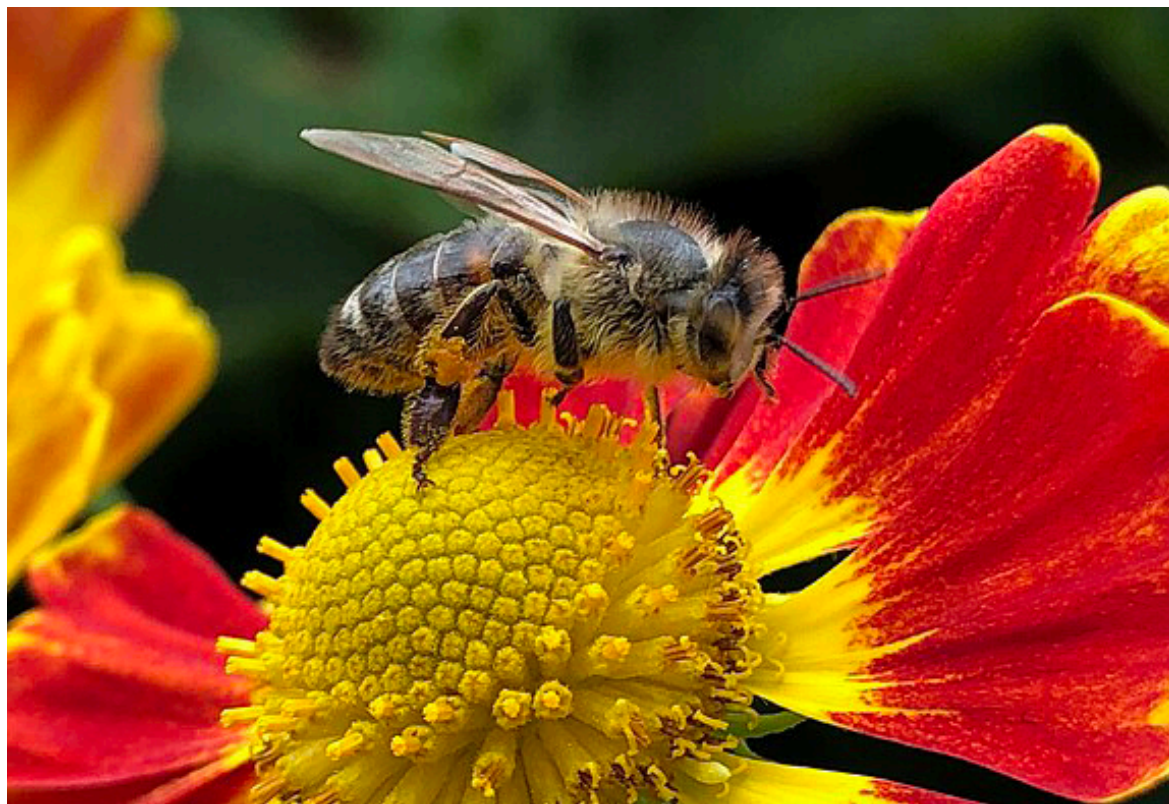
"This is the regulatory framework that we need to explore with the ministry to see where can we push boundaries to create a mix of programming that will be good for the students and the grads that also meets what the industry is requiring," he said

Acosta said it saddens him to see the state of journalism schools.

"I will use my position as senior in this faculty to really continue strengthening journalism and interest in journalism because it's a pillar of democracy," he said.

Fernando Bossoes, a second-year journalism student, said he hopes the degree will explore ways to collaborate with other journalism programs at Humber because this would create more opportunities and foster a desire to work in the industry.

There is no announcement on the status of the degree for 2024 yet while faculty and administration continue working to consult grads, students, and industry. Current students should not be affected by any decisions made in the coming months.



CREATIVECOMMONS/ IONELASER

Not only bees, but also butterflies, moths, beetles, and other insects are essential for the pollination of plants.

Local gardening centre uses grant to support pollinator insect population

Thaïs Grandisoli
Skedline Reporter

Months after receiving a grant from the city of Toronto in April, this local environmental association is showing results in their community garden.

Their goal is to increase the number of habitats for these insects to contribute to more genetic diversity among different breeds of plants.

Not only bees, but also butterflies, moths, beetles, and other insects are essential for the pollination of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and various crops, including wild plants.

In Canada and around the world, these insects have been suffering from a huge population decline. The implications of their struggle to survive are seen in many areas relating to our own survival as humans.

One of the most significant issues is the supply reduction of healthy, natural, non-industrialized foods.

"Did you know there are over 10,000 different species of tomatoes?" says Nancy Durrant, co-chair of The Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society (LEGS), "We don't hear about that because it's always the same ones being sold in supermarkets."

LEGS started over fifteen years ago, some members have been around since the beginning, but new members and volunteers are always joining our efforts

says Nancy Durrant, co-chair and speaker at their bi-monthly meeting, usually held at the Long Branch public library.

The LEGS co-chair had a presentation prepared about heirloom vegetables, which are old, openly pollinated varieties that usually get passed down from generation to generation.

According to a study published earlier this year by the Environmental Health Perspectives, this crisis has caused a three to five per cent loss of fruit, vegetable and nut production around the world.

The scientists said that the lower consumption of these foods could contribute to about one per cent of yearly deaths, all due to pollinator loss.

Julie Stoyka is a teacher and head of the committee managing the money got from the PollinateTO grant.

Since early summer, Stoyka, among other volunteers, has been working to clean up a large space ceded by the Daily Bread food bank in New Toronto. They have now successfully turned it into a garden.

"We have plums, pears, and blackcurrant, and about 30 different types of flowering and berry-bearing plants," says Stoyka, pointing to a pie that she brought, "It's chokeberry pie!"

The head of the committee, then explains that usually at their meetings, members will bring food with ingredients grown and harvested by themselves in one of their gar-

dens.

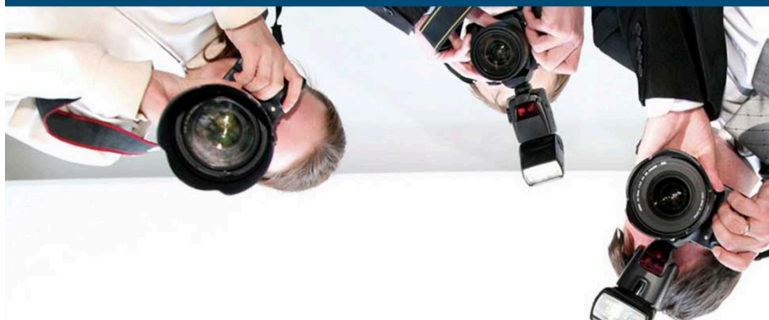
At the end of the meeting, the members gathered to exchange heirloom seeds, so they could each try their luck growing these different flowers and vegetables.

While she gathers the remaining seed packets, Durrant's son gets excited at the prospect of growing black cherry tomatoes in his own garden, so he asks to have one. Durrant quickly complies, making sure not only the seeds but her passion for the environment and gardening will also be passed down from generation to generation.



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Screengrab of the program closure announcement made by FMCA.

Leafs next gen look to impress coaches

Luca Tersigni
Sports Reporter

The Toronto Maple Leafs are headed into its sixth straight season with the Core 5 still intact. But during this summer's training camp, fans may have seen a glimpse of the future.

Parts of old management are gone, and Leafs fans were probably hoping new General Manager Brad Treliving would tweak the roster to bolster that core.

Treliving dished out contracts to several notable free agents including Max Domi, John Klingberg, and Tyler Bertuzzi. But more importantly, the Leafs have what seems its next generation filling in spots: Nicholas Robertson, Matthew Knies, Easton Cowan, Fraser Minten, and Topi Niemelä, among others.

Defenseman Morgan Rielly said roles often evolve during training camp, especially involving the youth, and figuring it out is a process.

"We wanna go out there and be a team that competes hard every night, plays together and as training camp goes on, will kind



NICHOLAS PRENCIPE

Maple Leafs young guns look to make an impression at training camp to hopefully make the team.

of discover what that looks like," Rielly said.

Knies and Cowan are two of the more notable prospects that have stood out through training camp and the first three preseason games thus far.

Knies has played well enough to earn a spot on the second line in the top six with John Tavares, who is entering his fifth season as the

captain of the Maple Leafs.

"Yeah, it's an honour," Knies said. "Obviously he's a tremendous player, so it's a big opportunity for me and I just have to take advantage of it and then work my best to stay in that position."

The Minnesota Golden Gophers standout is looking to be a breakout rookie for the Maple Leafs and be a key part of their success this

season. He showed he's up to the rigours of the NHL in last season's playoffs.

Even though Cowan has been a standout during preseason, racking up one goal and two assists in two games, he will likely rejoin the London Knights of the OHL for more development.

Sheldon Keefe, the coach of the Maple Leafs, has been very

impressed with Cowan so far as a future piece after his first appearance against the Ottawa Senators on Sept. 25.

"More of what he showed early in camp, but thought he put an exclamation mark on it tonight, he was outstanding," Keefe said after the game

Robertson has not had the brightest start to his NHL career. He battled through two separate season-ending injuries that have sidetracked his development.

Nevertheless he's impressed so far during training camp and was slotted in the top six two appearances in the preseason against the Ottawa Senators and Buffalo Sabres.

"I think he's been good, both games, the puck hasn't fallen for him, but I think he's been all over it, he's had some great scoring chances, and he looks real fast and confident with the puck," Keefe said.

These new and young pieces will hopefully make a difference this season, but success still relies on the production by the Core 5. It all starts Oct. 11 in a home game against the Montreal Canadiens.

Canadian soccer clinches Olympic spot in Paris

Isabelle Ferrante
Sports Editor

The Canadian women's soccer team clinched their spot in the 2024 Paris Olympic games as they look to defend their gold medal title.

The team beat Jamaica 4-1 on aggregate by first earning a 2-0 victory at the National Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica, but it was at home where their dreams were solidified with a 2-1 victory on Tuesday.

Forward Jordyn Huitema who scored the go-ahead goal said winning this game is just the first step of the ultimate objective.

"It's something we dream of, it's exactly why we did all of this work and put in all of this effort to be exactly where we are now," she said.

"Now it's back to the process to get us where we need to be, we've done it before and we know what it takes to do it, so we just have to do it again," Huitema said.

Canada was coming off a disappointing finish at this summer's Women's World Cup in New Zealand and Australia after failing to make it out of the group stage.

For head coach Bev Priestman it

was something that hasn't left her mind since. She said coming back from that is what this team was built for.

"I think I've been on a journey now with a group of players who've had the ultimate high, probably had the ultimate low," Priestman said.

"And then I saw them come out swinging.

"The bit that inspires me about the group is character, fight, hard work, working for the person next to you, probably that was what was lacking at times in that World Cup," she said.

"Everybody's put a real shift in, players and staff, to do whatever we could to turn this around."

Canada came out firing, but it was Jamaica that struck first scoring on a free kick.

Despite that, the home crowd fans did not turn down the volume.

The crowd of 29,212, which set a new record for a men's or women's national team game in Ontario, was sent into a frenzy after the equalizing goal by forward Cloe Lacasse.

Priestman said the crowd was used in their favour.

"I thought the crowd tonight were unbelievable, they kept



THE CANADIAN PRESS/NATHAN DENETTE

Canada's Jordyn Huitema, 9, celebrates her goal with teammate Julia Grosso enroute to an Olympic spot.

pushing," she said. "In some hairy moments it was the crowd that got us going again."

Lacasse agreed with Priestman on the motivation the team received from the Canadian soccer faithfuls.

"We knew that Jamaica was

going to come out with absolutely everything so we didn't just have to match that, we had to top it," Lacasse said.

"Getting that home crowd, sold-out BMO [Field], it definitely was the 12th man, like Bev said, and it gave us that extra boost until

the very end of the game."

Sitting comfortably with their spot, Priestman will be using this time in between now and July 26, 2024, wisely.

"Whatever games we have coming up, it's now about preparing for that moment," she said.

NEXT GEN LEAFS



NICHOLAS PRENCIPE

Forward Matthew Knies looks to make an impression in the Leafs preseason action to hopefully make the Maple Leafs out of training camp and become a regular in the lineup.

**TORONTO
FESTIVAL OF
AUTHORS
RETURNS
P.5**



**WOMEN'S
SOCCER
GOING BACK TO
THE OLYMPICS
P.10**

