

# THE GRIND

FREE

**PG.8** CITY COUNCIL &  
THE GROUND GAME

THEATER ARTISTS FOR  
PALESTINIAN VOICES **PG.23**

MAY / JUNE 2024

VOL 2 ISSUE 3



We  our schools!

**BUT** THERE ARE PROBLEMS THAT NEED URGENT ATTENTION!

**Tell these Toronto Conservative MPPs...**

# Cuts to education funding must STOP!

The Doug Ford government is preparing to announce more cuts to education. The situation in our schools is already deteriorating. Since the pandemic, more and more students are having difficulty regulating their behaviour. This creates chaotic conditions in classrooms. **More Educational Assistants are urgently needed.**

Conservative funding cuts have resulted in the elimination of many staff positions, including Caretakers, Lunchroom Supervisors and Vice-principals. Teacher vacancies are not being filled! **Students suffer as a result.**



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# Editors' Letter— WHAT TO KEEP, TOSS AND FIX THIS SPRING

**ABOUT**  
*The Grind* was launched in fall 2022 by a group of passionate local journalists, as a new politics and culture mag for Toronto. It is a non-profit publication not owned by a media empire. We scrape by financially with no full-time staff and a lot of volunteer labour, though we prioritize paying our contributors. Around half of our revenues are from ads and the other half is from donations. We don't publish advertorials (paid advertisements that look like articles). *The Grind* comes out once every two months.

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**T**ime to throw out those holey socks and the old papers in the corner. It's spring cleaning time! The warmer weather is here – not that it was much of a winter, what with climate change plus El Niño.

This season has us thinking about what to throw away and what to keep. That's the theme of this issue's cover by Olea Kim, who is also our Comics Editor.

A few things we want to toss: unrealistic hopes in the new mayor (for more, see page 8), elites lecturing us about "civility" during a genocide (p. 11), anti-Palestinian racism (p. 14), and overly-cautious conversations on Canada Reads (p. 21).

Things we want to keep: quality TTC service (p. 17), non-market housing (p. 16), the right lessons from the 1933 Christie Pits Riot (p. 12), expanding \$10-per-day child care (p. 19), and lots more in this issue.

As you'll see on the next page, we also want your help keeping *The Grind* alive.

Spring is a time for renewal, but these days we can feel stuck in the past — especially when major newspapers keep telling us to celebrate the legacy of Brian Mulroney, who was prime minister from 1984 to 1993 and recently passed away.

Those obituaries tell us that we should admire the cheery conservative's "tenacity" and "charm" but fail to mention that Mulroney also

brought the neoliberal revolution to Canada. That meant tax cuts for the rich, deregulation (e.g. giving the oil industry everything it wanted), and privatizing government services and industries, including selling off Petro-Canada to private investors.

When we think today about precarious work and lack of job protections, or about how the oil and banking sectors make billions while the world burns, we should remember that Mulroney kicked that process into gear here.

If people are looking to find who "broke Canada," Mulroney was a big part of the puzzle. So was the Liberal government after him of Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin, and most governments after them at all levels.

Mulroney also sent the Canadian military to face off against the Kanien'kéha:ka (Mohawk) of Kanesatake who were protecting their burial site from being turned into an expanded golf course for the town of Oka, QC. It's not so different from militarized raids we've seen the RCMP do for pipeline and forestry companies in recent years (see p. 22).

We may have inherited this system from people like Mulroney, but we don't have to accept it as is.

While you read this issue in the springtime, we encourage you to think about what you want to keep, what to toss, what to fix, and how to do it.

## Letters to the Editors

I want to thank *The Grind* for their representation of Palestinians and the Palestine protests in Toronto. I brought my parents a copy of the Palestine edition and they were so delighted to see reporting on their peoples in a country that disregards their struggle in the media.

@NATAMBASSADOR ON TWITTER

Thanks for your coverage of Gaza and the broad-based Jews Say No to Genocide Coalition. It's important to discuss Jewish criticism of Israel, as the Zionist ideology claims to speak for all Jews. It does not. As a member of said coalition, I stand with my Jewish relatives for Palestinian freedom. The Zionist lobby is well funded, ironically partly by Christian Zionists who believe that Jews occupying the Holy Land will bring about the Second Coming of Christ and a "rapture" whereby all Jews and Muslims who don't convert to Christianity will be exterminated. Good for *The Grind* to publish the truth about the horrors taking place in the name of Jewish safety, and leading to anything but.

SUNDAY HARRISON BY EMAIL

(Re: "Violent Crackdown at Land Day March," see p. 10) The cops blew it, this show of force was unnecessary and the cops were bullies.

@SUSANNEDEB ON TWITTER

(Re: "Violent Crackdown at Land Day March") Is this what the Toronto Police budget increase paid for? To force violence upon what had started as a peaceful march against violence, war, and genocide?

@ELEESASEE ON TWITTER

It is so difficult for me to read about people's experiences in Gaza, especially parents of young children, watching them take their first steps and say their first words while Israel massacres their loved ones. But witnessing is important. Thanks to Gabe Oatley for this one. (Re: "The story behind one Palestinian surgeon's crowdfunding bid to evacuate his daughter from Gaza," see p. 7).

BRITT CARON, @BRIKETYSPLIT ON TWITTER

I chose to donate to *The Grind* because I noticed their recent call for fundraising for their next issue, and their ethical reporting by David Gray-Donald with his piece titled "What happened outside Mount Sinai Hospital as a pro-Palestine rally passed by?"

YIPENG GE, @YIPENGGE ON TWITTER

We need *The Grind* and *The Grind* needs us. That's how this works. Their reporting has been stellar: especially on the peace movement and the craven support of our governments for genocide. Let's make it happen people!

AVI LEWIS, @AVILEWIS ON TWITTER

I love reading *The Grind* at one of my favourite local Beaches—East York coffee shops. Please support their work as you are able!

@DRKATETO ON TWITTER



Cover illustration by Olea Kim

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### CORRECTION

In the Feb/Mar issue, the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals ad on page 6 should have credited the photo to Farm Sanctuary.



We have 20 newspaper boxes in storage ready to put out on Toronto sidewalks. But due to a bylaw snag, we're having trouble getting permits from the city. When we do, we'll need to pay around \$10K in fees.

Become a monthly supporter of **The Grind** & help us get these boxes out there!

Support **The Grind** at:

[thegrindmag.ca/support-the-grind](http://thegrindmag.ca/support-the-grind)



Publisher's Letter—

## How The Grind is Keeping Independent Journalism Alive

BY DAVID GRAY-DONALD

In February, *VICE* announced that it was shutting down its website and news operations. That same month, *CTV* made a massive round of layoffs while its parent company Bell posted profits. And in March, *SaltWire* on the East Coast filed for creditor protection and might shut down, which would leave nearly two dozen communities without a local paper.

These discouraging announcements feel almost routine at this point.

We're not so delusional as to think *The Grind* is the answer to these problems. We don't even have one permanent staff member yet, let alone dozens or hundreds.

But we are a non-profit media outlet growing as fast as we're able to, and we believe we're bringing something valuable to Toronto. A number of you have told us as much since we launched in Oct. 2022.

We ran a fundraising campaign in March to raise \$8,000 to pay off a bunch of bills so we could publish this issue. In the course of one week, 103 people generously gave and we raised just over \$10,000. Thank you so much to those of you who supported us!

There are no wealthy investors behind *The Grind*, setting the direction, looking to make a buck, ready to shut the thing down on a whim. It's just our team of passionate — and often exhausted — media-makers calling the shots.

There is a big opportunity for *The Grind* to grow as old models of corporate media ownership continue to fail. But it's going to take your support.

We haven't mentioned this publicly before, but we actually looked into buying *NOW Magazine* back when its owners, Media Central, declared bankruptcy in March 2022. We entered negotiations and looked at the financials, but they had millions in debt and we didn't have a deep-

pocketed backer, so it just wasn't possible for us.

We heard other groups were looking to buy *NOW*, mainly corporate media investors looking to make bland content factories putting out clickbait for ad money.

Vancouver's *The Georgia Straight*, which was a similar print mag to *NOW*, was sold to *Overstory Media Group*, which is run by a supposed billionaire. It has stayed in print, announcing it would focus on events and the arts.

*The Straight* has not published anything about Israel and Palestine in its Commentary section since Oct. 7, and nothing in its newsy section "City & Culture" in months either — despite huge protests in Vancouver and major happenings within the B.C. government. On this and other issues, an outlet which once had decent politics coverage has been greatly diminished. It's a big loss for the city.

We were concerned about a big corporation taking over a chunk of Toronto's media landscape. What if the old *NOW* got subbed out for a timid knock-off?

Would *Overstory*, *Narcity*, or *BlogTO* have put out a free print issue in TTC stations with a "CEASEFIRE NOW!" cover headline in November? Would they have included on-the-ground reporting from the West Bank, and original coverage of protests, like the Hands Off Rafah march that went by Mount Sinai Hospital? Would they call out the anti-Palestinian bias of major media outlets?

Our ability to cover what we do comes from our independence and our belief in doing quality journalism on issues that matter to us and to you. That belief comes before the pursuit of dollars.

But the reality of producing this type of critical journalism means that we also need money.

It costs about \$18,000 to publish each issue of *The Grind*, without any permanent staff.

Ads cover about \$9,000, and we get \$750 per month from monthly supporters.

So we're down \$7,500 every issue.

We occasionally run fundraising campaigns like the one this March that raised \$10,000 — which will give us enough to cover one issue and a bit. The rest of the budget shortfalls are covered by taking on personal debt and by asking friends and family to support. It isn't sustainable.

We need a bigger base of monthly donors.

To make *The Grind* viable long-term, we need over 1,000 monthly donors. We have 75 now. We're asking you to help us double that before our next issue.

Ad revenue can't be relied on, and neither can grants. Both tend to come and go, and grants usually have conditions. Reader revenue is the key to a sustainable, independent publication.

*The Grind* takes ads but we don't take advertorials, which are ads that look like articles. Sometimes advertisers get upset with us over our coverage. That's okay, it's part of the biz. But by not pandering to advertisers like some other outlets do, we are banking on readers liking what we're doing and supporting us along the way.

At this point, we've been around since Oct. 2022 and have put out eight print issues. It hasn't been perfect. The website was awful until two months ago (sorry, it's better now!). We had an embarrassing typo on one of our early covers. But we've consistently put out coverage we believe is important and interesting to readers in the GTA.

Many community publications have shut down in part because readers thought someone else would support it. But that's rarely how it works, especially with the more critical outlets like *The Grind*. It's important for you — yes, you! — to support the media you want to see.

We want to stick around. There is so much more we want to do, and so many articles we want to work on and publish for you.

**So, dear reader, if you want to keep reading *The Grind* and you're able, please consider becoming a monthly donor. Thank you!**



# THE NEWS IS BROKEN

(and **blocked** on Instagram & Facebook)

**Media outlets are  
shutting down, laying off  
staff, and their coverage  
is deteriorating.**

**SUPPORT THE GRIND**

**TO KEEP LOCAL, INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM ALIVE.  
BECOME A MONTHLY SUPPORTER.**

**The Grind** loses money on every issue and has no permanent staff. Let's change that! We would need 1,000 monthly supporters to break even and hire part-time staff. We're currently at 75. Let's double that and get to **150 monthly supporters** before our next issue.



**FOR MORE INFO, READ OUR  
LETTER ON PAGE 4.**



## AGO Workers on Strike, Gallery Closed

Workers at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) went on strike on Mar. 26, saying the gallery's offer on wages and job protections are unacceptable. The AGO is closed due to the strike.

Most staff are part-time employees and make around \$34,000 per year, according to their union, OPSEU.

The CEO makes over \$400,000 per year, and was paid around \$390,000 in consulting fees on top of that in 2020-2021.

## Pushing for Better Indoor Air Quality to Prevent Spread of COVID-19

A group of residents is calling on the Toronto Board of Health (TBH) to make the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic a key part of public health plans. The group, which includes parents, scientists, and people with chronic illnesses or disabilities, sent a letter to TBH as part of its consultations for the 2024-28 Strategic Plan for Toronto Public Health.

COVID-19 is now the third-leading cause of death in Canada. It has been well established that the virus is spread by airborne transmission and there are serious risks of long-term complications from infection, including for those who have been vaccinated.

Noting this, the residents' group has called on TBH to make clean indoor air a priority. Like clean water, the group argues, clean air is essential for health and it is an equity issue. They call on public health authorities to ensure Toronto's schools, public transit, and municipal buildings be made safe and accessible for all.

A number of places around the world have made clean indoor air a priority, such as France, and closer by, Peterborough, ON. This can include measuring indoor concentrations of CO2 and improving ventilation.

## High World Cup Costs Kept Secret for Years

The cost to the city of hosting soccer games in Toronto for the 2026 FIFA World Cup has grown from an estimate of \$45 million in 2018 to an estimate of \$380 million.

City council, at the urging of former mayor John Tory, locked in the agreement with FIFA without having secured funding from the provincial or federal governments and without telling the public, according to a *Toronto Star* investigation.

The province has now agreed to contribute \$97 million and the feds will kick in an unknown amount.

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE) will not lose any money and stands to profit from renovating and hosting events at BMO Field, according to an agreement with the city, as reported by *CTV News Toronto*.



AGO workers have been on strike for better wages, closing the gallery to the public.

## Province Pushing LCBO Privatization

ONTARIO PREMIER DOUG FORD tried to convince the public in March that his Conservatives "will never, ever sell the LCBO," but at the same time the LCBO presented a proposal that all but paves the way for its privatization. Management put that proposal on the table at the first bargaining session with the union representing LCBO workers, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU).

The LCBO plans to remove critical language from its Letters of Agreement protecting against contracting out, against job losses to agencies and grocery stores, against closing retail stores and laying off permanent and full-time staff, and more.

These changes could mean store closures and the loss of thousands of union jobs with good benefits. Private stores, including grocery giants, would profit more off alcohol sales.

In Saskatchewan, the conservative government shut down retail outlets of the provincial liquor agency in 2023, moving sales to private stores.

In negotiations, OPSEU tabled a 43-page document with their proposals and vision to "ensure the LCBO is a public asset for another 100 years."

Bargaining is scheduled to continue through to July if necessary.

## York University Strike Drags On

CONTRACT INSTRUCTORS, teaching assistants and graduate assistants at York University went on strike in late February, and as of mid-April, the strike is ongoing.

The 3,000 workers are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3903, and say that low wages are a major issue. The union wants a wage increase of four to five per cent while the university is offering one per cent raises, according to reports.

In early March, police arrested a picketing worker for stepping on a roadway where the union has picketed for over 23 years, prompting labour experts to warn this may violate rights protected in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Citing the strike and other financial and governance issues, two-thirds of the members of the York University Faculty Association present at a special meeting in April voted in favour of a motion calling for the resignation of the university's president, provost, and chair of the board of governors.

## Ontario Place Spa on Taxpayer Dime?

THE FIGHT OVER ONTARIO PLACE CONTINUES, with much of the waterfront area now blocked off to the public.

Advocacy group Ontario Place for All estimated in April that the redevelopment, which would see a large private spa built, will cost Ontario taxpayers \$650 million.

The provincial Conservative government responded to say it doesn't agree with that estimate but didn't provide its own numbers.



The wall closing Ontario Place off from the public.

ONTARIO PLACE FOR ALL



JOSHUA BEST



A demonstrator dressed as Spiderman costume waves a Palestinian flag above the entrance of Mount Sinai Hospital as a rally goes by.

## The March that Passed by Mount Sinai Hospital

**IN FEBRUARY**, when Israel began its ground invasion of Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza where hundreds of thousands of people had taken refuge, a protest was called in Toronto.

At the large, hours-long march on Feb. 12, an individual dressed like Spiderman climbed on top of at least eight structures, including lampposts, part of the Eaton Centre, and a closed entrance to Mount Sinai hospital.

After the march, commentators accused the protest of antisemitism for targeting Mount Sinai. The hospital was founded in 1923 by Jewish immigrant women, and while it remains an important institution for many in the Jewish community, Mount Sinai now describes itself as a culturally inclusive hospital open to all.

Within a day, Premier Doug Ford, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Mayor Olivia Chow, and the presidents and CEOs of 15 major hospitals in Toronto had denounced the actions as antisemitic.

Organizers and attendees disputed this characterization. The Health Workers Alliance for Palestine called for the hospital leaders to retract and apologize for their statement and denounced the leaders for not making a statement about the 25 hospitals in Gaza targeted by the Israeli military.

The day after denouncing the protest as antisemitic, Mayor Chow said on *CBC Metro Morning* on Feb 14, "I wasn't there. I haven't seen a police report on that event. Right now, there seems to be different interpretations." The mayor has not retracted her initial statement.

### Massacre at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City

**FOLLOWING ISRAEL'S TWO-WEEK SIEGE** and second invasion of Gaza's largest hospital, Al-Shifa in Gaza City, hundreds of dead bodies were found in and around the hospital, many in pieces. Israel withdrew on Apr. 1, leaving the hospital completely out of commission and largely destroyed. Mass graves have since been found on the grounds.

According to reporting in *Mondoweiss*, "the Israeli army shot patients in their beds and doctors who refused to abandon the sick."

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor called it "one of the largest massacres in Palestinian history." According to the agency, "preliminary reports suggest that over 1,500 Palestinians have been killed, injured, or are reported missing as a result of the massacre at Al-Shifa, with women and children making up half of the casualties."

Israel claims it arrested 900 "suspects," saying 500 were "terror operatives," and announced it killed 200 "gunmen."

### Unknown Number of Israeli Hostages Still Alive

**IN EARLY APRIL**, Hamas said fewer than 40 Israeli hostages still alive in Gaza were either women, children, sick, or elderly. This indicated that a number of hostages had died. Israel wanted 40 people in that category released as a condition of a ceasefire.

The rest of the Israeli hostages are presumed to be young men, including soldiers.

Hamas has made periodic announcements that hostages have been killed by Israel's bombing of Gaza. Israel estimates 33 hostages are dead and around 100 still alive.

Hamas is reportedly holding men with a later deal in mind involving a permanent ceasefire and Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.

Families of the Israeli hostages have been holding protests to demand their government does more to secure hostage release deals.

DR. ABU WARDA



On Dec. 9, 2023, an Israeli airstrike destroyed Abu Warda's family home, killing 31 people aged three to 60 years old.

## The Story Behind One Palestinian Surgeon's Crowdfunding Bid to Evacuate His Daughter from Gaza

**AMID ISRAEL'S BOMBING** and ground invasion of Gaza, hundreds of Palestinians are turning to GoFundMe to raise enough funds to evacuate their families to safety. Among them is Gaza City surgeon Dr. Abdelwahab Abu Warda. Shortly after Oct. 7, soldiers told residents to flee southward, but Dr. Abu Warda would not leave his patients. His family wouldn't leave him behind either. Less than a month later, an Israeli airstrike on the surgeon's home killed 31 of his relatives. As the famine worsened, Dr. Abu Warda appealed to donors worldwide to evacuate his 18-month-old daughter and family to safety. Read the full story, by Gabe Oatley, on *The Grind's* website. An earlier version was published by *Future of Good*.



READ ONLINE

## Vaughan Mayor Proposing to Restrict Right to Protest

**IN MARCH**, two protests were held in Thornhill, on the Vaughan side of the community, calling out real estate events promoting the illegal sale of Palestinian lands in the occupied Palestinian West Bank.

After the initial venue cancelled, the events were held at a synagogue.

At the two protests outside, at least four supporters of Israel were arrested on a range of charges including assault, carrying weapons, and making threats.

In response, Vaughan Mayor Steven Del Duca said he would introduce a bylaw banning protests near religious institutions. Critics have said this would infringe on freedom of expression rights.

At a town hall with Mayor Del Duca in April, community members in solidarity with Palestine spoke and then interrupted Del Duca, calling on him to abandon the bylaw proposal, to condemn the events illegally selling Palestinian land and to condemn the violence perpetrated by pro-Israel demonstrators against supporters of Palestine. The mayor did not respond directly.



READ ONLINE

# THE GROUND GAME

We shouldn't expect Mayor Olivia Chow to deliver big progressive changes. It's going to take networks of grassroots groups pushing together to stop city council from doing the bidding of Toronto's corporate class.

BY DESMOND COLE

**M**ayor Olivia Chow was always going to increase the police budget in 2024, it was just a question of how much. The extra \$20 million Chow announced to police made headlines in February because she had first planned an increase of only \$7.4 million.

Progress Toronto, an advocacy group that endorsed Chow's candidacy, criticized her support for the extra police funds. "This is disappointing, Mayor Chow — the police have bullied, fear-mongered and threatened to get what they want," read the group's statement.

Of course, Chow never promised as a candidate to defund the police, or even to minimize increases to their budget. Many seemed to be projecting onto the mayor a policy vision she has never embraced.

Toronto city council's endless appetite for policing, security, and punishment is a gut-punch for people who want their city to invest more in life-giving approaches. But proposals that would meaningfully improve life for unhoused and poor people, renters, and transit riders rarely make it to city council. The poor and working-class people who would benefit most from such an agenda usually lack the political power to get it to the table.

The emergence of a more progressive agenda doesn't hinge on our mayor's presumed compassion, or on the youngest and most diverse council in memory. Instead, it is forming and faltering and taking shape within self-organized groups of people who are surviving the city's neglect, and who are building their own agenda for safety, fairness, and prosperity. The more such groups can grow, connect, and share resources, the more likely council is to start reversing its harmful direction.

TTCriders members calling for an investigation into the Scarborough RT derailment.



**"Chow never promised as a candidate to defund the police, or even to minimize increases to their budget."**

**EARLY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**, as evictions spiked and businesses failed, encampments became more common in public spaces across the Greater Toronto Area. The city responded in part by leasing underused hotels as make-shift shelter spaces.

The shelter hotels have been sites of suffering and neglect, but also places of connection and organizing by groups like Voices for Unhoused Liberation, whose members support people living at a Delta hotel in Scarborough, as well as at an encampment in a downtown park.

Sid Jackson, who's been doing outreach and organizing with Voices, describes city-run hotel shelters as "very carceral, punitive, traumatizing" spaces, where police sometimes occupy the lobby, and where residents get kicked out for unclear and arbitrarily-enforced rules. "Often, you're only given like [a] half hour to pack your

belongings, and then you're shipped off," Jackson says during a phone interview, adding that people often have possessions lost or stolen once they're discharged.

Voices for Unhoused Liberation has been supporting people to appeal service restrictions, recover belongings, and receive support if they can't or don't wish to use a different city-run space, such as a specific shelter.

The group is focused on what Jackson calls "building the collective power of unhoused people" at places like the Delta. "After just mostly focusing on relationship building, community building, establishing trust and consistency, we're now in conversations about: what does organizing the building look like?"

The group ultimately wants a city-wide policy change on restrictive shelter access, and has campaigned along with other groups for a policy to stop encampment and shelter hotel evictions. But at the moment, Jackson says, few of the 25 councillors seem eager to champion a better shelter access policy. And while Chow has been aggressive in calling for federal and provincial shelter funds, the mayor hasn't said much about the revolving-door reality of the city's shelters.





A protest at 75 Eastdale Ave., organized by ACORN in summer 2023.

DAVID GRAY-DONALD

**“The emergence of a more progressive agenda doesn’t hinge on our mayor’s presumed compassion, or on the youngest and most diverse council in memory.”**

**IN MOST CASES**, Toronto’s mayor only has one vote on city council. If she proposes anything that local councillors don’t want or fear is unpopular, they lose almost nothing by voting against her.

City hall reporter and columnist Matt Elliott has been charting how often councillors vote with the mayor for almost 15 years. He found that in Chow’s first months in office, 24 of 25 councillors have sided with Chow for the majority of votes.

This trend was also true for Chow’s predecessors. John Tory and Rob Ford both got support from council for most of their respective terms of office, although Ford had council turn on him three years into his term, in 2013, after he acknowledged drug use issues and was the subject of a police investigation.

Elliott says in an interview that this consensus is less about council following the mayor’s agenda, and more about councillors generally sticking to a right-leaning policy agenda that satisfies investors and homeowners.

“How do you go from John Tory to Olivia Chow?” Elliott muses. “It’s not because there was a major shift in the ideology of the city.” Rather, he argues that many wanted a

change in leadership after Tory’s affair with a staffer led him to resign, but the policy direction of council didn’t fundamentally change.

“If [council] was a person, it would still basically be like John Tory, still sort of leaning toward the right,” says Elliott. He notes that the one issue where council repeatedly defied Tory was on his desire to legalize rooming houses throughout the city.

Although Toronto’s mayor does have the option of using strong mayor powers to pass laws with a minority of council votes, Elliott says doing so without broad public support could put a mayor permanently at odds with their council.

In Elliott’s experience, successful policy campaigns map out council as 26 individuals with no strict party loyalty, at least 14 of whom must be convinced or pressured to pass a motion. He sees the mayor not necessarily as a driving force, but as a follower of city council and public opinion.

“If you’re somebody outside of city hall who really cares about an issue and wants to push, you have to do that math of getting to that 14 number as far as votes go, because that’s what the mayor’s office is going to be doing.”

**TWO WEEKS BEFORE** Chow announced nearly three times the police budget increase she’d first proposed, she also committed full funding for a Scarborough rapid busway. It was a major victory for advocacy groups like TTCriders that had campaigned for years to replace Scarborough’s defunct rapid transit (SRT) line.

A key moment came in spring of 2023, when city hall wouldn’t put up the relatively small funds for the busway’s design. With the mayoral race to replace Tory underway, TTCriders issued a candidate survey to press mayoral hopefuls on the busway issue.

“Chow was the first candidate to promise full funding,” says TTCriders executive director Shelagh Pizey-Allen. “After she did, many of the other major candidates followed suit.” The candidates’ pledges then led council to approve the design funds they’d previously neglected.

TTCriders is animated by volunteers like Elton Campbell, a former York University student who commuted by transit to the Keele and Glendon campuses. “We may not have a lot of money [as an organization], but we have the human resource element to it,” Campbell says in an interview. He draws a connection between transit advocacy and other anti-poverty work. “On the TTC at times, it’s over-policed; certain communities are over-policed. Some people can’t pay the fare, they need some kind of support.”

Campbell says the broader umbrella of anti-poverty work has allowed TTCriders to make important partnerships with the Toronto Environmental Alliance and Jane Finch Action Against Poverty. “Transit gets all of these people all over the city where they need to be, so everything is connected.”

**ALEJANDRA RUIZ VARGAS** is a member of ACORN, a community union whose members dictate what causes and campaigns to take on. In an interview, Vargas speaks seamlessly about ACORN’s work on tenant issues, food costs, childcare, and fair banking policies. “We are low-income and moderate-income tenants,” she says, “so all this is related.”

Vargas says the value of member-driven organizing is in building belonging. “Before, we felt like ghosts, invisible,” says Vargas. “The power to have a voice, the power to get organized and to know that there are people behind you that think alike and that have the same issues, this brings something more powerful than even money.”

After more than a decade of pressure from numerous local groups including ACORN, city council implemented new landlord licensing rules in 2018. The new system is meant to hold landlords more accountable for repairs and maintenance, but landlords are often negligent and fines are insufficient to change their behaviour. Vargas says although there’s more to be done, the licensing fight has made the group stronger.

ACORN has partnered with TTCriders on transit issues, and with Progress Toronto on changing zoning rules to build affordable housing. The group also trains labour union members on campaigning. Such alliances help grassroots groups share strategies and resources, and amplify one another’s work. It’s also harder for politicians to ignore demands from a host of groups repping different communities and interests.

**THE MONTHS-LONG MOBILIZATIONS** for Palestinian liberation, in Toronto and around the world, have shifted public opinion and challenged institutional support for Israel’s occupation of Palestine. This movement, although globally focused, is necessarily local in its day-to-day work. The mass gatherings organized by groups like the Palestinian Youth Movement, Toronto 4 Palestine, and Jews Say No To Genocide have managed to rattle Toronto’s political establishment. Chow has offered sympathies, but has also engaged in fear-mongering of protests, and turned yet again to policing as a solution. The mayor is not leading the progressive forces — she is scrambling to manage their outrage and determination.

Likewise, a handful of local and provincial politicians have started hinting their concern over police repression of protests. It isn’t surprising that these elected officials represent areas featuring Palestine solidarity groups like East End Acts, Davenport for Ceasefire, and Toronto Centre for Palestine.

The power of organized local groups cannot be underestimated, and has to keep growing and deepening the connections between issues for a more humane political agenda to emerge.



# ABOUT THAT POLICE BUDGET INCREASE...

Earlier this year, Toronto police pushed for a \$20 million budget increase, arguing that these funds were necessary to protect citizens. In the months since Mayor Chow approved the \$20 M increase, raising the police budget to \$1.2 billion, several viral incidents involving police have led people to call for changes, including stricter roles for police and greater accountability. Here we look at a few moments that have caught the public's attention. — DAVID GRAY-DONALD



Police pinned and detained several people at the Mar. 30 Land Day march. This person was not charged.

BRIAN CHIEH

## Cop Repeatedly Kicks Man in Mental Distress on the Subway

In late March, several police officers boarded a stopped TTC subway train in response to a man having a mental health crisis. The police immediately pulled him from his chair onto the ground, and an officer forcefully kicked him in the upper body three times before another officer intervened.

This was caught by a passenger on video and widely shared online, once again raising questions of whether police are qualified to de-escalate mental health crisis situations.

## Citing a Traffic Violation, Hundreds of Cops Crack Down on Pro-Palestine March

At a march promoted as family-friendly on Mar. 30, Palestinian Land Day, police stopped the march in the downtown east, saying those in the truck leading the march had violated the Highway Traffic Act.

After the police held the peaceful demonstrators for around an hour, police numbers swelled and then, according to attendees, chaos broke out, with police pushing marchers into each other and to the ground, and police on horseback riding through the crowd.

Dozens of police vehicles and hundreds of officers were on scene.

In one video, a bystander unaffiliated with the demonstration is grabbed by two police officers, tackled to the ground and then pinned by four officers. In another video, a person is bloodied in the face after being pinned to the ground by multiple police officers. This individual required medical attention. These two were detained but not charged.

Some of the people the path of the mounted police were elderly, in wheelchairs, and others had their kids with them.

Police laid charges on three people, all for interactions with police.

A few days later, six city councillors penned a letter expressing concern that peoples' right to peaceful protest was being threatened. One signer, Lily Cheng, quickly distanced herself from it, saying she didn't agree with the final version of the letter.

The Toronto Police Association went on the attack, calling for councillors Cheng and Amber Morley to be removed from the Police Services Board, and for Mayor Olivia Chow to denounce the letter.

Mayor Chow expressed support for the sentiment of the letter.

BRIAN CHIEH

## Cop Hits Pedestrian with Car Then Drives Away

A police officer turning left in a cruiser struck a pedestrian in the intersection of Dufferin and Liberty while the pedestrian had the right of way. After stopping and talking to the pedestrian for a few seconds, the officer drove away.

Failure to remain at the scene of a collision is a criminal offence. Under the Highway Traffic Act, drivers are required to share contact information, help provide assistance if there are injuries, and cooperate in reporting the incident to authorities.

Video of the collision was posted online on Feb. 21 by Dave Shellnutt, The Biking Lawyer, though the incident happened Jan. 10.

After the footage was posted on social media, police announced an investigation would be conducted by their professional standards unit.

The pedestrian was bruised and their phone was thrown from their hand, but they were not seriously injured.

## Constable Says to Put Car Keys Near Front Door for Thieves

A police constable advised those at an Etobicoke community meeting to put their keys in a Faraday bag by the front door. Doing this, he advised, would help thieves find the keys easily should they break in and would limit confrontations.

Faraday bags stop wireless signals from keys from being read outside the bag, preventing wireless key-copying.

In light of the record levels of car theft in the GTA, the constable's advice was widely viewed as an admission of the police's inability to prevent this type of crime.



BRIAN CHIEH

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# OPEN LETTER AGAINST USING “CIVILITY” TO SILENCE DISSSENT

After a group of rich and powerful elites penned a letter scolding those who protest Israel’s assault on Gaza, over 100 people have signed this response letter. Signatories include artists, doctors, social workers, nurses, lawyers, engineers, and the Jewish Faculty Network Steering Committee. To see the full list of signatories and to sign, use the QR code above.

**I**n early April, The Globe and Mail published three articles calling for “civility.” First, “An open letter to Canada’s political leaders – for the sake of the country’s future” was signed by 51 people, including a number of disgraced ex-politicians. Immediately, a reporter recapped the letter in a Globe article, and then the Globe’s editorial board again reiterated the arguments that “The defence of civility rests on all of us.” The original letter has been widely discussed: for example, CBC’s *The Current* host Matt Galloway referenced it while interviewing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the show.

The letter and follow-ups respond to protests against Israel’s ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, which the Canadian government continues to support diplomatically and through weapons imports and exports. But the letter in the Globe doesn’t engage with the genocide directly and instead only mentions “the current conflict.” Their core argument is that the dissent we’re seeing is harmful to society. They repeat the saying, “Don’t talk unless you can improve the silence.” Conspicuously, they don’t think denouncing genocide would “improve the silence.”

What they choose to say instead reads like ChatGPT was asked to generate a patronizing lecture about Canadian “civility.” The letter includes a list of redundant and unserious recommendations that deal with a range of issues, from school curricula and research to public awareness. They evoke personal responsibility, saying that leaders need to “Help Canadians understand that words and actions... can still contribute to fear and insecurity that weaken us as a society,” as if Canadians are primary school students. Most crucially, they call for more policing of protests.

This letter came just three days after hundreds of Toronto police, using a minor traffic violation as their initial justification, assaulted people at a family-friendly, pro-Palestinian protest, tackled and pinned a bystander and protesters to the ground, rode horses through the crowd, and hospitalized several people.

So what do the letter-writers mean by “civility”? They imply that if one chooses to remain complicit in or profit from Israel’s

disgusting violence, please let them do so undisrupted, peacefully, and with the protection of the police.

Calls to be civil and civilized, rather than uncivil or uncivilized, have been used for generations to demonize people with legitimate grievances and to declare their emotions and forms of expression as illegitimate. This tactic has in the past upheld racism and classism against Indigenous peoples, Black people, poor people and others. Now, appeals for civility are being used as a tactic to try to suppress and dismiss speech that is critical of Israel’s genocide of Palestinians. It is an attempt to silence.

And the silence kills. This is why there are mass movements against Israel, the Canadian government, and complicit corporations like Scotiabank, which holds the largest international stake in Elbit Systems,

Former MP Art Eggleton hired his ex-girlfriend for a government research project and was forced to step down. And former Quebec premier Jean Charest lost his premiership after sending police for over 100 days to crack down on student strikers, then became an oil pipeline lobbyist for Energy East and didn’t disclose that fact to regulators when he met with them about the project, thus throwing the review process into chaos.

Former MP and member of John Tory’s re-election team Barry Campbell is currently a high-powered lobbyist and was a driving force behind this letter. A new precedent in lobbying law was set after the courts heard how, while acting as a lobbyist, Campbell raised tens of thousands of dollars for a sitting politician in 1999.

These are just a few of the people

publishers, as an institute to promote Canadian and British Commonwealth interests abroad.

CIC directors who signed the letter include Peter Donolo (former advisor to Liberal leaders), John English (former MP and military scholar), Chris Kilford (ex-military) and Mary Janigan (ex-journalist, formerly on *Globe & Mail* editorial board). Other signatories have also attended CIC events.

Several other signatories are associated with PEN Canada, an organization that claims to “defend freedom of expression and writers in peril.”

At least seven PEN Canada staff, board or advisory council members signed the letter: Theresa Johnston (PEN Canada office manager), Philip Slayton (former president), Grace Westcott (former executive director), Valerie Connor (author), Mark Kingwell (philosophy professor), Anna Porter (author, publisher) and Karen Walton (screenwriter).

Since Oct. 7, PEN Canada did not directly mention Israel’s assault on Gaza in its newsletters until February. Out of 11 events it put on, only one, in March, focused on Israel-Palestine (specifically how “to bring North American Palestinian and Jewish communities together”). And PEN Canada has not launched a campaign in support of the many Palestinian writers, including Heba Abu Nada, Inas al-Saqa, Omar Abu Shweesh, and Nour al-Din Hajjaj, who have been killed in the last six months.

Refaat Alareer, one of those murdered writers, wrote the well-known poem “If I Must Die.” It concludes with the lines, “let it bring hope / let it be a tale.” He says, and we repeat: Let the story of this horrific violence be told. Let it resound against the silence.

The Globe letter’s call for civility attempts to bury Israel’s abhorrent violence against Palestinians beneath the values of empathy and mutual respect. Of course, empathy and mutual respect seem good. We should try to understand each other!

But there is no understanding without truth. And the truth cannot be muffled by nice platitudes, no matter how many out-of-touch elites sign on in a desperate bid for cover. The Palestinian cry for freedom is louder, clearer, and more urgent than ever. And here, in so-called Canada, there is no future if we do not take up its call.

**“The truth cannot be muffled by nice platitudes, no matter how many out-of-touch elites sign on in a desperate bid for cover.”**

the main manufacturer of Israeli weapons.

Taking a look at the letter’s signatories, it is no surprise why they would take such interest in propping up calls to civility.

Ed Burzynsky, for instance, is co-founder and current co-chair of the Scotiabank Photography Prize. The prize and other arts organizations funded by Scotiabank are currently under pressure from the “No Arms in the Arts” coalition — a group of artists and cultural workers who are calling for Scotiabank’s divestment from Elbit.

Ironically, at least four prominent signatories of this letter who support the suppression of public dissent have violated various codes of ethics in their careers.

Former Toronto mayor John Tory, whose administration worked with police to use excessive violence to evict unhoused people from of encampments in parks, resigned promptly after having an affair with one of his subordinates. Former federal finance minister Bill Morneau resigned after breaking multiple ethics rules related to taking paid trips from the WE Charity.

lecturing us about civility and personal responsibility.

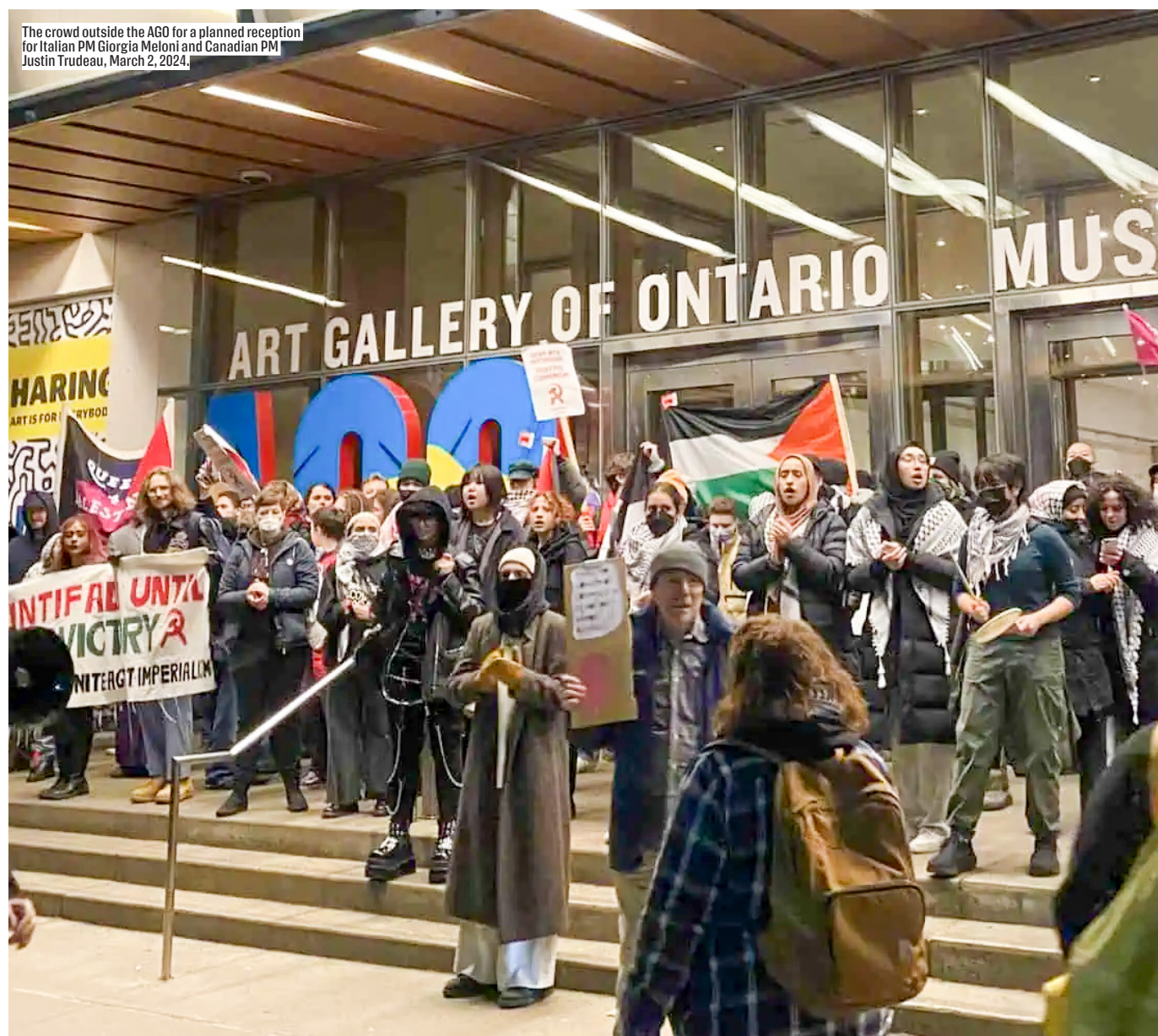
Supporters of Israel are also signatories. Bernie Farber has called criticism of Canadian ties to the Israeli military antisemitic, like when people called out Heather Reisman for her support of the HESEG Foundation for Lone Soldiers. John Fraser, former Liberal MPP, denounced current MPP Sarah Jama for supporting Palestine. Ted Cape, a former media exec, made his own YouTube vlog spreading the now-widely disproven “beheaded babies” lie. Bruce Leboff is a board member with the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal. And Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl regularly posts and shares pro-Israel content on social media.

The signatory group is also connected to two significant organizations: the Canadian International Council (four signatories) and PEN Canada (seven).

The Canadian International Council (CIC) was founded in 1928 by members of Canada’s elite, including businessmen, military officials, and newspaper



The crowd outside the AGO for a planned reception for Italian PM Giorgia Meloni and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, March 2, 2024.



# LESSONS FOR TODAY FROM THE CHRISTIE PITS RIOT

A recent *Toronto Star* op-ed invoking the memory of the 1933 Christie Pits Riot to smear pro-Palestinian protest was absurd, argues Independent Jewish Voices member Ira Lewy. Those opposing fascism and dehumanization back then would have joined the protest outside the AGO in March.

BY IRA LEWY

**A**s someone who studies fascist culture and history, I'm worried we are being led to take the wrong lessons from the Christie Pits Riots.

The events of Aug. 16, 1933, which would later become known as the Christie Pits Riot, are the seminal example of Toronto working class and immigrant history. Communities stood together against violent hatred from white supremacists.

In the summer of 1933, Anglo-Canadian supremacists had organized themselves in so-called swastika clubs. Members saw their Anglo-supremacy (i.e. British supremacy) in the same way that Nazis saw their racial supremacy.

Tensions rose to a breaking point when fascists brought a swastika banner to a baseball game in Christie Pits to incite the Jewish and Italian athletes and their fans. The resulting violence saw the swastika banner seized and torn up, and the city enacted anti-hate speech laws in response.

At the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) on Mar. 2, outside a scheduled reception for Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, hundreds of people protested at entrances denouncing the complicity of both governments' support of Israel's slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza.

A similar protest was held the next week outside a Liberal party fundraiser dinner in the Yorkville neighbourhood hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland

and Minister Ya'ara Saks, preventing them from attending, according to police.

Despite what Flavio Volpe, president of Canada's Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, wrote for *The Toronto Star* in his Mar. 7 op-ed, "AGO protest was intimidation fuelled by police inaction," those antifascists in 1933 would have been supportive of the protesters.

We must not be drawn to the wrong lessons, especially from Volpe, who has liked and shared social media posts by supporters of Israel's current campaign and is the son of hard-line Israel supporter and former MP Joe Volpe.

It should be noted that Flavio Volpe was given quite the media platform: in addition to his *Star* op-ed, he was also quoted about the protest in a reported *Star* article

and in separate articles in the *Globe & Mail* and *National Post*, and he was a guest on a *Global* talk radio show. The *Star* published no critical opinions responding directly to Volpe.

Let's remember, though, that those who protested at the AGO were confronting complicity and indifference in the face of the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the far-right, fascist-adjacent Italian prime minister's visit. In doing so, they were following in the footsteps of those who fought the Anglo-supremacists in Christie Pits.

Invoking Christie Pits as justification for further police crackdowns on protest, as Volpe does, may lead one to believe he isn't offended so much by fascists as much as by disorderly protest of them.

Back in 1933, *The Toronto Daily Star* (now *The Toronto Star*) called the anti-fascist and swastika-waving rioters alike as "hoodlums" and as a "disorderly" mob. The police did not solve the problem of emboldened fascists in 1933 in Toronto. It was a mass community response that did.

It is a further perversion of history that Volpe claims protesters' use of slogans like "there is only one solution" and "intifada" (his phrasing) is somehow similar to the use of "Heil Hitler" in 1933 at Christie Pits. The full slogan, "There is only one solution; intifada revolution," means the solution to the violence and abuse enacted on the Palestinian people is in resisting and overthrowing the brutal status quo.

In 1933, Nazis in Toronto, honouring their leader with shouts of "Heil Hitler" did so to establish their power and to intimidate groups they saw as inferior. It was a slogan which divided Toronto into two groups: those who heard the call and recognized it as affirming their supposed superiority, and those who recognized it as a call for their subjugation and eventual extermination.

In contrast, the call for intifada is a call to resist systemic violence. It is a call for an end to Israel's occupation and apartheid. These two contexts are not the same.

The protest at the AGO had nothing to do with Toronto's Jewish community, aside from the fact a number of Jews critical of Israel were there participating in it. It is absurd then for Volpe and others to assert that these slogans are meant to intimidate Jews — which they aren't — when he is talking about an Italian-Canadian friendship association event.

It is likewise unconscionable for Liberal MP Marco Mendicino, who was heckled by protesters while entering and exiting the event, to smear those present as "disgusting antisemitic protestors."

Giorgia Meloni, the guest of honour at the reception at the AGO, has a well-established history with the Italian far right. She spent her childhood in the youth wing of the Italian fascist party, has participated in spreading antisemitic conspiracy theories (e.g. about "globalists"), hosted alt-right former Trump advisor Steve Bannon at official events and publicly honoured a member of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini's Italian Social Republic government in 2020.

To claim the rioters of Christie Pits would be on her side is ludicrous.

Trudeau and Meloni are perfect targets for protesters and well in line with the history of those who marched against fascism 91 years ago.

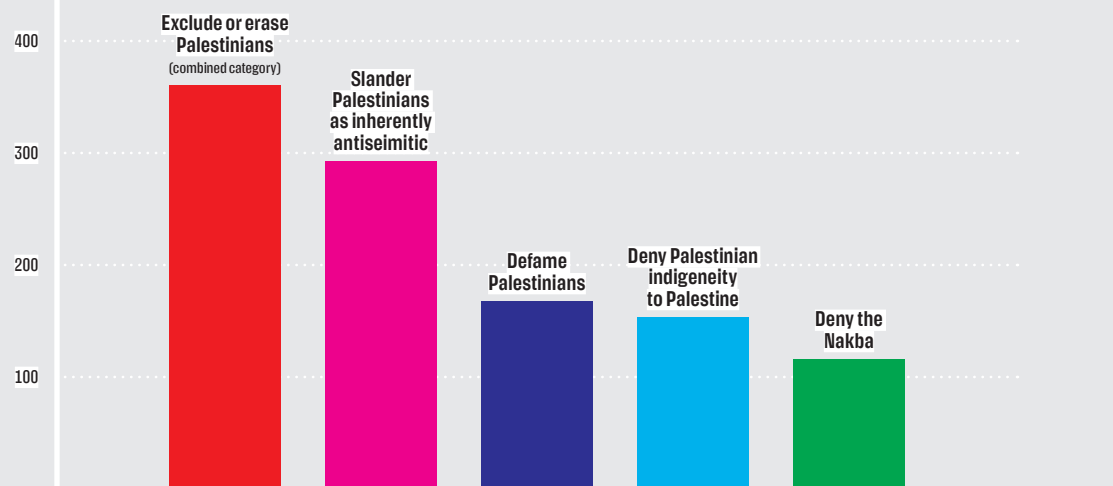
# INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY 2024



**Endorsed by:** Ontario Federation of Labour, Toronto & York Region Labour Council, Durham Region Labour Council, CUPE Local 1281, CUPE Local 3902, CUPE Local 4400, Consulate General of Cuba in Toronto, Masar Badil (the Palestinian Alternative Revolutionary Path Movement), Bolshevik Tendency, Communist Workers Circle, International League of People's Struggles, Jewish Anti-Zionist Network Toronto, Marxist Workers Group, NDP Socialist Caucus, Samidoun Toronto-Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, Socialist Action, Worker-communist Party of Iran, Worker-Communist Party of Kurdistan



## Top forms of anti-Palestinian racism (APR) based on examples identified by CJPME study



# ANTI-PALESTINIAN RACISM

New reports and recent events show how deeply ingrained discrimination against Palestinians is in Canada and the U.S., and how normalized and ignored it is by many

BY FERNANDO ARCE  
AND DAVID GRAY-DONALD

“**T**he earliest mention of ‘terrorism’ in a [U.S.] federal statute, in 1969, dealt specifically with restricting humanitarian aid to Palestinians and inaugurated a pattern of rendering Palestinians synonymous with terrorism.”

This is from a report published in February by Palestine Legal and the Centre for Constitutional Rights, titled *Anti-Palestinian at the Core: The Origins and Growing Dangers of U.S. Antiterrorism Law*.

The authors detail the various methods the U.S. and Israel used to label Palestinian refugees — who had been expelled from historic Palestine in the 1948 Nakba (the catastrophe) and again in 1967 after the Six Day War — as terrorist threats.

Then-New York congressman Leonard Farbstein said as much in a 1969 speech when he claimed United Nations refugee camps for Palestinians were “being used for training purposes and the young children for whom the schools are being built and who are being fed and clothed are being trained as terrorists in these refugee camps.”

Today, pro-Israel advocacy groups, pundits, and politicians are using similar talking points to justify withholding funding from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the largest aid agency in Gaza by far. In January, Canada, the U.S., and other nations cut off funding to UNRWA. Following mounting public pressure and a lack of evidence that UNRWA employees had played a role in the Oct. 7 attacks, as Israel claimed, the European Union and then Canada announced they would resume funding.

The authors of the *Anti-Palestinian at its Core* report also point out that six of the eight nations the U.S. has ever officially

designated as state sponsors of terrorism are in the Middle East and North Africa, and for each of those six, “accusations of sheltering or supporting Palestinian liberation movements played a major role in their blacklisting.”

Those countries have included Iraq, Libya, South Yemen, Syria, Iran, and Sudan.

A key condition for removing Sudan from the list in 2021 was that it had to recognize Israel as a nation and normalize relations with it.

### Shutting down solidarity

Accusing Palestinians of being terrorists, or accusing those who show solidarity with Palestinians of being terrorist sympathizers, is at the heart of what the Arab Canadian Lawyers Association (ACLA) defines as anti-Palestinian racism.

It’s “a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanizes Palestinians or their narratives,” the organization said in a 2022 report.

This form of racism seeks to shut down any kind of conversation about, much less any solidarity with, Palestine or Palestinians. It can include being treated by employers and governments as a threat for no reason other than being Palestinian. It denies space for Palestinian voices, perspectives, and lived experiences, often leading to self-censorship.

In December, Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) released a report that found over 500 instances of anti-Palestinian racism in statements from non-profit organizations, media, and governments throughout 2022.

The report found that one of the “most significant mechanisms” of anti-Palestinian racism is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of antisemitism — both because it “threatens to suppress Palestinian perspectives” and because it’s officially been adopted by Canada’s

Liberal government and numerous provinces, including Ontario.

“Critics have long warned that IHRA conflates antisemitism with criticism of Israel, and for that reason, it is seen by many as a threat to political expression about Israel, including forms of activism in support of Palestinian rights,” the report notes.

### Racist political consensus

The fact that the Liberals have adopted the definition is “extremely dangerous, harmful, and controversial,” says Dyala Hamzah, associate professor of Arab history at the Université de Montréal, because it severely restricts people’s ability to criticize Israel’s government and its actions.

But it’s nothing new.

There is “something continuous when it comes to Palestine-Israel,” says Hamzah, who is Palestinian, referring to how successive Canadian governments have supported Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land while demonizing those who criticize it.

Like their previous Conservative counterparts, Trudeau’s Liberals have made this clear by continuously favouring Israel over Palestine in international trade, including updating the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement, and approving weapons exports and imports. (The Canadian government recently announced a pause on new arms export approvals, though existing approvals remain in effect.)

Likewise, his government’s powerful support for a Conservative motion to denounce the Boycott, Divest, Sanction (BDS) movement in 2016 was also meant to shut down Palestinian solidarity.

“What this tells me is that there is a cross-partisan agreement that Palestinians have been, since the start, the sacrificial lamb that was necessary to allow Israel to be born, to thrive, and to continue to exist,” says Hamzah.

### Denying, defaming, and erasing

CJPME’s report found that some of the most common examples of anti-Palestinian racism include silencing or excluding Palestinians; defaming Palestinians as antisemitic, terrorists, or terrorist sympathizers; and erasing Palestinians and their history.

This can include denying the existence of Palestine and Palestinians or denigrating Palestinian society, as happened recently when B.C. legislative assembly member Selina Robinson said Palestine was “a crappy piece of land” before Israeli colonization.

“Non-profit organizations — several of them self-defined as pro-Israel — were the worst offenders, producing two-thirds (67 per cent) of the recorded examples of APR [anti-Palestinian Racism],” the report states. “Media organizations were responsible for most of the remainder (33 per cent), with statements from other miscellaneous purveyors of anti-Palestinian Racism comprising the rest.”

The CJPME report, which only covers 2022, does not capture the everyday experiences of anti-Palestinian racism that many people face in Canada, like being called a terrorist for wearing a Palestinian keffiyeh (scarf) in public.

### Ignoring violence against Palestinians and those supporting Palestine

Since Oct. 7, there have been over a dozen instances of people across the country being physically violent to or making threats toward pro-Palestinian protesters. This included a man in Thornhill attacking people with a nail gun in March at a protest and yelling, “Every fucking Palestinian will die!”

A few days later, also in Thornhill, a woman wearing a keffiyeh was kicked hard in the abdomen by someone holding an Israeli flag. The woman had been part of a group protesting against the illegal sale of land in the occupied West Bank that was being promoted by a local synagogue.

The moment was captured in multiple videos. It took pro-Palestinian protesters pressuring the police for over an hour for the person to be arrested. Police also arrested two other pro-Israel protesters.

One pro-Israel protester not arrested that day made a throat-slitting motion towards the pro-Palestinian side seven times in a short exchange caught on video. In December, at a protest at the Avenue Rd. overpass of Highway 401, pro-Israel protester Nicole Ziegler was seen on video making the same throat-slitting gesture. Ziegler was later arrested and charged with uttering threats/death or causing bodily harm.

Almost no politicians have denounced these instances of violence aimed at Palestinians and their supporters.

This pattern extends to Gaza, as Israel continues its bombing and ground invasion campaign. Politicians and pundits here rarely humanize the Palestinians killed by Israel, and they portray pro-Palestinian protests as dangerous and hateful, full of supposed “terrorists” or “terror supporters” and “antisemites,” and they call for their deportation.

The CJPME report authors recommend that governments, nonprofits and other organizations include anti-Palestinian racism in their anti-racism materials.

They also urge Canadian media to take special care when reporting on Israel-Palestine, as poor reporting can often be a source of anti-Palestinian racism, contributing to the prevalence of racist stereotypes about Palestinians.

Asked how she’s able to handle the daily onslaught of anti-Palestinian racism, professor Hamzah says, “By constantly pushing back, pushing back, pushing back.”



BY MOLLY KRAFT

**G**lobal News' article "Investigation: The antisemitism that Oct. 7 unleashed in Canada" was maddening to read because it oversimplifies antisemitism and conflates anti-Israel sentiment with anti-Jewish discrimination. In a time when claims of antisemitism are being used to silence and criminalize pro-Palestinian activists, it is imperative to parse the arguments of the *Global* piece.

### Vandalizing and targeting Jewish buildings vs. legitimate protest

The article's first section focuses on acts of vandalism and property destruction aimed at Jewish buildings. The specific example given is:

"On Nov. 9, bullets hit the school entrance [to Yeshiva Gedola, a Jewish elementary school in Montreal]. Three days later, it happened again. Students were not in class at the time and there were no injuries, but the community was taken aback."

The shots were fired at night when the schools were closed.

Targeting Jewish institutions, for their Jewishness, is always antisemitic.

But then, without evidence, the *Global* authors connect this instance to pro-Palestine activity by referencing a Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) report from Oct. 12, just five days after Oct. 7, which warns that what is happening in Palestine and Israel may lead to increased antisemitism here.

This is an inappropriate conclusion to draw without outlining both the history of antisemitism here in Canada, and the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Since no arrests or convictions have been made in this or most other cases involving vandalism of Jewish buildings, we don't know who is behind these acts or their motivations.

However, it's critical that we distinguish between this type of menacing antisemitic vandalism and legitimate protest.

For example, protesting at a synagogue in Thornhill, ON, that was hosting a real estate sale for illegal settlements in the West Bank, is not antisemitic, even if the presence of protesters outside a synagogue might make some people uncomfortable. The target was realtors selling land in Israel and illegal settlements in the West Bank, not Jewish people. Israel's genocidal campaign to eradicate Palestinians from their land, including stealing their homes and then selling the lands to the international community is more than just uncomfortable, it's also illegal.

### Criticism of support for Israel vs. far-right antisemitism

The *Global* article's second section focuses on Vancouver restaurant owner Marcus Stiller, who had an Israeli flag in his store window before and after Oct. 7. After Oct. 7 one reviewer said the restaurant supported genocide. This is confrontational and possibly up for debate if you don't believe "genocide" is the word to use, but it is not in itself antisemitic. Stiller's religion isn't being targeted; the restaurant's support for the state of Israel is.

What does Stiller think the Israeli flag represents *right now*? The same flag is waved gleefully by Israeli soldiers who kill civilians and demolish civilian homes across Gaza.

The restaurant also, in November, had a swastika and slogan meaning "Heil Hitler" graffitied on the back of it. These are far more antisemitic than the "accusation of supporting genocide." The article positions the online accusation as somehow linked to



# MEDIA CONFUSION ABOUT ANTISEMITISM

Molly Kraft with Jews Say No To Genocide on what is and isn't antisemitism, and how a major outlet fumbled the topic

the alt-right slogan and swastika, or a natural next step in the progression of the antisemitism Stiller is facing.

It must be noted that neo-Nazi groups have been opportunistically attaching themselves to and infiltrating pro-Palestinian movements to try to push antisemitic beliefs, incite violence, and pass blame off on Palestinian liberation movements.

Although I can't be certain who spray painted Stiller's restaurant, I am quite confident that the question of whether he supports the ongoing genocide should be considered separate from having neo-Nazi symbols and graffiti spray painted on his building. Those symbols are completely out of sync with the language, symbols, and beliefs of Palestinian liberation movements.

### One person preaching antisemitism does not represent an entire people

The next section describes an extreme example. Younus Kathrada, a preacher at Dar al-Ihsan Islamic Centre based in Victoria, B.C., preaches a particular fringe vision of Israel-Palestine as a "religious war" against "filthy Zionists." He has been quoted saying things that range from needing to defeat the Zionists to "We pray that Allah grants them victory over the criminal Jews."

This conflation of Israel and Jews is definitely antisemitic. Israel does not represent all Jews, and all Jews globally don't support the state of Israel.

But this example is misplaced for a few reasons.

First, Kathrada has been saying similar things since 2018. This is nothing new and was not instigated by the violence on Oct. 7 or after. Second, his views are not representative of all Muslims, all Palestinians, or even all who hate Jewish people. In fact, he was denounced in 2021 by the B.C. Muslim Association as an "extremist" and part of a "fringe group."

To place this example in the centre of a discussion related to Canada after Oct. 7

serves to collapse years of complex dialogue within Muslim and Arab communities around Israel and its human rights abuses towards a predominantly Muslim population in Palestine.

The inclusion of this example is actually rooted in Islamophobia; suggesting that this is part of a new or rising antisemitism is almost like using extreme right-wing Christian preachers to suggest that all Christians globally are violently antisemitic, homophobic, and transphobic.

### Campus unrest

The campus section of the *Global* article confuses feeling unsafe with actual violence or antisemitism.

After Oct. 7, the article notes that Jewish students began to wonder, "Are these [Pro-Palestine] protests condemning us?" The students, and the authors, collapse Israel and Jewishness. This makes sense considering that many Jewish students in North America are provided a very particular worldview by Zionist organizations, one that ensures protest of Israel is characterized as attacking the Jewishness of Israel, rather than its human rights violations.

This section also covers a controversial event at Concordia University in November in which there was an altercation between the groups Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR), which was doing a fundraiser for Gaza, and StartUp Nation, a Zionist or pro-Israel student group holding an event to raise awareness about the Israeli hostages taken on Oct. 7. A fight broke out but it is still unclear who started it, what was said, and which side is to blame.

Reading the *Global* piece might leave you with the false impression that this is simply one of many antisemitic incidents where Jewish students are being targeted for their Jewishness, rather than campuses across the country grappling with the reality of Zionist, anti-Zionist, and pro-Palestinian movements sharing spaces on campus.

Another example in this section describes a sessional lecturer from the University of Montreal telling a Jewish student to "go back to Poland" and calling her a "whore." Both of these things are totally inappropriate from a teacher to a student.

Telling Jews to go back to Poland, just like telling any immigrant to "go back" to their home, is xenophobic — rooted in fears of what is different from ourselves. It's especially complex and leads to antisemitism because it assumes all Jewish people are a monolithic group from one area of the world; something that simply isn't true.

What the article doesn't cover is that the video of this incident is from the same Concordia protest noted above — a heated brawl between 50 or more people with dozens screaming profanities at each other. One Zionist was reportedly yelling at a student that she should be raped.

### Pro-Palestine advocacy is not inherently antisemitic

The final section begins with a baseless claim of a pro-Palestinian rally targeting Mount Sinai Hospital in downtown Toronto. The protest — Hands Off Rafah — was a march through many parts of the downtown, as *The Grind* described in detail at the time. One protester, known as Spiderman4Palestine on Instagram, climbed scaffolding outside the hospital to wave a flag, just as he did at the Eaton Centre, and multiple other locations on the march route.

Despite zero evidence that this hospital was a target of the event, and with hundreds of Jewish people in attendance supporting the cause, politicians jumped at the chance to characterize this rally as antisemitic. This example suggests that even being near a symbol of Jewish community — if you are against the state of Israel's actions — will get you called an antisemite in Toronto. This is a dangerous suggestion because it collapses Israel and Jewishness and makes it very hard to fight actual antisemitism. If everything is antisemitic, nothing is antisemitic, there becomes no credible way to talk about real hate, or link it to other forms of oppression.

This section ends with Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) saying that criticism of Israel and Jews is "one and the same." Here Israel is not just the proxy for Jewish people, Fogel claims they are one concept, one people, one nation, one group. This allows a dangerous conflation of all pro-Palestinian movements as being against Jewish people, something that is simply untrue.

### So what is antisemitism and why is it so important to challenge false definitions?

Antisemitism is hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews because they are Jews. Criticizing Israel — its violence, displacement, torture, and murder of Palestinians — is entirely legitimate, just like criticism of any other state.

This veers into antisemitism when it is assumed that the Jewish-Israeli settler state possesses some kind of unique power globally. Any unique power it does hold, has been bestowed by the most powerful and violent settler colonial states, including the U.S., the U.K. and Canada.

The weaponization of Jewish trauma has led to dangerous treatment of Palestinian liberation movements. It also makes a mockery of fighting antisemitism. Articles like the *Global* one limit meaningful attempts to connect these struggles and link global fights for justice, which are essential for real Jewish safety.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford (middle) and Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow (right) were foes during elections. Now they're acting chummy in public.

# THE NON-MARKET HOUSING PUSH

To keep rent prices down, more needs to be built, and existing stock needs to be preserved, say advocates

BY FERNANDO ARCE

**W**hen Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow announced earlier this year \$100 million for the Scarborough co-op development, it made news as one of the most significant investments of its kind in many years.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford soon after announced the province was “rewarding” the city with another \$114 million from its Building Faster Fund. Ford, who had previously said Chow would be an “unmitigated disaster” for Toronto if elected mayor, was now congratulating her and the city for meeting and exceeding housing targets set for the city by Queen’s Park for 2023.

But what does it all mean? How far can \$214 million go to fixing the housing crisis?

By itself, not very far, says Courtney Lockhart, associate director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF). Units aren’t expected to be built until 2035, so they won’t have an immediate impact on the average cost of rent in the city.

But Lockhart sees it as progress if it’s part of a larger strategy that focuses not only on building new supply but protecting our current stock via community housing and land acquisition investments.

“The bottom line is that we’re in this crisis because our housing needs and affordability needs in our communities are not matching the new supply or existing programs or social services,” Lockhart tells *The Grind*. “A goal for the community housing sector is to double the amount of non-market housing in Canada.” This would put Canada on par with similar nations, she says.

This requires continuing to invest in programs like the Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition (MURA). That program was once championed by former councillor and mayoral candidate Ana Bailão, who narrowly lost to Chow last year. The MURA program

started at \$20 million per year in 2022, and received a \$100-million investment over a three-year period in this year’s budget, which works out to \$33 million per year.

The “program is one of the biggest municipal land acquisition programs in Ontario,” says Amina Dibe, senior manager of government relations with the CHF. “But also one of the few.”

The program allows non-profits and land trusts to partner to preserve existing affordable units, which are commonly lost through demolitions, demovictions (an eviction for a demolition and redevelopment), conversions to condos, or increased rents at turnover. This “really leaves fewer and fewer affordable housing options,” explains Lockhart, adding that between 2016 and 2021, Canada lost 370,000 homes like this.

By contrast, only about 91,000 co-op units were built nationwide between roughly 1973 and 1993.

“We know the most affordable homes are the ones that we already have,” says Lockhart. “So we need to do both: protect the existing affordable housing stock, and build more.”

Ahead of April’s federal budget, the CHF has also been building partnerships with various market, community and government stakeholders to push for a national acquisition program.

Once built by 2035, the Scarborough co-op project at 2444 Eglinton Ave. E. is expected to provide over 900 homes, including 612 rent-geared-to-income affordable ones. This will be a significant addition to the roughly 17,000 co-op units completed in Canada in the last two decades.

It’s a start. But according to a 2018 CMHC report, “Canada’s co-op housing sector is estimated to represent approximately 0.7 per cent of the country’s total housing stock,” and most were built between 1973 and 1993, after which time successive Liberal and Conservative governments began slashing funds.

“It’s important for governments of different orders to be aligned,” Lockhart stresses. “No government is off the hook until we end homelessness and housing need.”

**WHAT IS CO-OP HOUSING?** Housing co-operatives (or co-ops) provide at-cost housing for their members, and the housing is controlled by the members, not by an outside landlord. They tend to be a cheaper option than housing owned by private or corporate landlords. Members are neither homeowners nor tenants, but they enjoy the benefits of both. They democratically decide how decisions are made about maintenance, capital repairs and monthly charges.

## SOUTH JUNCTION'S HOUSING FUTURE

BY FERNANDO ARCE

**IN TORONTO**, affordable spaces for artists are disappearing. The lofts at 888 Dupont St. (corner of Ossington Street) are now demolished. Condos are under construction in its place. Artscape went into receivership last year, and while many of its artist spaces are seemingly going to be maintained, some aren’t.

The South Junction Triangle just east of the Bloor GO station (near Dundas West and Bloor), has some of the city’s last cheap artist spaces. They are buildings with character, some so much so that the roofs are leaking.

Condo developers also have their eyes on the area at the intersection of multiple transit lines.

Muzzo Group has plans for 221 Sterling Rd., KingSett Capital for 1423-1437 Bloor St. W., and Lamb Sterling Corp. plans to build at 1405 Bloor St. W. All of the proposals are for luxury condos being marketed as “attainable” instead of “affordable.”

“To me, that was like a click,” says Cristina Costa, co-director of South Junction Triangle GROVs Neighbourhood Association. “It was like, really? Attainable how? What’s the starting point for downpayments? I couldn’t afford to live in these buildings.”

The community group has been opposing these three projects at the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). While not opposed to development or densification of the area, they say they want to see the right type of housing built — that is, missing middle housing options that include structures like triplexes and fourplexes.

Daniel Rotsztain, a Toronto-based urban geographer, says it’s not a case of NIMBYism (not in my back yard-ism), but of “exclusionary zoning practices that force development in these areas.” He agrees the area “should welcome density, but not at the cost of demolishing the community anchors that make a city worth living in.”

The group also says the process itself — from appeals at the OLT to lack of transparency from the city — is rotten and favours condo developers.

For instance, in 2022 the group successfully fought to have 221 Sterling Rd., a three-storey building housing live-work spaces for artists, officially designated as a cultural heritage site. The complex also includes 225 and 227 Sterling Rd. But developer Muzzo appealed that and got it reversed, opening the possibility of demolition and replacement with three 20-storey condo towers.

This February, the group was hit with a \$10,000 bill for legal fees at the request of KingSett Capital after losing a separate appeal.

With so many projects either underway or in the process of being greenlit and residents hitting procedural walls, they are uncertain of what the new look of the once-historical and artist-driven area will be — and whether they’ll still be able to afford to call it home.





Photo of a snapped switch on Line 1 on March 1, shared with electrician and journalist Megan Kinch.

# OH, SNAP!

**A snapped switch rail. Buried reports about the Scarborough RT derailment. Shelagh Pizey-Allen with advocacy group TTCriders asks: What's going on at the TTC?**

BY SHELAGH PIZEY-ALLEN

**T**he TTC unexpectedly shut down a section of the Line 1 subway during rush hour on Friday, Mar. 1, because a broken switch rail was discovered overnight.

Acting quickly to complete urgent safety repairs makes sense. But a snapped switch rail is not normal wear and tear, and the TTC has not been transparent with the public about the incident or the state of subway maintenance.

The TTC's media relations account posted about the cause of the incident only after electrician and journalist Megan Kinch posted a photo on X/Twitter that had been sent to her.

**Here are three important questions that the snapped switch rail raises:**

#### **Is the TTC being maintained properly?**

The broken switch was discovered between Spadina and St. Andrew stations, which was one of the reduced speed zones implemented by the TTC in early winter after conducting an annual test of the subway track alignment. After questioning from city councillors at a February TTC board meeting, TTC staff admitted that there were an "abnormal" number of reduced speed zones compared to previous years but did not provide further details.

Transit expert Steve Munro has pointed out that the TTC had hoped for years to purchase its own track geometry equipment so they could conduct testing more regularly, but the project stopped appearing in budget request documents in 2020.

#### **Has the TTC learned its lessons from the Scarborough RT derailment?**

After the shocking derailment of the Scarborough RT in July 2023, the TTC brought on external consultants to investigate and make recommendations. The initial findings that broken anchor bolts were to blame for the accident were shared in a PowerPoint presentation at a TTC board meeting, but the detailed reports were never shared in a public meeting. That is, until Steve Munro discovered the consultant reports on the TTC's website. The TTC says it will share the reports publicly in April.

The consultant reports contain shocking details. One consultant wrote that even before the derailment happened, he had expressed concerns to the TTC in early 2023 about the way the agency prioritizes defects and conducts inspections.

The same consultant wrote that if the TTC took his advice and trained its track inspectors in the risks of "combination

defects," meaning multiple defects that together increase risks, areas would be prioritized differently and could require a reduced speed zone. Another report states that "some actions linked to preventive maintenance were no longer carried out once the [Scarborough RT] line was announced to be closing. Furthermore, the anchor bolts were never subjected to preventive maintenance."

The reports raise many questions that have yet to be answered. Has the TTC implemented expert advice about how it deals with defects and repairs? Who decided to stop doing preventive maintenance on the Scarborough RT? Why were so many reduced speed zones implemented this winter?

#### **Will the federal government do its part to fund the TTC's repair needs?**

After the deadly Russell Hill subway crash in 1995 that killed three people and injured dozens, the TTC instituted a "state of good repair" program to prioritize system maintenance.

Today, the TTC's infrastructure is aging and its state-of-good-repair backlog is projected to rise by \$8.2 billion over the next 10 years, even though city councillors recently voted to prioritize state-of-good-repair work over building new transit projects.

The federal government has promised a Permanent Public Transit Fund coming in 2026, but transit agencies want the funding sped up. The CEOs of public transit agencies in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal made the unusual move of issuing a joint statement urging the federal government to make the funds available this year for urgently needed projects.

In Toronto, one of those urgent projects is ordering new subway trains. New trains are needed to add capacity both on Line 1 (Yonge-University) and on future subway extensions which are under construction, and to replace the aging Line 2 (Bloor-Danforth) subway trains. Without new trains, subway service will become less reliable, and Toronto will miss its chance to install sliding safety doors at the edge of subway platforms in the future.

TTC staff warned back in 2006 that the aging Scarborough RT vehicles needed to be replaced. With the federal government's unwillingness to chip in for new subway trains today, are we seeing history repeat itself?

The TTC needs more resources to keep the system safe and well-maintained. At the same time, transit riders deserve more transparency about what the TTC is doing to make sure that a derailment never happens again.



MARK RUBIN

# ONTARIO DRAGGING ITS HEELS ON CHILD CARE

The \$10-a-day child care system is already making a big difference for some families. What will it take to make the promise a reality for all?

BY CAROLYN FERNS

**L**yndsay MacKay knew it would be hard to find a child care space in Toronto. The east-end mom and professor of early childhood education started researching programs in her neighbourhood as soon as she found out she was expecting.

“At five months pregnant I had our name on 15 waitlists — but almost a year later, we have no idea if we will get a spot before my maternity leave is up,” she says.

“It’s very stressful not knowing if I’ll have affordable, quality care for my baby. There are a lot of families in my neighbourhood and very few infant spaces.”

The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan (CWELCC) is bringing \$10-a-day child care to families all across the country. But if you are a family in

Ontario, you could be forgiven for wondering when \$10-a-day will get here — and when will it start increasing your chance of finding a child care space before your kid starts school. As headlines warn of growing waitlists, it’s understandable to worry that we are heading in the wrong direction.

The truth is that the new system is already making a huge difference for a lot of families, but the Ontario government could be doing much more to make it a reality for all. Currently over 92 per cent of Ontario’s child care programs are part of the CWELCC system, meaning that more than 400,000 families have seen their child care fees more than cut in half over the past two years.

According to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives’ annual report on child-care fees, in Toronto the median infant child care fee has dropped from \$1,866 a month to \$903 a month, and median

preschool fees are down from \$1260 to \$637 a month. Both will continue to decrease until we reach an average of \$10 a day, or a bit over \$200 per month.

Families who have seen fee reductions from the program share how life-changing more affordable child care is, especially during this time of high inflation.

But the number of families who are waiting for a child-care space has gone up. As researchers and advocates warned years before fee reductions began, as the price of child care goes down, the number of families trying to access a space will rise. It’s soaring now. As the *Canadian Press* reported, in regions with centralized waitlists those lists have more than doubled and some are thousands of children long.

This demand boom must be met by an ambitious plan to expand programs and to recruit and retain more staff. And this is where Ontario is falling down.

We are still playing catch-up to the rest of the country. Ontario was the last province to sign a child-care agreement with the federal government, and the Ontario government still hasn’t delivered a long-promised funding formula nearly two years after joining the program. That means funding has stayed nearly stagnant for centres whose budgets operate on a knife’s edge.

Most troubling of all, while Ontario has been happy to accept billions in federal funding to lower child care fees, it hasn’t upped its own provincial funding — critical operating grants that help child care programs pay the bills. In fact, during years of high inflation, provincial child care allocations under the Ford government are lower today than when Ford was first elected in 2018. This is what is making child care programs so financially precarious.

While the Ontario budget, released in March, maintained plans to include child care spaces in new elementary school buildings, the budget contained no new spending announcements for child care.

We also need programs to be expanding. But the Ontario government’s “start-up grants” for new child-care centres cover less than one-third of the cost of starting a program. And provincial underfunding has left new child-care spaces in schools waiting years to be built.

An even bigger challenge in expanding spaces is recruiting and retaining educators to staff the programs. The low wages deter educators from making licensed child care their career. In 2022, 78 per cent of Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) earned less than \$25 per hour. And while Ontario has pledged to raise the wage floor to \$23.86, experts say this is far from what is needed to solve the workforce crisis. The Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario calls for a wage grid starting at \$30 to \$40 per hour for RECEs and \$25 for non-RECE staff.

By contrast to the troubles in Ontario, other provinces are surging ahead. Half of provinces and territories have already reached an average of \$10-a-day fees. P.E.I. has a funding formula and wage grid to provide stable funding to child care programs. Nova Scotia recently committed to a defined benefit pension plan for ECEs to help with retention.

Getting to \$10-a-day for all is a big goal, but it’s doable.

So what is the hold up in Ontario? We need our provincial government to start behaving like an equal partner. Ontario must develop a comprehensive child care strategy, with more provincial child care funding, a fair funding formula, and a wage grid to retain and recruit more ECEs.

Says MacKay, “Before \$10-a-day child care was announced we weren’t sure if or how we would afford to have children. If we don’t find a space in time, we aren’t sure what we’re going to do. We want our child to be cared for by RECEs, in a quality program where they can learn, grow, and play with their peers. It’s important to us.”

It should be important to the Ontario government too. By investing in child care as a public good, Ontario can ensure that all families have access to the quality care and education our children deserve.

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*Carolyn Ferns is Public Policy Coordinator at the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care and a board member of Child Care Now and the Childcare Resource and Research Unit.*



Highway 403 in Mississauga



# MISSISSAUGA AT A CROSSROADS

On June 10, Mississauga heads to the polls to elect a new mayor. It's a chance to build a new model for a sustainable suburb

BY RAHUL MEHTA

**I**n 2024, Mississauga turns 50, and it's a city at a crossroads. Unexpectedly, a mayoral byelection has landed in our lap. On June 10, Mississaugans will head to the polls to choose a new leader, one with more power than ever thanks to Ontario's recent "strong mayor" legislation.

I'm a resident and advocate in Mississauga. In my day job, I lead programs to make walking, cycling, and transit more accessible. Outside of work, I'm asking questions about politicians' priorities while amplifying solutions through my advocacy project Sustainable Mississauga and, more recently, the new group More Homes Mississauga.

As we stare down a multitude of crises — housing, congestion, and climate change — election results in this once sleepy suburb will have implications that reach far beyond its borders.

In December, our previous mayor Bonnie Crombie resigned after successfully running to lead the Ontario Liberal party. In the mayoral race that has ensued, all four leading candidates are current or recent councillors: Stephen Dasko (Ward 1), Alvin Tedjo (Ward 2), Dipika Damerla (Ward 7) and Carolyn Parrish (Ward 5).

If you've witnessed a local election in the GTA before, this probably doesn't surprise you — incumbents enjoy a heavy advantage. Several other candidates have signed up too, including Peter McCallion, son of former mayor Hazel McCallion who served an unprecedented 36 years in office.

With no incumbent mayor this time, Mississauga has a chance to chart a new course, or to continue the legacy of Hazel

McCallion and the pattern of sprawl she championed.

Looking at their council record, Dasko has focused on public safety, local arts and community facilities; Tedjo shows strong support for transit and cycling networks; Damerla is keen to build more housing on key corridors and protect renters; and Parrish wants to see strategic infill and low-income communities better supported.

Divisions emerge when you look at specific votes. For example, council was split on allowing more dense housing, known as fourplexes, city-wide. Tedjo raised the motion, supported by Parrish, while Damerla and Dasko were both opposed. All four have had good things to say about former mayor "Hurricane Hazel," so we'll have to wait for them to release campaign platforms to see just how much they're willing to break from the status quo. At the time of publication, no platforms have been released.

Mississauga's residents are facing skyrocketing rents and eye-watering purchase prices. A record number of residents are on the social housing waitlist — by 2022, the list had nearly doubled over two years to 28,000. Part of the problem is a lack of supply: suburban cities like Mississauga, Brampton, and Vaughan have all followed a similar pattern, allowing just one type of housing — one and two-storey detached "single-family" homes — to dominate the majority of land designated for residential housing. Home sizes expanded in tandem with the driveways and cars that served them, eating up more land even as the average family size shrinks.

Where density has been permitted in our small "downtown," you see towering condominiums and apartment buildings. This high-density housing is a necessary

addition. But it means Mississauga has tall, sprawl, and not much else. Townhouses, multiplexes and small apartment buildings — what city planners call the "missing middle" — are scarce. With few affordable options left, it's no surprise that our population actually declined for the first time in the most recent 2021 census, alone among the 25 biggest municipalities in Canada.

The true cost of sprawl, where low density and a shrinking tax base fail to pay for high quality in public services and infrastructure, is only now being realized — and the bill is massive. In 2023, Mississauga faced an infrastructure gap of \$52.1 million. That's the difference between the cost of necessary infrastructure repairs and replacements, and the funding available to pay for them.

A new strong mayor will have the power to shape budgets, pass bylaws to enable more housing, and select department heads who align with their vision. In Mississauga, that could mean legalizing missing middle housing city-wide. Crombie did this when she used strong mayor powers to push through the fourplexes motion that was originally rejected by council. It could also mean removing the requirement for new buildings to be accompanied by a minimum amount of car parking, and allowing parking lots to be redeveloped into new housing.

Beyond housing, a progressive mayor could help realize current plans that are languishing, like targets to divert 75 per cent of waste from landfills by 2034, reduce car use to 50 per cent of all trips by 2041, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. They could shape our annual budget, allocating money to fund these plans and community services that

meet the needs of residents — especially our public transit, which has been suffering under pandemic-related service cuts and freezes.

If we want, Mississauga can become an example of how a sleepy suburb transformed into a sustainable city — one that our still-sprawling neighbours can learn from. The choice Mississauga makes for mayor on June 10 is critical, but the work doesn't stop there. Building a city that's just, resilient, and green will need all of us to keep advocating for that vision.

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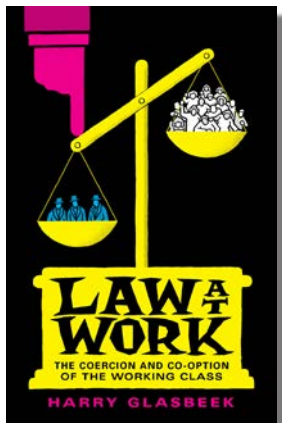
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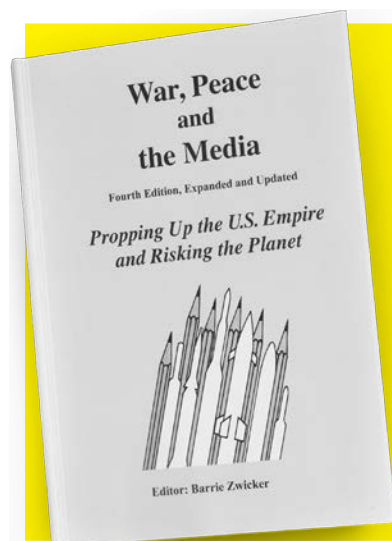
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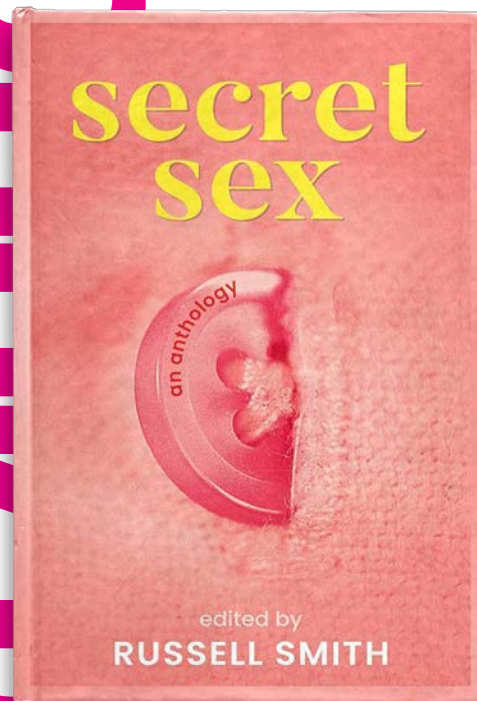
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This fourth and greatly expanded edition of a work first published in 1983 questions the dominant narratives about militarism and war, and their relationship to global heating, as well as the role of the media in distorting and suppressing truths about their relationship.

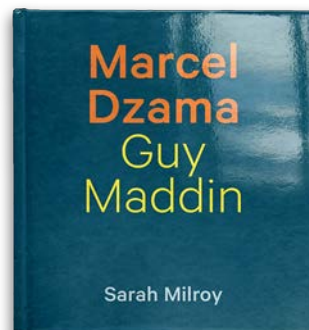
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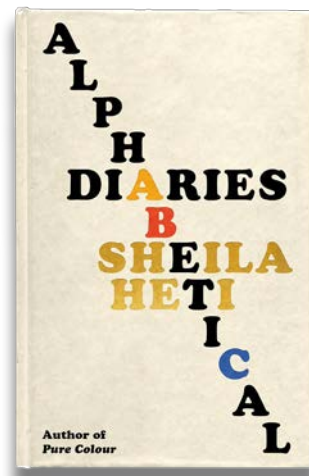
**SECRET SEX: AN ANTHOLOGY** edited by Russell Smith (Dundurn Press/Rare Machines) 2024

Premised on the belief that anonymity often reveals authenticity, this anthology asked 24 Canadian writers to submit short pieces of fiction about sex under the shroud of secrecy. The stories reflect the diversity of the writers themselves, differing as greatly in style and tone as the authors do in age, gender, and ethnicity. Some are titillating and sincere, while others are ripe with irony and embarrassment. As a whole, the collection captures the complexity and multiplicity of sex as a topic of discussion and an inevitable part of daily life. I was particularly moved by one story at the beginning of the anthology entitled "Comets," author unknown. — ALLY SHAP



**MARCEL DZAMA** Introduction and edited by Sarah Milroy; essay by Guy Maddin (McMichael Canadian Art Collection) 2023

Born in Winnipeg in 1974 and first gaining prominence in the 1990s, Canadian artist Marcel Dzama has had 14 solo exhibitions and has received international acclaim for his provocative and haunting work. *Marcel Dzama*, the book that accompanies Dzama's show at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinberg, just north of Toronto, not only features stunning images of his art, journals, and personal photo albums, but also texts in which the artist discusses his Winnipegger-Italian-Greek-Norwegian-Ukrainian roots and his lovely dadaist influences. The book includes an essay by filmmaker Guy Maddin on Dzama and Tom Thompson and their shared fascination with the Canadian landscape. Whether you're a longtime art lover or simply eager to learn about something new, Marcel Dzama is both dreamy and inspiring. — DAPHNE GUIMA

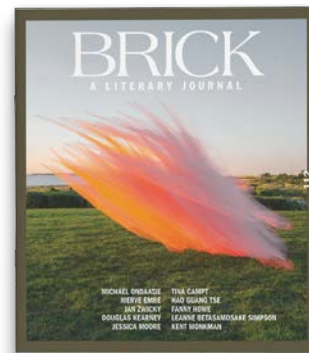


Ally Shap and Daphne Guima from Flying Books at 784 College St. share some of their fave books and mags of 2024 so far.

**ALPHABETICAL DIARIES** by Sheila Heti (Knopf Canada) 2024  
To create *Alphabetical Diaries*, Sheila Heti catalogued 10 years of her diary entries from 2012 to 2022, entering individual sentences into a database and then organizing the sentences alphabetically. From that database of nearly 500,000 words, she culled the sentences down to an 80,000-word, genre-bending text. For a certain generation of readers, Heti has become something of a cultural touchstone. To me, *Alphabetical Diaries* achieves exactly what Heti does best, stringing together what may at first appear to be fragmented thoughts on the nature of life, love, art, and sex, together into a cohesive and compelling though unconventional narrative. — ALLY SHAP

**BRICK - ISSUE 112** (Cypress Ave Inc.) Winter 2024

Since 1977, *Brick Literary Journal* has published some of the best Canadian and international literary non-fiction. *Brick 112*, *Brick's* 2024 winter issue, features a fragment of one of my favourite recently read books, *The Memoirs of Miss Chief Eagle Testickle*, a piece about Ludwig Wittgenstein (whose *Private Notebooks* I'm currently adoring) and even an interview with the editor of the new annotated edition of *Mrs Dalloway* — one of the prettiest books in our store. If you're looking for an antidote to the bland predictability of top 10 lists and Goodreads recommendations scattered across the internet, look no further than *Brick 112*. — DAPHNE GUIMA



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# ONE BOOK TO DISPLEASE YOU

Canada Reads struggles with grey areas in Denison Avenue

BY THEA LIM

**T**ell any member of the reading public beyond our borders we have a game show about books, and they'll be agog. On Canada Reads, five defenders debate five books, voting off one title at a time, until the final book wins. It's a reality show and it grabs eyes your fave lit journal never will. In this economy, that matters more than ever.

Books take years to write, and days to go stale. Once they hit the shelves, 95 per cent of books have around 14 days to get big on booktok/bookstagram. (Good luck getting the book reviewed when nearly no outlets run reviews anymore.) After that, the chance of finding a readership plummets. For many, the only saviour is a prize nomination, and Canada Reads' criteria is more inclusive than most, even allowing backlist books back into the light.

But what makes Canada Reads great is also a liability. Just like *Hell's Kitchen*, Canada Reads is based on strategy. Defenders form alliances and voting blocs. But when strategic voting overlaps with the discourse of pleasingness — a scourge across the book world, spend more than three minutes on Goodreads and you'll see a book rated down for lacking "reliability" — and when the books in question are porting racialized experiences: things get ugly.

Shazia Hafiz Ramji recounted the dispiriting effect of Canada Reads 2014, when defender Donovan Bailey, himself an immigrant, said of Rawi Hage's too-sad-to-get-out-of-bed protagonist in *Cockroach*, "I don't think it's a true depiction of the typical immigrant experience. All immigrants — most immigrants — are here working 15 jobs ..." The demand that diasporic stories be packed with jolly strivers reemerged in 2018. After Jeanne Beker called *American War*, Omar El-Akkad's dystopia of forced migration "that book, that dark book," she called Cherie Dimaline's *The Marrow*

*Thieves* — an extended metaphor for residential schools — "a book that not everybody could take ... this book instilled a kind of anxiety that could end up alienating certain people."

That Canada Reads repeatedly sets up defenders to casually dismiss stories of racial trauma for lacking warm fuzzies, is high cringe. But this is a common sentiment. In the age of the cater-to-me algorithm, contemporary reading culture insists that our books (even or especially ones recounting marginalization) bend to our expectations, rather than us bending to them. Even when bending — freeing your mind — is the point of art.

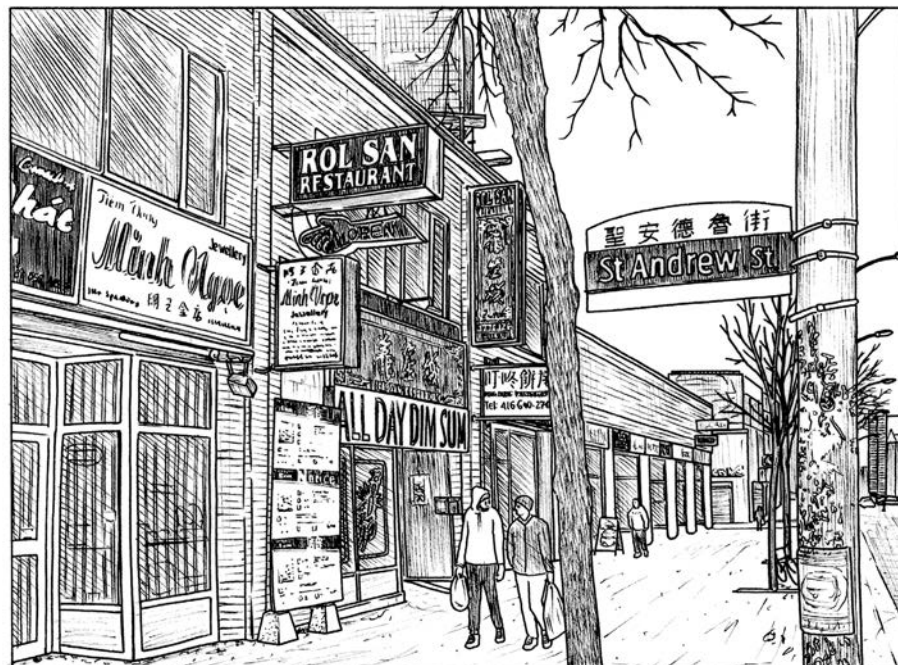
But the sourness of it all was sweetened by Jully Black. When Black, also a 2018 defender, commented to the effect that readers can be "colonial" in their thinking, Beker asked why Black was attacking her. Black swept the legs. "I said nothing about Jeanne Beker ... whatever you are feeling, take it to the altar, because I'm not the one responsible for your feelings."

How Black didn't win right then in sudden death is an unsolved Canadian broadcasting mystery.

You might think Canada Reads would only be upwards to justice from there. Yet, this very winter, the pleasingness card was played once again.

Speaking about *Denison Avenue* — Christina Wong and Daniel Innes' novel about a Chinese bottle collector enduring the death of her husband and the erasure of her gentrifying Chinatown neighbourhood — Mirian Njoh said, "I found this book to be relentlessly gut-wrenching, honestly. ... it raises more questions than it answers ... it doesn't even attempt to resolve any of the major themes it raises ... it didn't leave me as fulfilled as I would like my literature to."

Canada Reads is a funny honour. Wong and Innes get spotlit, but the show chides their book for doing what it meant to do: disrupt the rhythms of Anglo storytelling tradition, from big ticket items like story



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arc and resolution, to the drawings which illustrate the prose but are also kept separate from it, to the unconventional direction and placement of the words on the page, to rendering Toisan in the Roman alphabet, so that the language is neither English nor itself. As we read it, we must enact what Scott McCloud calls "closure" — the work our minds do to "complete" an image when we can only see one part.

*Denison Avenue* asks us to attempt closure, because that's what Cho Sum is doing: trying to hold together that which can't be joined, then living in that gap. Wong and Innes' go-for-broke choices are the only

way to construct her interior world and all her unfinished heartbreaks.

Canada Reads gets us excited about books, but it's unhappy marriage of lit prize and reality show makes it say books must be nice and neat, like a season of *Love is Blind*. This is a necessary evil that can't be edited out (at least not by Canada Reads 2025). So, may I offer a solution?

For 2025, how about this theme: *One book to challenge you?* Or, let's not mince words: *One book to displease you. One book to confound you. One book to make you uneasy.* Let the criteria mirror what great books can do.



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Big Gay Night 2024. For many, the nights are for many a second chance to attend the prom they never had. Wiley is third from the right.



NESS DEVOS

song's music video, a queer recreation of *10 Things I Hate About You*.

"What I try to do with my music is make it fun," Wiley says. "I want to bring joy into people's lives but at the same time, I'm trying to stoke conversations that are important but in a way that makes it accessible to everyone. I sing about gender identity, grief and loss, different types of relationships, queer love, and the expansiveness that it brings into people's lives."

Wiley grew up in Port Bruce, Ontario, and moved to Toronto to attend high school. They spent time hanging out with musicians, getting drunk, and singing Modest Mouse and Radiohead songs. At 17 years old, they bought their first guitar. But for many years Wiley struggled with a drug addiction that made focusing on their music career difficult.

"From about 15 to 24 years old I was always really passionate about music but I don't think I had the capacity or the support to really take it seriously," explains Wiley.

Once in recovery, Wiley started their first official music project, the bluesy rock band Prancer. "I recorded a bunch of songs with all of my high school friends and then the pandemic happened and I ended up realizing that it wasn't the kind of music that I wanted to put out into the world," they note.

"I then started CJ Wiley which is very much me," adds Wiley who released *All Our Love*, a twangy collection of rock tracks, in 2022. "I think a lot of people during the pandemic really had time to sit back and think about who they are and how they want to be seen and that's how I felt about my music."

Wiley also cites Boy Golden's 2021 psych-country debut record *Church of Better Daze* as having a huge influence on their sound, noting, "I realized that's the kind of music I want to make. Uplifting music that's fun and makes people feel good."

After pandemic lockdowns, Wiley went to see Boy Golden (a.k.a. Liam Duncan) play in Toronto and the pair met. They kept in touch and eventually headed into the studio together where Duncan recorded and produced Wiley's forthcoming LP due out later this year.

"Working with [Duncan] has been incredible. What an amazing person, an incredible producer, and musician. I respect him even more now that I know him. I think he's going to be a Canadian legend," says Wiley, who describes their new songs as a mix of '90s grunge, Sheryl Crow's laid-back Americana vibe, and Courtney Barnett's tongue-and-cheek wit.

Back at Lula Lounge, Wiley's dream of creating a space where 2SLGBTQ+ audience members and artists can support each other is a reality. For many, this Big Gay Night event is a second chance to attend the prom that they wish they could have had — a place where they can finally be themselves.

"It's been a year and a half [since the first Big Gay Night] and it has been just incredible. People who come to Big Gay Night can expect lots of fun and lots of flirting and to be introduced to a lot of very talented queer and trans musicians, some playing their first show ever," says Wiley. "We need spaces to come together, to celebrate each other, and to have fun."

In Wiley's new song "No One Like U," they sing, "nobody has the same effect on me as you do/there's no one like you." A similar affirmation can be heard in the crowd as someone admires their date's outfit and asserts, "you look so...you!"

# THE QUEER JOY OF CJ WILEY

The Toronto-based musician and event organizer launched the Big Gay Nights events in 2022 to address a gap. Each edition has sold out

BY LAURA STANLEY

It's leap day, Feb. 29, in Toronto and there's magic in the air at Lula Lounge. A *10 Things I Hate About You* themed prom is taking place complete with live music, a photo booth, and to pay tribute to the iconic late-'90s romcom, many attendees are wearing their finest '90s-inspired formal attire.

The event is part of Big Gay Night, a concert series hosted by local musician CJ Wiley that showcases queer and trans artists in Toronto. Launched in 2022, Wiley has curated Big Gay Nights at venues across the city that have included performances by acts like shoegaze band Zoon, rock duo Partner, folky artist poolblood, and Shania Twink, a Shania Twain cover band that includes Wiley, Dani Nash, Kate Palumbo, Lydia Persaud, and Christine Bougie. Each Big Gay Night has sold out.

When I speak with Wiley the week before the first Big Gay Night of 2024, they are busy juggling last minute event planning, but their excitement seems to outweigh their stress. As Wiley explains, the popularity of Big Gay Night speaks to the demand for more safer spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ people.

"When I was emerging into the Toronto music scene as a queer person in my early 20s, there wasn't any space dedicated to queer and trans artists," explains Wiley. "So I decided that maybe I could be the person to help create space for people like me."

"I was also inspired by queer events in the city that I had seen going on like Queer Wine Night and Everybody Flirts Queer Karaoke. I'd go to these events and I'd see that there was a really high demand for safe spaces," they add. "I did a mentorship once with Stefanie Purificati who is an absolute boss of a booking agent and she gave me some advice: 'If the space isn't available, make the space yourself.'"

For Wiley, the Big Gay Night prom at Lula Lounge is also a celebration of "No One Like U," their new breezy garage-rock single produced by Winnipeg's Boy Golden and co-written by Toronto singer-songwriter Charlotte Cornfield. Tying the night together, Wiley will also premiere the

**"When I was emerging into the Toronto music scene as a queer person in my early 20s, there wasn't any space dedicated to queer and trans artists."**



Big Gay Night 2024.



CJ Wiley

LOURDES LASALA



RYAN SINGH

From *Turtle Island to Palestine: A Theatre Action* was performed on March 18 at Theatre Passe Muraille to a packed house.



# ON STAGE FROM TURTLE ISLAND TO PALESTINE

In fraught times, Theatre Artists for Palestinian Voices brought urgently needed stories to the packed house at Theatre Passe Muraille

BY ROBYN GRANT-MORAN

“If there is any disruption: don’t respond, don’t engage. Look for the marshals in yellow vests.”

This directive from Monique Mojica reverberated through the packed house as she and Roula Said introduced *From Turtle Island to Palestine: A Theatre Action* on Monday, March 18, at Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto. The production was organized by Theatre Artists for Palestinian Voices, a collective of Palestinian, Jewish, and Indigenous theatre artists, as a fundraiser for The Freedom Theatre based in the Jenin refugee camp in Palestine’s West Bank.

When theatre is said to be “dangerous” here in Toronto, it’s in reference to the transgressive nature of sharing stories that challenge conventional belief systems. It does not speak to the potential of literal physical disruption. But we are in fraught times, and supporting Palestinians does not come without risk.

For The Freedom Theatre in Jenin, their organization regularly faces considerably more threats than the potential disruption Mojica referenced in the introduction. In December, Israeli forces abducted three members of TFT from their homes. Artistic director Ahmed Tomasi was released the next day, and Jamal Abu Joas, a graduate of their performing arts program, was released the following week.

Producer Mustafa Sheta was sentenced to six months of administrative detention. It’s a form of arrest that allows Israel to indefinitely detain anyone it perceives as a threat, without due process.

When I spoke with theatre artist and organizer Mojica earlier that day before the show, she explained that these events inspired her to create *From Turtle Island to Palestine*. Mojica explained that it is not only the water, air, and land that connect Indigenous and Palestinian people but also the systems of oppression used against us. From the reservation system here, to the pogroms and camps in Second World War Germany, apartheid in South Africa, and the occupation of Gaza, they share a blueprint, Mojica explains. Mojica, who is Guna and Rappahannock and of Jewish lineage, continued with fierce intensity: “There’s a lot being done in the name of my parents and grandparents, and I won’t stand for it. ... This [production] is a way to use my voice and say ‘no more.’” With optimism, Mojica directs me to the words of civil rights activist and author Michelle Alexander: “The fix is revolutionary love, it’s what can end this.”

On the morning of the show, I spoke with Palestinian poet, artist, and organizer Said about her hopes for the evening. “I hope everyone receives what they are able to. ... I

hope the audience feels, that it is received into the heart and the body. If people have fears about opening themselves up to Palestinian voices, they can do so in a positive way.” Said pointed out that the lines between people and affiliations are far blurrier than Israelis versus Palestinians. She explained that she is Palestinian, her husband is Jewish, and their daughter is being raised in a way that honours everyone’s cultures and traditions.

Following Said’s and Mojica’s introduction, Yolanda Bonnell sang the Ojibwe Water Prayer Song, and Said joined in with the Marhaba Welcome Song. The audience was buzzing. It was a heartfelt welcome to the audience, as well as the excerpts to come.

*Cultural Intifada Monologue* by TFT’s artistic director Ahmad Tobassi and performed by Nassim Abu Sarari, detailed his abduction in December. Witnessing the inciting incident on stage transformed news reports and conversations within the theatre community to life and to a painfully corporeal understanding. We were in this with him, together.

There were short scenes from Palestinian plays taken from *This is NOT What I Want to Tell You* (Rimah Jabr, performed by Amani Ibrahim), *Rubble* (Suvendrini Lena, inspired by the poetry of Lena

Khalaf Tuffaha, performed by Roula Said, Nabil Traboulsi, Lara Arabian, Parya Heravi, and Yousef Kadoura), and *Tales of a City by the Sea* (Samah Sabawi, performed by Anas Hasan, Rahaf Fasheh, Liana Bdéwi, and Maher Sinno). All explored how the extraordinary circumstances of living under an occupation impact the day-to-day lives of Palestinians, from teenagers falling in love to coping with routine bombings.

A scene from Bonnell’s upcoming *The Eighth Fire* (performed by Jesse Wabegijig, Cherish Violet Blood, T’ánchez Redvers, Heath Salazar, Brefny Caribou-Curtin, and Ty Sloane) and one from *Ipperwash* (by Falen Johnson, performed by Theresa Cutknife and James Dallas Smith) were parallel Canadian experiences of living under occupation and the emotional toll it takes for generations to come.

The audience heard some traditional Palestinian singing, and together we sang “Sawfa Nabqa Huna”, led by Natalie Fasheh.

Before Bonnell sang us out, there was a moment of silence for Palestinians, the lives lost, and those fighting to deliver humanitarian aid. Sniffles and sobs echoed through the theatre, expressing the heartache, helplessness, and injustice of it all.

The evening went off without a hitch; there were no disruptions. It was an event filled with love and solidarity. The actors, space, and silent auction items were all generously donated. All of the raised funds will be donated to TFT in Jenin.



RYAN SINGH

**Theatre Artists for Palestinian Voices currently includes: Yolanda Bonnell, Theresa Cutknife, Rahaf Fasheh, Alireza Gorgani, Natasha Greenblatt, Rimah Jabr, Suvendrini Lena, Kate Lushington, Monique Mojica, Roula Said, and Darrah Teitel.**

## Must See At Hot Docs: Yintah

**YINTAH**, meaning “land,” is an exceptional documentary film following over 12 years of Wet’suwet’en resistance to industrial projects, including pipelines, to which they did not consent.

The Coastal GasLink pipeline project, backed by all levels of Canadian governments and given nearly unlimited military-style support from the RCMP, is one focal point in the story.

However, at its core, the film really tells the story of the land, told through two women at the heart of Wet’suwet’en efforts to protect it: Freda Huson and Molly Wickham.

As someone who has read and watched a lot about this, and even written about it, this film hits on a personal and emotional level that no compilation of articles and short video clips can.

Co-directors and producers Michael Toledano (who grew up in Toronto), Jennifer Wickham and Brenda Mitchell (who are both Wet’suwet’en) made the documentary following protocols of Wet’suwet’en law. The result is a poignant, powerful film unlike almost anything else you’ll see.

Yintah is not to be missed.

There are only two screenings during the Hot Docs festival, so we hope more showings get announced. Yintah is also slated to air on CBC in the fall.

— DAVID GRAY-DONALD

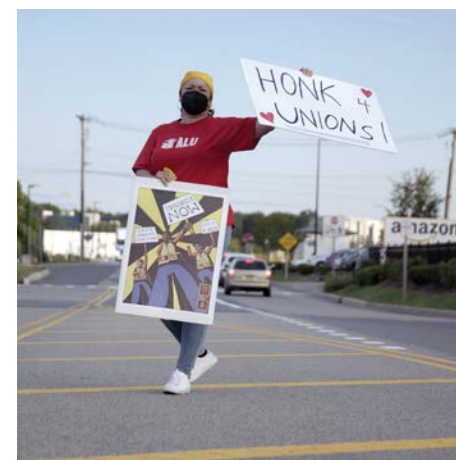
**YINTAH**, 125 MINS SHOWING: APRIL 27, 5 PM, TIFF LIGHTBOX; APRIL 28, 9:15 PM, HOT DOCS CINEMA



### Also check out: Union

**UNION**, from filmmakers Brett Story (a Torontonian) and Stephen Maing, follows the underdog story of Amazon workers unionizing in Staten Island, N.Y., to win improvements to the wretched conditions they toil in. While the film focuses on the U.S., there are massive Amazon facilities in the GTA and around Canada, and attempts have been made to unionize them, so far unsuccessfully. — DGD

**UNION** SHOWING: APRIL 26, 4:45 PM, TIFF LIGHTBOX; APRIL 28, 10 AM, SCOTIABANK THEATRE



### Artists Call on Hot Docs’ Sponsor Scotiabank to Divest from Israeli Weapons Maker Elbit

**A GROUP OF ARTISTS**, including filmmakers showing their work at Hot Docs, are calling out Scotiabank, a major funder of the arts, including Hot Docs. Scotiabank is the largest foreign investor in Elbit Systems, Israel’s largest weapons maker, which supplies the Israeli military for its assault on Gaza.

“Artists will not accept their work being used to artwash Israel’s genocidal campaign against Palestinians,” author and illustrator Michael DeForge with the The No Arms In The Arts campaign tells *The Grind*.

The campaign launched on Mar. 26 at a press conference outside of Hot Docs just after a press conference inside the theatre announcing the festival line-up.

Documentarian Brett Story, whose film *Union* is showing at the festival, says “This campaign is about channelling our power

as artists — in this case, as inadvertent producers of cultural credibility for a corporate bank — to pressure that bank to divest from Israeli military weapons. To say to Scotiabank no, you cannot be considered an ambassador of the arts in our city and continue to fund weapons used in the occupation, displacement, and murder of Palestinians. We as artists will not allow it.”

Hot Docs recently indicated it is in financial trouble. The filmmakers involved in the campaign are not pulling their films nor are they discouraging people from attending the festival, instead applying pressure on Scotiabank..

Hot Docs did not respond to *The Grind*’s questions about whether they had asked Scotiabank to divest from Elbit. — DGD

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POSTER BY NINA BUNJEVAC

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# NEVER BE T



Whether you're commuting around the city, chilling at a café with headphones on, or cleaning your apartment, here are seven tracks that we're feeling right now

**KROY – JOLIGENTIL**

KROY is the stage name of singer, songwriter and composer Camille Poliquin, the Montreal singer-songwriter and half of Juno award-winning duo Milk & Bone. Haunting and ethereal, "JOLIGENTIL" is a vibe we keep coming back to.

**SIMBO – EVERYWHERE**

Simbo shares first single "Everywhere," featuring Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter J. Hoard. His debut album, SOUNDSORCERER VOL.1, arrives May 10.

**ESSIE WATTS – FOUND AT SEA**

Essie Watts is the solo project of Toronto musician Jess Burgess whose moody, slow-burning music gets us through those long commutes and dark days.

**DAVID VERTESI – AGE OF CELEBRITY**

The sweetness of the low-key melody on this track is paralleled by the sourness of the message: "Love ain't what it used to be, since we invested ours in securities. You know it's rough in this economy, yeah, it's kill or be killed."

**I DONT KNOW HOW BUT THEY FOUND ME – DOWNSIDE**

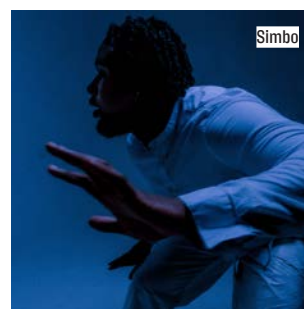
Dallon Weekes, a.k.a., I DONT KNOW HOW BUT THEY FOUND ME (IDKHOW) recently released his sophomore album, GLOOM DIVISION, which is a fusion of R&B, post-punk and art-pop. We're feeling a bunch of the tracks including the brash, audacious downside.

**THUNDER QUEENS – ALL THESE PROBLEMS**

We love the angst and energy of the London, Ont., based punk trio of Violet Bruneel, Lola Hayman, and Clara Magnan on this recently released track. Thunder Queen's debut LP, STRIKE ONE, is due out April 24.

**TARA KANNANGARA – FRANK**

Kannangara's quirky, upbeat lyrics on this track are the perfect soundtrack for a sunny afternoon stroll. Kannangara recently brought her electro-jazz pop sound to the Monarch and we're already anticipating her next show.



## ON THE RADAR

You know when you find something cool happening but tickets aren't available yet so you set a reminder for yourself but end up forgetting anyway? Yeah, we've all been there. Here are five upcoming events both big and small that you should probably keep on your radar:

**RAP SHEETS** @ The Theatre Centre (April 29, \$10). Hip-hop trivia nights are hard to come by in this city but this event series celebrates 50 years of hip-hop and also looks to the next 50!

The film **We Grown Now** debuted at TIFF 2023 to great acclaim and will soon visit select cities, including Toronto. Keep an eye out in early-to-mid May for a limited release in theatres.

**Billy-Ray Belcourt** discusses his new collection about Indigenous love and loneliness (May 21, free). Set your reminder for April 30 at 8:50 a.m. and make sure you're logged into eventbrite. Let me say it one more time: Set your reminder for April 30 at 8:50 a.m. and make sure you're logged into eventbrite. Tickets for the author talk, Q&A, and book signing at the TPL go live on April 30 at 9:00 a.m. ET.

One of the biggest names in Australia and New Zealand comedy, **Urzila Carlson**, will be in Toronto at Royal Cinema on May 23, 2025. Yes, that's right, 2025. You may not know what you're doing on that date yet but, you'll probably want to get a ticket in case you're around. According to the Royal's website, tix will be available soon so keep checking periodically to make sure you get yours.

Canada's progressive journalism community at [unrigged.ca](http://unrigged.ca)

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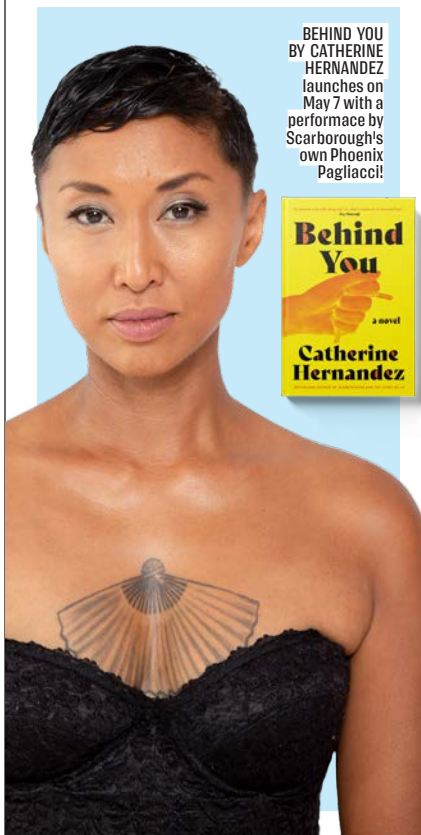
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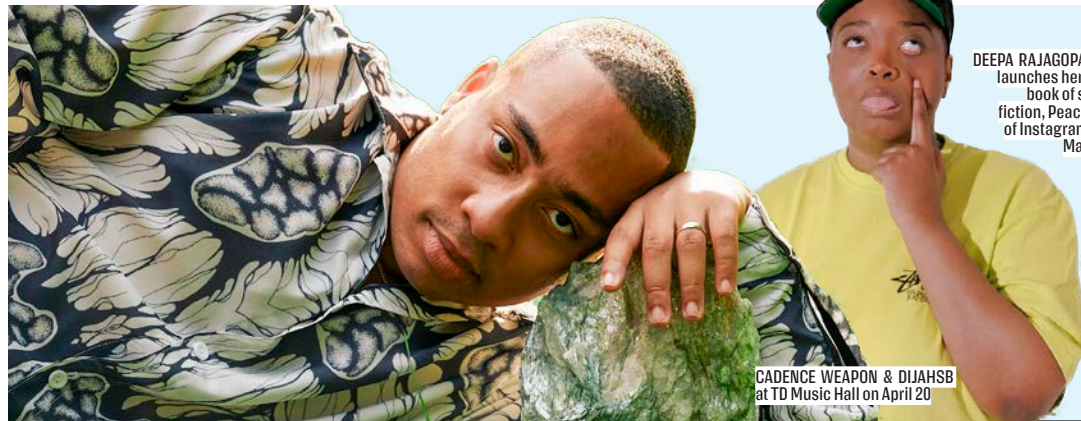
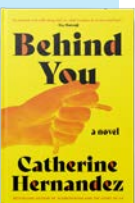
# THE GRIND

A curated list of happenings around the city from April through June.

For consideration in future listings, email [arts@the grindmag.ca](mailto:arts@the grindmag.ca).



BEHIND YOU BY CATHERINE HERNANDEZ launches on May 7 with a performance by Scarborough's own Phoenix Pagliacci!



CADENCE WEAPON & DIJAHSB at TD Music Hall on April 20

DEEPA RAJAGOPALAN launches her first book of short fiction, *Peacocks of Instagram*, on May 18.



## LITERARY

### ROMANCE NOVEL NIGHT WITH TESSA BAILEY AND YULIN KUANG

April 16, 7:00 PM, Hot Docs, 506 Bloor St W, Tickets: \$15, members from \$10

**BRAVING THE ELEMENTS: A NATIONAL POETRY MONTH READING** (feat. Maureen Scott Harris, Laura Zacharin, Lisa Richter and Susan Glickman) April 16, 7:00 PM, Another Story Bookshop, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, **FREE**

**SPEAKEASY READING SERIES** April 17, 7:00 PM, Glad Day Bookshop, 499 Church St, \$5-\$15 suggested donation

**CHARAN RANGANATH: WHY WE REMEMBER** April 17, 7:00 PM, Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St, **FREE**

**KERN CARTER: AND THEN THERE WAS US BOOK LAUNCH** April 18, 6:00 PM, Nia Centre For The Arts, 524 Oakwood Ave, **FREE**

**AUTHOR TALK: NATE HENDLEY & THE BEATLE BANDIT** April 18, 6:00 PM, Forest Hill Library, Program Room, 700 Eglinton Ave W, **FREE**

**ERIC KIM - KOREAN AMERICAN - IN CONVERSATION WITH JOANNE MOLINARO** April 19, 6:00-8:00 PM, Queen Books, 914 Queen St E, **FREE**

**INVISIBLE PUBLISHING SPRING 2024 LAUNCH PARTY** April 19, 7:00 PM, Society Clubhouse, 967 College St, **FREE**

**AFRICAN LITERATURE BOOK CLUB - WOLE SOYINKA: CHRONICLES FROM THE LAND OF THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE** April 20, 2:00-4:00 PM, Victory Cafe, 440 Bloor St W, **FREE**

**FADY JOUDAH "[...] IN CONVERSATION WITH PACINETTE MATTAR** April 24, 7:00 PM, Theatre Centre - Franco Boni Theatre, 1115 Queen St W, \$10

**2SLGBTQ+ BOOK CLUB AT THE PARKDALE LIBRARY** April 24, 6:30 PM, Toronto Public Library - Parkdale Library, 1303 Queen St W, **FREE**

**ARITA SRIVASTAVA "ARE YOU CALLING ME A RACIST"** April 25 1:30 pm Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, 199 Richmond St W, Ground Floor

**THE FESTIVAL OF LITERARY DIVERSITY (THE FOLD)** April 28 - May 5, Virtual and in Brampton

**MARIANA ENRÍQUEZ: OUR SHARE OF NIGHT** April 30, 7:00 PM, Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St, **FREE**

**MIXED METALS: MONTHLY POETRY NIGHT** feat. Steadmond Parly April 30, 7:00 PM sign up, 8:00 PM reading, bar or well, 1595 Dundas St W, \$10/PWYC

**ON SOLIDARITY: AN EVENING OF ART AND CONVERSATION (LIVE TAPING OF CBC IDEAS) WITH ASTRA TAYLOR, NAHLAH AYED, SUVENDRINI LENA, DANIA MAJID, THEA LIM** May 1, 7:00 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, **FREE**

**CULTURE AND POETICS WORKSHOP 1.1: WRITING FROM THE EYE AND THE I** May 1, 6:30 PM, Toronto Reference Library, Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room, 789 Yonge St, **FREE**

**CATHERINE HERNANDEZ "BEHIND YOU"** May 7, 7:00-9:00 PM, It's OK\*, 468 Queen St W, \$8-14

**MILK MAGAZINE POETRY READING SERIES** (feat. rob mcLennan and Lisa Richter) May 8, Type Books, 883 Queen St W, **FREE**

**CULTURE AND POETICS WORKSHOP 1.2: WRITING AS AN OUTSIDER (PRESENTED BY SARAH TI-MEI TSIANG)** May 8, 6:30 PM, Toronto Reference Library, Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room, 789 Yonge St, **FREE**

**RUTH REICHL ON THE PARIS NOVEL** May 9, 7:00 PM, Hot Docs, 506 Bloor St W, Tickets: \$15, members from \$10

**LAUNCH OF ACCIDENTAL BLOOMS, BY KEIKO HONDA** May 13, 6:30 PM, Flying Books, 784 College St, **FREE**

**POETRY AT THE PHOENIX - POETS ANNA LEE-POPPAM AND PAUL VERMEERSCH WILL READ FROM RECENT BOOKS**, May 14 7:00 PM, West End Phoenix, 3 Bartlett Ave, **PWYC**

**CULTURE AND POETICS WORKSHOP 1.3: WRITING POEMS INSPIRED BY FAIRY TALES FROM ACROSS THE WORLD** May 15, 6:30 PM, Toronto Reference Library, The Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room, 789 Yonge St, **FREE**

**BILLY-RAY BELCOURT: COEXISTENCE** May 21, 7:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library, Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, 789 Yonge St, 2nd floor, **FREE** (tix req'd)

**CARLEY FORTUNE ON THIS SUMMER WILL BE DIFFERENT** May 21, 7:00 PM, Hot Docs, 506 Bloor St W

**PAIGE LAYLE ON BUT EVERYONE FEELS THIS WAY** May 22, 7:00 PM, Hot Docs, 506 Bloor St W

**RACING TO GO VIRAL - BEN SMITH & ELAMIN ABDELMAHMOUD** May 22, 7:00 PM, Toronto Reference Library, Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, 789 Yonge St, 2nd floor

**AUTHOR TALK - RUTH LOR MALLOY** May 25, 11:00 AM, Mount Pleasant Library, 599 Mt Pleasant Rd

**2SLGBTQ+ BOOK CLUB AT THE PARKDALE LIBRARY** May 29, 6:30 PM, Toronto Public Library - Parkdale Library, 1303 Queen St W, **FREE**

**SHAB-E SHE'R** May 29, 7:00 PM, Tranzac Club - Living Room, 292 Brunswick Ave, \$10-\$20 sliding scale

**TECHNIQUE AND INSPIRATION WORKSHOP 2.1: IMAGERY, METAPHOR AND AMBIVALENCE** May 30, 6:30 PM, Toronto Reference Library, Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room, 789 Yonge St, **FREE**

**TOMMY ORANGE: WANDERING STARS** June 4, Toronto Reference Library, Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, 789 Yonge St, **FREE** (rsvp req'd)

## MUSIC

**PONCILIO CREACION** April 19 and 20, 8:00 PM, Music Gallery, 918 Bathurst, Pay-What-You-Can-Afford \$10 / \$15 / \$20

**LIVE JAZZ W/ JAZZ TRIO DANIEL BADO, GREG MAKAMIAN & PAUL CAL- ENDAR** April 19, 7:00 PM, The Company We Keep, 634 St Clair Ave W, \$15

**TRANZAC FUNDRAISER WITH SANDRO PERRI, MASAHIRO TAKAHASHI & ANNE BOURNE** April 20, 8:00 PM, Tranzac, 292 Brunswick Avenue, \$20

**OUMOU SANGARÉ** April 20, 8:00 PM, Koerner Hall, Starting at \$45

**CADENCE WEAPON** April 20, 8:00 PM, TD Music Hall, 178 Victoria St, \$30

**PROMISE LOVES DETROIT FEAT. VISITING DJS HIROKO YAMAMURA, DJ SEOUL, ANTWON FAULKNER** April 20, 10:00 PM, 111 Richmond St W, \$40-\$50

**ALLAH-LAS W/ REVERBERATION RADIO AND MASTON** April 23, 7:00 PM, The Concert Hall, 888 Yonge St, \$43, 19+

**ANKUR TEWARI** April 23, 7:00 PM, Rivoli, 334 Queen St W, \$36.50, 19+

**WAXAHATCHEE** April 23, Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St, \$35-65

**BBYMUTHA** April 23, 7:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$35.92, 19+

**VLADIMIR IVKOVIC**, April 27 & 28, 8:00 PM Standard Time, 165 Geary Ave, \$20 (early bird) - \$40

**AFRIQUE LIKE ME** April 27, 10:30 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St, \$16.95 adv, \$22.60 door

**TÁSSIA REIS** April 28, 7:00 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, \$30, 19+



FATAI at Lee's Palace, May 29

**TUNE IN (CIUT 89.5 FM FUNDRAISER): PANTAYO, HOUSEWIFE, QUINCY BULLEN** May 2, 7:30 PM, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St W, sliding scale \$24-\$36-\$48

**BABY O (EP RELEASE) W/ LENNY BULL, MEAGAN AVERSA** May 3, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$15.50 adv

**LADY DONLI** May 3, 7:00 PM, Drake Underground, 1150 Queen St, \$31.69, 19+

**BEAMS W/ ZINNIA + PELICAN MOVEMENT** May 9, Garrison, 1197 Dundas St W, \$19

**KAMASI WASHINGTON** May 7, 8:00 PM, History, 1663 Queen St E, \$53-\$250

**PARADOX (LIVE SET)** May 11, Rivoli, 334 Queen St W, \$20, 19+

**FOLLY GROUP** May 11, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, 7:00 PM, \$28, 19+

**"HERE I STAND:" A CONCERT AND CONVERSATION W/ JULIAN TAYLOR** May 11, 7:00 PM, St. Matthew's United Church, 729 St. Clair Ave W, \$28

**JOYNER LUCAS** May 13, Danforth Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave, General Admission: \$55

**HERMANOS GUTIÉRREZ** May 14, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 190 Princes Blvd, \$25-\$40, 19+

**PSYCHEDELIC PORN CRUMPETS** May 15, Opera House, 735 Queen St E, 8:00 PM, \$27.50 adv, \$32 door, 19+

**COLIN STETSON: TD TORONTO JAZZ FEST X WAVELENGTH** May 16, 7:00 PM, The Axis Club, 722 College St, \$35+ fees

**KAÏA KATER W/ ABIGAIL LAPELL** May 22, 8:00 PM TD Music Hall, 178 Victoria St, \$44

**ZALE SECK** May 25, Spadina Theatre, 24 Spadina Rd, \$18

**FATAI** May 29, 8:00 PM, Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St W, \$15.50-\$75.00, 19+

**LOONY** May 31, 8:00 PM, Opera House, 735 Queen St E, \$30-50, 19+

**KHRUANGBIN** May 31, June 1 & June 2, 8:00 PM, History, 1663 Queen St E, \$130-\$300

**BOILER ROOM: TORONTO** June 1, 2:00 PM, Location TBA, \$69.50

**JULIE DOIRON FEAT. DANY PLACARD, DANIEL & IAN ROMANO** June 6, 8:00 PM, Monarch Tavern, 12 Clinton St, \$31.17

**MAJOR LOVE** June 10, Horseshoe Tavern, 370 Queen St W, 8:30 PM, \$15, 19+

**KURUZA** June 28, 10:00 PM, The Concert Hall, 888 Yonge St, \$29.50-\$54.50, 19+

**PROMISE CHERRY BEACH** At Cherry Beach, Sundays or holiday Mondays starting in July



## VISUAL ARTS

**EXHIBIT A: INVESTIGATING CRIME AND FOOTWEAR** opens April 18, Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor St W, \$14 (individual), \$12 (senior), \$8 (student), \$5 (5-17), Free (0-4)

**MAGDALENE ODUNDO: A DIALOGUE WITH OBJECTS** until April 21, Gardiner Museum, 111 Queens Pk, \$15 (individual), \$11 (senior), Free (18 and under and students)

**SILA/SIYA/AKO** until April 27, A Space, 401 Richmond St W, **FREE**

**THE SECRET CODES: AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN QUILTS** until April 28, Textile Museum of Canada, 55 Centre Ave, \$15 (individual), \$10 (senior), \$6 (to 18 and students), Free (5 and under)

**SHEZAD DAWOOD: NIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF LOVE: INSPIRED BY AND FEATURING YUSEF LATEEF** until May 5, Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wynford Dr, \$20 (individual), \$15 (senior), \$10 (6 and 13), \$12 (students), Free (Wednesdays 4-8 pm)

**SCORES FOR FAILED STRUCTURES OF THE PRIVATE** until May 6, Ace Hotel, 51 Camden St, Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 4 PM - 12 AM, **FREE**

**POWER (GROUP EXHIBITION WITH ROCKY DOBEY, NATALIE KING, JAMIYLA LOWE, KHADIJAH MORLEY, EKOW NIMAKO, RAJNI PERERA, AND FIONA SMYTH)** until May 18, Onsite Gallery, OCADU, 199 Richmond St W, **FREE**

**TAQRALIK. PARTRIDGE: >ᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ (PULLAAQATIGIT)** until May 18, Onsite Gallery, OCADU, 199 Richmond St W, **FREE**

**FORMS, FACES & SPACES (FESTIVAL OF ARTFUL COMMUNITIES AND CONTACT PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL)** May 1-31, Helson Gallery, Georgetown; Pond Gallery, Alton; Melville White Church, Caledon

**SHEDDING HEAVINESS** until June 1, Gallery 44, 401 Richmond St W, Suite 120, **FREE**

**ZACHARI LOGAN: THE FLOURISHING EDGE** until June 30, Gardiner Museum, 111 Queens Pk, \$15 (individual), \$11 (seniors), Free (18 and under and students)

**MNEMONIC SILENCES, DISAPPEARING ACTS** until June 21, Art Museum - University of Toronto, Jackman Humanities Institute, 170 St. George St, 10th Floor, **FREE**

EXHIBIT A: INVESTIGATING CRIME AND FOOTWEAR opens April 18, Bata Shoe Museum



**TORONTO GONE WILD** until August 3, Museum of Toronto, 401 Richmond St W, **FREE**

## FILM

**WICKED LITTLE LETTERS** April 16-18, Fox Theatre, 2236 Queen St E, \$14

**FREE SCREENING OF BROTHER FOR NATIONAL CANADIAN FILM DAY** April 17, 7:00 PM, Another Story, 315 Roncesvalles Ave, **FREE**

**MDFF SELECTS FAMILY PORTRAIT W/ LUCY KERR AND DERAGH CAMPBELL** April 18, 6:30 PM, TIFF Lightbox, Free for members

**GAGARINE** April 18, 7:30 PM, Spadina Theatre, 24 Spadina Rd, **FREE**

**QUEER CINEMA CLUB PRESENTS BOUND** April 18, 8:00 PM, Paradise Theatre, 1006c Bloor St W, \$18

**TALKING ABOUT TREES (2019): A FILM SCREENING FUNDRAISER** April 19, 7:00 PM, Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave, \$23

**RIDDLE OF FIRE** April 19, 9:30 PM, Fox Theatre, 2236 Queen St E, \$14.50

**FULLTIME KILLER** April 20, 6:30 PM, TIFF Lightbox, 350 King St W

**THE MOVIE MAN (2024)** April 21, 6:45 PM, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, General admission \$17.5, Students / seniors / children \$15

**RIDDLE OF FIRE** April 21, 9:15 PM, Fox Theatre, 2236 Queen St E, \$14.50

**ANIME AT THE REVUE: THE END OF EVANGELION (1997)** April 22 & 23, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, General admission \$17.5, Students / seniors / children \$15

**THE MOVIE MAN (2024)** April 23 & 24, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, General admission \$17.5, Students / seniors / children \$15

**NFB FILM SCREENINGS AT THE LIBRARY: SOVEREIGN SOIL** April 25, 6:00 PM, Lillian H. Smith Library, 239 College St, **FREE**

**UNION (PART OF HOT DOCS FESTIVAL)** April 26, 4:45 PM, TIFF Lightbox, 350 King St W; and April 28, 10 AM, Scotiabank Theatre, 259 Richmond St W

**YINTAH (PART OF HOT DOCS FESTIVAL)** April 27, 5:00 PM, TIFF Lightbox, 350 King St W; and April 28, 9:15 PM, Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W

**BESTIAIRE: FESTIVAL SELECT** April 29, 6:00 PM, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St, **FREE**

**LOVE LIES BLEEDING (2024)** April 29 - May 2 12:00:00 AM Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, General admission \$17.5, Students / seniors / children \$15

**MAYWORKS PRESENTS RICHELIEU** May 1, 6:30 PM, Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave, registration req'd

**MAYWORKS PRESENTS HEALTHCARE AS A WORKERS RIGHT** May 3, 6:30 PM, United Steelworkers Building Hall, 25 Cecil St, registration req'd

**TWO IS A FAMILY** May 9 7:30:00 PM Spadina Theatre, 24 Spadina Rd, **FREE**

**FOUND FOOTAGE FESTIVAL VOL.10** May 10-11, Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, General Admission: \$24.50

**BYE BYE TIBERIAS SPECIAL EVENT** May 12-14, 12:00 AM, Hot Docs, 506 Bloor St W, \$15

**PONYO (FAMILY SCREENING)** May 18, 1:00 PM, Hot Docs, 506 Bloor St W, Tickets: \$15 (Members: \$13.50), \$7.50 for 12 and under

**ONE MAN AND HIS COW** May 23, 7:30 PM, Spadina Theatre, 24 Spadina Rd, **FREE**

**SPECIAL EVENT: THE ZEN DIARY (2022) - Q&A WITH DIRECTOR YUJI NAKAE** May 24 (6:30 PM) & 25 (3:30 PM), Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Ave, General admission: 17.5 ; Students / seniors / children: \$15

**MAYWORKS PRESENTS BATTLE OF ALGIERS** May 26 3:00 PM, Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave, registration req'd

**MAYWORKS PRESENTS TOMORROW'S FREEDOM** May 31 6:30 PM, Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave, registration req'd

## PERFORMANCE

**NOMADA** Apr 18 - Apr 20, Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley St, \$29-\$85

**MAD MADGE** until April 20, Franco Boni Theatre, 1115 Queen St W, Tickets are \$25.50 (Previews) \$42.50 or \$59.50. A limited number of PWYC tickets will be available per performance.

**MURMURATION BY LE PATIN LIBRE** April 25 - April 28, Leaside Memorial Community Gardens, Bert F. Grant Rink, 1073 Millwood Rd, \$18-\$30

**SHANIQUA IN ABSTRACTION** until April 28, Crow's Theatre, 345 Carlaw Ave, \$73.45 (general), \$58.76 (senior), \$28.25 (artworker), \$20+ fees for Black-out night Performance (April 26)

**WOMEN OF THE FUR TRADE** until April 21, Aki Studio, 585 Dundas St E

**WOKING PHOENIX BY SILK BATH COLLECTIVE** until April 27, Passe Muraille, Pay-What-You-Can-Afford \$12 / \$35 / \$66

**THE HOUSE AT POE CORNER** until April 21, Red Sandcastle Theatre 922 Queen St E, \$30 (adv), \$40 (door)

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Saturday 3-5 pm

May 4, 11, 18, 25  
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Melville White Church, 15962 Mississauga Rd. (4 minutes south of Belfountain)

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Fridays Open Mic  
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## OPEN MIC

- Fridays 7:30 - 9:30 pm
- (Register at 7 pm to play)
- Light refreshments available to purchase
- FREE or PWYC
- May 3, 10, 17, 24



St. Paul's Anglican Church, 14 Adamson St. South Norval (Near corner Highway 7 & Winston Churchill)

## EVENTS



ANESTI DANIELIS: THIS SHOW WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE—A COMEDY SPECIAL TAPING May 10, 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM, Musical Hall at Burdock Brewery

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#### THINGS WE LOST IN THE FIRE

April 13–21, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, Pay-What-You-Can-Afford \$12 / \$35 / \$65

**HUFF** April 23–28, Crow's Theatre, 345 Carlaw Ave, \$73.45 (general), \$58.76 (senior), \$28.25 (artsworker)

**EL TERREMOTO** until April 21, various showtimes, Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave, Regular \$65, Arts worker \$25, Student \$15

**TYSON'S SONG** April 24–May 19, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, see website for details

**MURDER WITH NO MYSTERY: A MURDER MYSTERY** April 25–27, BMO Incubator \$25

**THE MINE (PRESENTED BY DOORMOUSE THEATRE)** May 3–4, Passe Muraille, Pay-What-You-Can-Afford \$10 / \$20 / \$35 / \$50

**LIVING DANCES** May 9–11 & 15–18, 8:00 PM, Citadel, 304 Parliament St, \$30

**#BEYONDTO FESTIVAL** May 10–18, Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson Ave, see website for details

**SEVEN METHODS OF KILLING KYLIE JENNER** May 12–26, Crow's Theatre, 345 Carlaw Ave

**PAPRIKA FESTIVAL 2024** May 13–19, Aki Studio, 585 Dundas St E

**COME HOME – THE LEGEND OF DADDY HALL** May 14–June 9, Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave, Regular \$65, Arts worker \$25, Student \$15

**THE WRONG BASHIR** May 21–June 9, Crow's Theatre, 345 Carlaw Ave, \$73.45 (general), \$58.76 (senior), \$28.25 (artsworker)

**SOLILOQUIO** May 17–18, Passe Muraille, Pay-What-You-Can-Afford \$12 / \$35 / \$66

**A PUBLIC READING OF AN UNPRODUCED SCREENPLAY ABOUT THE DEATH OF WALT DISNEY** April 13–May 5, Soulpepper Theatre, 50 Tank House Ln, \$36–\$87 and some PWYC options

**FIRST MÉTIS MAN OF ODESA** May 8–May 19, Soulpepper Theatre, 50 Tank House Ln, \$36–\$87 and some PWYC options

**AGE IS A FEELING** May 29–Jun 6, Luminato on Stage, The Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 50 Tank House Ln, \$36, \$65 and \$87+ select PWYC nights

**DOUBLE BILL: AFTER THE RAIN & COWBOY TEMPEST CABARET (READINGS)** May 23–25, various showtimes Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley St

**THE STORIES THEY TELL FEATURING BEE BERTRAND AND PAUL HUTCHESON** May 30, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St

**DANCE IMMERSION DOUBLE-BILL PRESENTATION** May 2–4, Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley St, \$25–\$35

**DANCER OF THE YEAR BY TRAJAL HARRELL** Jun 7, 7:00 PM Luminato on Stage, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, 27 Front St E, \$49, \$79 and \$99, Arts Worker/Student: \$30

#### COMEDY

**SUNDAY MORNING: AN IMPROV COMEDY SHOW** April 17, 8:00 PM, SoCap Comedy (The Social Capital), 154 Danforth Ave

**JACKIE PIRICO – LIVE ALBUM RECORDING** April 18, 9:30 PM, Comedy Bar Bloor, 945 Bloor St W, \$18

**GET A ROOM! A COMEDY SHOW** April 19, 10:00 PM, SoCap Comedy (The Social Capital), 154 Danforth Ave, \$10

**TIA & THEA'S 2 GIRLS 1 SHOW** April 19, 7:00 PM, The Comedy Lab at The Lab 416, 298 Brunswick Ave, \$17

**SAMMY OBEID DOES TORONTO (3 SHOWS)** April 20, Doors 3:30 PM, First show 4:30 PM, Second show: Doors 6:15 PM, Show 7 PM. Third show: Doors 9:00 PM, Show 9:30/9:45 PM, Royal Cinema, 608 College St, \$42

**ONE NIGHT ONLY COMEDY** April 21, 7:00 PM, Comedy Bar Bloor, 945 Bloor St W, \$20

**SUNDAY SCARIES COMEDY SHOW** April 21, 6:00 PM, Backroom Comedy Club, 814 Bloor St W, \$15

**DEAD WID LAUGH** April 21, 9:30 PM, Comedy Bar Danforth, 2800 Danforth Ave, \$30

**STAND UP NIGHT IN CANADA** April 25, 8:30 PM, Tallboys, 838 Bloor St W, \$15

**JACKIE PIRICO – LIVE ALBUM RECORDING** April 25, 9:30 PM, Comedy Bar Bloor, 9:45 PM, Bloor St W, \$18

**LAFTER PARTY** April 26, Doors: 8:00 PM, Show: 8:30 PM, TONIGHT Bar, 1704 Queen St W, PWYC

**PINK CHICKEN COMEDY** April 26, 9:30 PM, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St, \$20

**THE NUBIAN SHOW** April 28, 8:30 PM, Yuk Yuk's Toronto, 224 Richmond St W, \$25

**FRESH HOT BABES - THE FEMME & QUEER COMEDY SHOW!** May 2, Doors 7:45 PM, Show 8:00 PM, Tallboys, 838 Bloor St W, \$10

**RADIO HAHA: A CHAOTIC LIVE RADIO COMEDY SHOW WITH LIVE MUSIC, SOUND EFFECTS, AND TORONTO'S BEST AND WEIRDEST COMEDIANS** May 7, 8:00 PM, Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Ave, \$15

**ANESTI DANIELIS: THIS SHOW WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE - A COMEDY SPECIAL TAPING** May 10, 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM, Musical Hall at Burdock Brewery, 1183 Bloor St W, \$15 (online), \$20 (door)

**"DIVERSITY HIRES" COMEDY TOUR!!** May 10, 8:00 PM, Supermarket Bar and Variety, 268 Augusta Ave

**MEDICAL EMERGENCY COMEDY & KARAOKE** May 10, 9:00 PM, Tallboys, 838 Bloor St W, PWYC

**TIA & THEA'S 2 GIRLS 1 SHOW** May 17, 7:00 PM, The Comedy Lab at The Lab 416, 298 Brunswick Avenue Toronto, \$17

**THE DOUCHE REHAB FUNDRAISER SHOW** May 17, 8:00 PM, The Royal Theatre, 608 College St W, \$55

**ONE NIGHT ONLY COMEDY** May 19, 7:00 PM, Comedy Bar Bloor, 945 Bloor St W, \$20

**BOBBY SOX – MUD SHOP COMEDY TOUR CANADA – TORONTO** May 20, 7:00 PM, Fusion Restaurant And Lounge, 880 Ellesmere Road, from \$22.63

**3RD WHEEL IMPROV** May 26, 6:00 PM, Backroom Comedy Club, 814 Bloor St W, \$15

**THE NUBIAN SHOW** May 26, 8:30 PM, Yuk Yuk's Toronto, 224 Richmond St W, \$25

**AN EVENING WITH SAM SFER-RAZZA** May 30, 7:00 PM Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, \$25

**WE'RE FUNNY THAT WAY FESTIVAL** May 30–June 1, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St

**JAMES TISON: SCREAMING ABOUT TRANS PEOPLE FOR ATTENTION** May 31, 9:00 PM, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, \$25

**BRANDON ASH MOHAMMED: THE RECLUSIVE CHANTEUSE** June 1, 7:00 PM, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, \$25

**KAREN WILLIAMS: COMEDY IN COLOUR** June 1, 9:00 PM, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, \$25

**MARGA GOMEZ IS "SWIMMING WITH LESBIANS"!** June 1, 7:30 PM, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St, \$25

#### FESTIVALS

**HOT DOCS INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL** April 25–May 4, various locations

**THE FESTIVAL OF LITERARY DIVERSITY (THE FOLD)** April 28–May 5, Virtual and in Brampton

**CONTACT PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL** May, at museums, galleries, and public spaces throughout Toronto & GTHA

**MAYWORKS FESTIVAL** month of May, various venues

**#BEYONDTO FESTIVAL (theatre)** May 10–18, Theatre Passe Muraille

**WE'RE FUNNY THAT WAY** May 30–June 1, Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St

**PAPRIKA FESTIVAL** May 13–19, 2024, Aki Studio

**LUMINATO FESTIVAL** June 5–16, 2024, various locations

**NORTH BY NORTHEAST (NXNE)** June 12–16, various locations

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# WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

## MR. AND MRS. SMITH (PRIME VIDEO)

For those familiar with the original movie *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, you may recall that the blockbuster was heavily marketed as a romp between two of the biggest stars in 2005, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. The film was, as one might expect, big on action, thin on plot, and a bit campy. In this 2024 TV adaptation of the film, writer, editor, musician, and actor Donald Glover had brought his many talents to the table, serving as both actor and director. The reprise is smart, sexy, and playful while still holding onto some of the camp from the original. Maya Erskine stars alongside Glover and delivers a Jane Smith that is crafty, vulnerable, and smouldering.



## THE GREAT CANADIAN POTTERY THROW DOWN (CBC GEM)

Made in the same style as dearly beloved competition shows such as *The Great British Baking Show* and *Best in Miniature*, *TGCTD* showcases skilled amateur potters from across Canada as they take on a series of pottery-related challenges. Part competition, part pottery docu-series, this wholesome show offers curious viewers a glimpse into the world of pottery techniques through the lens of eight friendly and highly skilled contestants. Jennifer Robinson (*Schitt's Creek*) hosts the Throw Down alongside judges Brendan Tang and Natalie Waddell. The show also features the occasional cameo and demonstration from well-known Canadian actor, comedian, and amateur sculptor Seth Rogen.



## LATE BLOOMER (CRAVE)

There's something special about watching a show that is not only well-written and well-directed but also feels familiar. Such is the case with *Late Bloomer*, a comedy series based on the real life of YouTuber Jasmeet "Jus Reign" Raina who was born and raised in Guelph, Ontario to a Kashmiri Sikh family. Steeped in GTA-isms both big and small, *Late Bloomer* follows protagonist Jasmeet Dutta (played by Jasmeet Raina) as he juggles the expectations of his Sikh family and community alongside his rising internet fame. Follow Jasmeet as he navigates nightclub parties, sending nudes, delivering tiffins, and visits to the gurdwara. Season one is simultaneously dynamic, laugh-out-loud funny, and occasionally heartfelt, all while highlighting the depth and richness of the Sikh community.



## THE VINCE STAPLES SHOW (NETFLIX)

If you've ever watched an interview with rapper Vince Staples, you likely suspected that it was only a matter of time before he made his television debut. Staples's dark, deadpan humour, irreverence and, at times, absurdity have become the stuff of legends. In *The Vince Staples Show*, we see these traits and more brought to the screen as we follow Staples through misadventures of life in his hometown, ranging from a high-tension family reunion to a botched armed robbery. It's beautifully shot and clever television.



## THE GREAT BRITISH BAKING SHOW (CBC GEM)

By now you probably know the drill: flaky crusts, buttercream filling and LOTS of innuendos about soggy bottoms and tight balls interspersed with heartwarming stories and delicious treats. It's a recipe that has been refined to perfection over 13 seasons and we haven't grown tired of it yet. The ever-endearing *Great British Baking Show* is back for another season and, much like a freshly baked apple pie, season 14 has us feeling all warm and gooey inside. After a long day at school or at work, *The Great British Baking Show* is a sure-fire way to lighten your mood. As picnic season approaches, let us never forget Mary Berry's advice about whisking meringues: "They've got to beat it until it's really, really stiff."

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## QUICK BITES FOR THE NON-SPORTS FAN

### NHL HOCKEY

Toronto Maple Leafs centre Auston Matthews led the league in goals this season. At print time, he was just shy of 70 goals, a feat only achieved by eight other players in NHL history. Matthews and the Leafs are headed to the playoffs this spring.

Alex Ovechkin is getting close to Wayne Gretzky's career regular-season goals record. Ovechkin, in his 19th season playing for the Washington Capitals, is around 40 goals from the record set by Gretzky, who retired in 1999 with 894 goals. Ovechkin won't get there this season, but if he plays at a high level for another season or two he could.

### WPHL HOCKEY

Toronto's Professional Women's Hockey League team has been one of the best this season, after a slow start. The league has six teams. Natalie Spooner, a forward for Toronto, led the league in goals and assists as of our print date. Will PWHL Toronto win the inaugural PWHL cup? The playoffs start in May.

### NBA BASKETBALL

After a string of injuries, illnesses, and absences depleted the Toronto Raptors' roster, the Raptors recorded their second-worst season in franchise history, which included a franchise record setting 15-game losing streak. The team remains in the news due to a sports betting scandal involving Raptors' player Jontay Porter. Porter is currently under investigation by the NBA and is facing a lifetime ban from the league.

### VICTOR OR CHET?

The jury is still out on whether early-season favourite Victor Wembanyama (call him "Wemby") is likely to be the rookie of the year or whether Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren has stolen Wemby's thunder. While both players are having incredible debut seasons, Holmgren plays on one of the best teams in the league and has been critical to their success while Wemby is on one of the worst teams in league. Both Wemby and Holmgren's talents are undeniable, however, in the battle between two elite seven-footers, the supporting casts may play more of a role than we think.

### BLUE JAYS BASEBALL

After a season where some fans were calling for Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins to "blow it up" and trade superstars Vladimir Guerrero Jr and Bo Bichette, the Jays start the 2024 season with Vladdy and Bo, a returning Kevin Kiermaier, and new signing Isiah Kiner-Falefa. They are also entering the season with a new motto, "To the core," and a newly renovated stadium that cost a reported \$300-million and which made the lower seating even more grey and corporate.



COURTESY OF YORK UNITED FC

BY GAUTAM VISWANATHAN

**B**efore this season, York United FC in Toronto relied on the United Football Academy for new young players. Now, a much wider pool of young players, from potentially over 20 youth academies, could be called on to play professional games for York United in the Canadian Premier League (CPL).

The CPL was founded in 2019 to establish a professional nationwide soccer league in Canada. It requires clubs like York United to provide domestic players aged 21 and under a combined total of at least 2,000 minutes of game time each season. The hope is that the more senior of these now-young players will go on to represent Canada in upcoming tournaments, including the World Cup, when it rolls around in 2026.

The new potential partnerships come after the club was taken over late last year by new owners Game Plan Sports Group, consisting of brothers Ricardo, Eduardo and Miguel Pasquel. The Mexican brothers bring with them a rich history of soccer club ownership, including sporting franchises such as Club Necaxa, which plays in Mexico's soccer league.

"What's changed is the exclusivity of the academy," said Eoin O'Callaghan, vice president of content and communication strategy at York United, referring to the opening up of the potential talent pool.

"They just want to create the best football club that they can. They want to be champions, they want to be CPL winners, they want to go and play in CONCACAF competitions, and they want to win Canadian Championships. And all of this stuff is part of their objectives, and that's how the youth clubs fit in."

### COULD YORK UNITED EVENTUALLY SET UP ITS OWN ACADEMY?

Ideally, a club like York United would have its own stadium and training complex, with the younger players training alongside their senior counterparts, and some of the academy talent joining in training sessions. Until the club has those facilities, however, York United would need to house the academy in a different location, which would make it very difficult to oversee.

O'Callaghan says when the new owners do decide to "actually execute an academy plan," it will need to include the senior team to enable a proper relationship between the academy and first team.

"It needs to be part of the same umbrella," he says, which would include an academy director to guide post-training discussions.

"There needs to be proper connective tissue, it needs to be a proper relationship."

Despite the new ownership, York United remains tight with their old partners at United Football Academy.

"If there are some players they recommended to us and they are good young talents, of course we're going to want to bring the best talent into our squad at any given moment," says O'Callaghan.

One of York United's rising stars, Max Ferrari, from Newmarket, Ont., is expected to play his 100th professional game during the upcoming season.

"He joined us before the 2020 season, and if you take those 100 appearances, for someone who is 23 or 24, it is unlikely he would've gotten those professional minutes elsewhere," explained O'Callaghan.

"We've watched young players blossom for us relentlessly, and that's been terrific, because, again, it is a strong message: if you are a good young player in our region, we will give you chances, we will give you time on the field, and that's important for us."

## AFTER 38 YEARS, TWO FIRSTS

Ukrainian-Canadian ultra runner Ihor Vervys of Chilliwack, B.C. became the first-ever Canadian to complete the infamous Barkley Marathon. The race is a grueling five-loop, 160 km race, through the difficult and punishing terrain of Frozen Head State Park in Tennessee with a 60-hour cut-off time. Vervys completed the race more than an hour ahead of the 60-hour time limit, finishing the five loops in 58:44:59. In another groundbreaking first, British ultra runner Jasmin Paris became the first woman to complete the race, finishing with 99-seconds (59:58:21) to spare. Congratulations Ihor and Jasmin!

## IFSC ADDRESSES DISORDERED EATING IN CLIMBING

The International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), the governing body for competition climbing, has introduced a new policy to address disordered eating amongst climbers. In a sport that relies heavily upon an athlete's strength-to-weight ratio, eating disorders are a serious problem and have resulted in some athletes developing Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (RED-S). RED-S occurs when an athlete does not have sufficient energy to support their bodily functions because they are burning more calories than they are taking in. Long-term symptoms can include delayed puberty, stunted growth, anxiety, depression, bone loss, and more. The new IFSC policy outlines a detailed assessment protocol as there is no single test for RED-S.



PRECIOUS MADUBUIKE/UNSPASH

# HOROSCOPES

BY LEE SUKSI

## ARIES (MAR 20 — APR 20)

Welcome to your time! Energy, fun and activity are all at a high right now, as plants push their heads out of the ground. Make sure to make time for a little introspection. You have been gathering energy, one way or another, for this moment. Reflect and refine on your methods of doing so.

## TAURUS (APR 21 — MAY 21)

There is an area of your life where you have mastery. Generally, it's hard to see these areas since they don't present us with problems. Maybe this is a place where you receive a lot of validation, or maybe it's something that's hard for others to measure. Either way, this spring, give yourself credit for your excellence.

## GEMINI (MAY 22 — JUNE 21)

You've helped other people. Have faith right now that you can tend to your own wounds. Apply kindness and wisdom not just as pampering, but as medicine to places where you feel pain. Like nourishing your body with food, you can nourish your soul with generosity. Self-restoration is an everyday miracle.

## CANCER (JUN 22 - JUL 22)

Cancers are stereotypically known to have the patience and attention of a baker, but this spring you will be able to use the speed and ingenuity of a cook. Relax standards, experiment with new options, and try new proportions of activity in your life. Give yourself permission to play where you have control.

## LEO (JUL 23 — AUG 22)

Your energy goes through major changes in spring. Some people feel high energy, resist sleep, and walk into the sun with their eyes wide open. Some people feel lethargy like cats in sunbeams, an inclination to play, relax and snooze with the new ease of the day. Notice the changes, expected or unexpected as they might be, and heed them. What brings you consistency in this period?

## VIRGO (AUG 23 — SEP 22)

What's the role of fantasy in your life? What's the role of prayer? How much time do you devote to daydreaming? Does anything scare you about these practices? Are you worried about self-delusion? What happens when you lift hope out of reality? Playing tricks on your mind can lift you out of the mundane.

## LIBRA (SEP 23 — OCT 23)

Restraint is elegant. Release is chaotic. Can you find elegance in chaos? The beauty of all the blossoms fallen from a tree—where does that exist in your life? Let go of at least one rule you make for yourself this coming month.

## SCORPIO (OCT 23 — NOV 22)

With desire, sometimes withholding your own feelings increases how much you are desired. With love, you generally get what you give. For now, leave desire aside, and examine where you feel love, and put it out there. Your community, your family, or your partner—let them know.

## SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 — DEC 22)

Wherever you are at in a crossroads, consider what it would mean to eventually arrive at all destinations. Play with time. What if what needs to happen tomorrow will only happen five years from now? What if your most distant dream came true today? Expect the unexpected, and trust you can maneuver.

## CAPRICORN (DEC 23 — JAN 20)

Capricorn is represented by a mythical creature: a stubborn goat on top, with the tail of a fish submerged in water. It's important for you to find that lower, looser fish part right now. Let your shoulders relax, release your jaw, wiggle your behind. What magic trails behind you in dark water as you hold your head up straight in the air?

## AQUARIUS (JAN 21 — FEB 20)

What if the source of your anger is not, in fact, a still kind of sadness but an earlier, elemental and righteous anger? Have you ever felt your history emotionally? Do the concerns of history live in your own body? There is a way to pay attention to your passion without destroying anyone.

## PISCES (FEB 21 — MAR 20)

When do you use your creativity? Maybe you write songs, paint on pots, or decorate cakes. Maybe you connect people who never considered meeting, find minutes in a busy day to relax, or stop some minor evil that others take for granted. Your powers of invention are at a high now. The first way to use them is taking time back from where it's been allotted to others.

*Lee Suksi, The Grind's horoscopes writer, has been reading peoples' horoscopes for 10 years. You can book a personalized reading with them at leesuksi.com/getread. They're also the award-winning author of The Nerves.*

Lee Suksi



# SUDOKU

BY WEBSUDOKU.COM

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# PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

# CROSSWORD

BY EMMA LAWSON

## ACROSS

- 1 "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" author Potter
- 8 "No clue!"
- 15 Away from work, as a new parent
- 16 Phrase in an email auto-response, maybe
- 17 Like a punk belt
- 18 Taught privately
- 19 Forensics facility, in brief
- 20 Director Craven or Anderson
- 21 Bundle of hay
- 22 Stadiums
- 24 More queer
- 25 Canine cries
- 28 "Mangia!"
- 29 Good place to crash
- 30 Life purpose
- 33 Taxi
- 36 Statement from Tuxedo Mask in a popular meme, to which Sailor Moon replies "But you didn't do anything"
- 38 U.S. benefits program
- 40 Australian airport code

## DOWN

- 41 Kinda
- 42 Congeal, as blood
- 43 Drop by
- 46 Playground retort
- 48 Iranian currency
- 49 Subject line abbr.
- 50 Gymnast Biles
- 54 Allergy medication brand
- 56 Place to get a mai tai or a zombie
- 57 Smaller
- 58 "It is important to me actually"
- 59 Jogged briskly
- 60 Some small planes

## DOWN

- 1 Pear variety
- 2 Tolkien tree being
- 3 His, in French
- 4 Coach played by Jason Sudeikis
- 5 Under the \_\_\_
- 6 Exclamation from a conman's victim
- 7 Crossed (out)
- 8 Nibbles
- 9 Outback avians
- 10 Picnic ruiner
- 11 "Oh well"
- 12 Wander off the path
- 13 German appliance brand
- 14 Rear-\_\_\_
- 20 Duck, e.g.
- 23 Perennial American presidential candidate Ralph
- 24 Big honkers
- 25 "A farewell to \_\_\_"
- 26 Sun beam
- 27 Pacific archipelago
- 29 Early 2000s hit "Mr. \_\_\_"
- 31 Reproductive health expert (abbr.)
- 32 Backcomb hair
- 33 Lump in Christmas stocking
- 34 The "A" in A.D.
- 35 Cream of the crop
- 37 "Wonder Woman" publisher
- 40 Like some auctions
- 43 "Guardians of the Galaxy" actor Chris
- 44 Edmonton hockey player
- 45 Diet that makes archaeologists grumble
- 46 Juno or Emmy
- 47 Greek yogurt brand
- 49 On the house
- 51 Scottish town known for whiskey
- 52 Japanese city home to more than 1000 deer
- 53 "¿De dónde \_\_\_?"
- 55 British insult
- 56 \_\_\_-tac-toe

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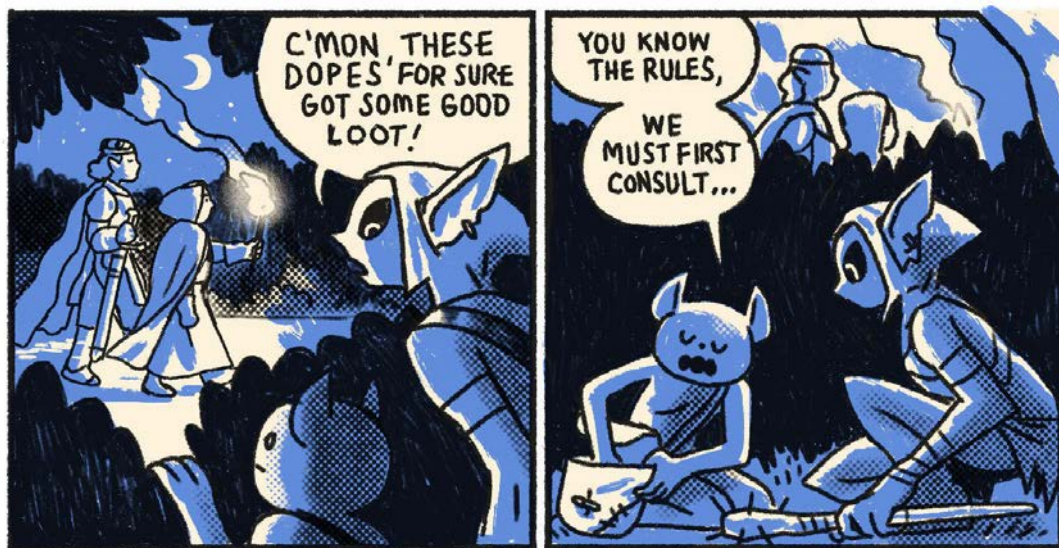
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BY AMY NOSEWORTHY HIREDHANDSTUDIO.COM



DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT HELP TO LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "BEING SILENCED" AND JUST, LIKE, A BUNCH OF PEOPLE NOT WANTING TO HEAR YOU TALK ANY MORE?

BY DREW SHANNON DREWSHANNON.CA



# RANDOM ADVICE

This edition's complex dilemma comes to us from a seven year-old, and we thought, "Who better to offer guidance than people who are perfectly at home in the realm of the intangible?"

So we went to the opening night of the exhibition Greater Toronto Art 2024 at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) to see what sage advice might emerge from the crowd.

## What to do with someone scared of elevators?



ZINNIA

My friend's mom's friend was afraid of elevators and basically when we got in, she was hyperventilating a little bit, but just needed her hand held and a little bit of support. So maybe you just have to ask that person how you can support them and then it'll be fine.



KAIJA

Okay, so if there's an elevator, there will also be a set of stairs. So you can always take the stairs if you don't want to take the elevator.

But if you want to practice and get over the fear, I would say create a small box — like a refrigerator box — and practice standing in it for a period of time, and then work your way up to imagining that you're on the first floor in a box, and then the second floor, etcetera.

And if all else fails, you can always just sit down in the elevator. Because it's more grounding that way.

Are you dealing with a complicated work situation? Is your landlord being shady? Do you have a relationship question you can't ask your friends about? We're here for you.

Email us at [info@the grindmag.ca](mailto:info@the grindmag.ca) and you might find the answer you're looking for in the next issue.